

The Wayside Philosopher

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THE BASIS OF LOYALTY

Amongst the recent questions we have heard discussed at luncheons and elsewhere is that of the proper demands or obligations of Loyalty.

We had assumed it indisputable that Loyalty demanded nothing less than the complete devotion of one's life to his or her country regardless of what conditions and circumstances might be. Anything less seemed sham.

We now hear other suggestions in quarters not avowedly Anarchistic. It is true that some of these suggestions are more or less vague. In many instances their advocates shrink from following the logic of their position to its final determination. Some have a blissful and hard-grasped hope that somewhere between their doctrine and the age-old one we have enunciated, there will be found a position that will give full satisfaction to the demands of Loyalty while allowing them to retain essentially uninjured their present doctrines.

Considerable danger arises from the situation. First the peril that without final examination of their arguments these new loyalists preach their doctrines until they find themselves without a proper and definite conception of Loyalty. Without this we might have less thoughtful persons, misled by the promptings of self-interest, accepting these doctrines and becoming, without any real intent, a disloyal people. Other phases of the peril we need not mention.

The most pernicious of the present suggestions is that which limits the duties of Loyalty by relationship to the benefits received. Broadly stated it would appear by this doctrine that if you are prospering and have a goodly share of this world's comforts you are bound to be loyal. Presumably the rich should be ultra-loyal if such a term is ever permissible. If you are needy and unfortunate Loyalty ceases to lay its demands upon you.

Questioned on this position recently a former bank manager, to-day, a business man of influence and responsibility, could not define clearly the limits he recognized as satisfying the demands of Loyalty. He was clear in the conviction that Loyalty should and could mean nothing to a starving or indigent man. We cite him but as one of a considerable number we meet with, having similar views.

What, then, are the claims a Nation makes on a man's loyalty in return for his birthright as a citizen or subject. Everything. That nation gave him his all. His life, his liberties, his education, his ideals, his hopes, his aspirations, his skill to do, all he has he gets as a birthright or as birthrights developed as such.

What, then, is the equivalent return. Everything he is, or can be, nothing less. All his abilities and energies must be directed to serve the best interests of his country. Whether he gains millions or dies of starvation affects the situation not at all. As long as he lives, breathes, thinks, he is solely, entirely and unalterably his country's child. If his country in its wisdom allows him to expatriate himself well and good. It is the country not the individual which dictates the bounds and duties of Loyalty. For the individual there is but one plain duty to live or die, live and die for his country alone. Let us then hear no more of this false, selfish and self-centred Loyalty.

SIR HENRY LUNN.

It was with pleasure that we noted the visit to our Province and to Vancouver of Sir Henry Lunn. The reception everywhere accorded him renders it superfluous for us to attempt to say anything in his favor. We may, however, express the hope that opportunity will be had for a further and more extended visit by Sir Henry and also for bringing to our Province and City other eminent visitors to interest and educate our people as to the League of Nations, its nature, constitution and operations.

J. H. SENKLER, K. C.

Another of the outstanding pioneers of Vancouver has departed this life. "Harry Senkler" will be known among us in bodily presence no more. The memory of a life where superficial faults were outweighed by a clean, sane, healthy mind, interested in his profession, his civic and social duties, and in sport, will remain long with us. Such men are a real asset to the community where they live, a real loss to it when they are called to leave it. Mr. Senkler was a man virile of body and mind, with an all-round interest in life, and we add our testimony to the general mourning with which Vancouver and many beyond its walls heard the sad news of his death. To those of his immediate family and relatives and those who lament his passing, we extend our sympathy, trusting they will be guided as.

"To find in loss a gain to match,

"And reach a hand through time to catch

"The far off interest of tears."

THE DOMINION BYE-ELECTION

We congratulate Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King on securing the return of Hon. J. C. Elliott. Coupled with the advent of Dunning into the Federal political arena, it constitutes one of the few pleasant places in which his lot has been cast for nearly two years. May he enjoy the fullest pleasure possible for him to derive from the event.

THE KIWANIS ISSUE.

One unaccustomed to journalism has little knowledge of the work entailed in producing a special number such as the Kiwanis issue of the B. C. M. The task of inducing those unaccustomed to journalism or ignorant of the necessity of having it accurately and speedily done, to get their work or "copy" done in time, is only one of many difficulties to be overcome by a publisher.

It is not open to a contributor to the Magazine to express any opinion on the merits of the issue, lest it be thought that the Editor-in-Chief and Publisher is using a stratagem to have the Magazine selfishly "boosted," to use a street expression.

One is, however, free to discuss the relationship of the Kiwanis Club to such an issue. Have the Kiwanians of Vancouver sought properly to understand