

Twice-a-Week Times

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SPOILS SYSTEM AT WORK.

These are days of uneasiness for civil servants. The decapitation of capable officials and the slaughter of innocents for no other reason than that political bosses may find places for those whose votes they bribed by promise of place, is being carried on to such a cruel extent that even friends of the new government have raised protests.

The case is quite different where some degree of expert knowledge is required and where long experience in a given work is necessary to complete qualification for its proper discharge. That no regard for these conditions obtains is the complaint of the Canadian Shareholder and Insurance Gazette, which says:

"In ordinary business life, whether in banking, insurance, commerce or transportation, the general opinion is that the longer a man is engaged in a given work the more competent he becomes. We do not have our bank managers or the heads of our railways or big industrial concerns changed at every annual meeting or whenever a new director is elected to the board. It would be just as sensible, however, to make these changes as it is to remove civil servants every time there is a change of government.

"In the case of the International Waterways Commission there is not the slightest doubt but that the old board was removed and the new one appointed simply because it was necessary to find places for party workers. Their work in adjusting questions arising from the waterways between Canada and the United States is a most important one. In our past relations with the United States we have never come off too well, and to be able to hold our own with them it is necessary to secure the best possible men. There seems every reason to believe that the old board has been doing good work at any time they were familiar with the questions up for settlement, while the new men will be plunged into the middle of these questions without the slightest knowledge of them, of preparation for meeting with their American associates. Certainly Canada is not likely to make a very creditable showing under these circumstances."

PREFERENCE WITHIN EMPIRE.

In a recent number of the Winnipeg Tribune appears a lengthy interview with Mr. J. B. Clarkson, of Christchurch, New Zealand, a native of that country and a prominent business man whose affairs take him frequently through Canada to England. Describing Mr. Clarkson, the Tribune says:

"He is a close observer of Canadian affairs, and is deeply interested in our trade development. He is a strong advocate of trade within the Empire and made a suggestion that is worthy of the earnest consideration of our government. He believes a conference of trade experts from all the colonies of the Empire should be held at some point, where the fullest consideration would be given to the exports and imports of the various countries, the surplus products that New Zealand might ship to Canada, and vice versa. There should, he firmly believes, be more reciprocity between the colonies."

Discussing the recent election in Canada, Mr. Clarkson expressed the opinion that while the time was apparently not ripe for reciprocity between Canada and the United States, "the interim might very well be profitably employed by preparing such an agreement with New Zealand." Elaborating the trade prospects of his colony Mr. Clarkson said:

"I have every reason to believe that there is at the present time a great possibility of our meats being admitted free of duty, in the near future, to the United States and to Germany, and

possibly other European countries, but what we want is for Canada to move and assist in consummating more large-scale commerce between the constituent parts of our great Empire so that through more prosperous trade conditions we will be more easily able to take our share of our great national defence systems."

The people of New Zealand have long desired the abolition of the duty on meats shipped into Canada and not long ago an authoritative writer on economic subjects pointed out that, with this duty done away, it would be possible for New Zealand alone to supply the meat markets of Canada from the Pacific ocean to Winnipeg and to supply meat to the people of the coast at a little more than half the cost now charged for this necessity. The Times pointed out four months ago that the same argument advanced against reciprocity—that it would destroy the grazing and cattle industry of the Northwest—must apply as against a similar agreement with New Zealand or an imperial preferential tariff. The Borden government is a government elected by the interests which prosper by reason of a protective tariff. The same objections urged against the cheapening of foodstuffs by the abolition of the tariff against the United States would be urged against the cheapening of food by importation duty free from New Zealand. Imperialistic as Mr. Clarkson's ideals and worthy the purpose to which the increased business prosperity would be turned, he is mistaken in the government of Canada if he hopes that it would entertain any proposal which would reduce the measure of protection afforded the farmers by the present tariffs. It would soon be discovered that the forces which conspired to elect the Borden government would insist on a "shut out" as well as a "shut in" policy, and no considerations of Imperialism would influence these interests when their pockets were involved or the protected systems of trade, which they enjoy would be threatened by tariff reductions.

Mr. Clarkson advocates "a conference of trade experts from all the colonies of the Empire at some central point where the fullest consideration could be given the questions of imports and exports from all the overseas dominions." We are in hearty accord with such a proposal and would assist in the advocacy of such a convention if for no other reason than to show the Imperial preference and "trade within the Empire" enthusiasts both in Great Britain and in the overseas dominions just where the government of Canada stands on such questions. The discussion would not be long in coming. In the meantime New Zealand will complete her reciprocity negotiations with the United States. She is not afraid that she is at the parting of the ways nor that such reciprocity agreement would disintegrate the Empire.

McBRIDE'S OPPORTUNITY.

The student of political history in British Columbia will discover without great powers of discernment or extraordinary gifts of deduction that the premier has before him, at the next session of the legislative assembly, the political opportunity of a lifetime. Among the evidences of sincere interest in maintaining a white man's country which has been one of the stock arguments of the McBride administration, the student will read the story of the enactment of the Natal Act in British Columbia and its subsequent disallowance by the federal government. This measure was ostentatiously designed by the attorney-general to exclude Orientals and Asiatics, and many a good vote of the deluded working man was obtained under pretence that the McBride government was the white man's friend. The impassioned oratory of the premier and attorney-general fiercely denouncing the federal authorities because of their alleged indifference to the labor conditions on the Pacific coast filled many pages of the government organs during two previous electoral campaigns. When the Act was disallowed it was according to their representations—additional proof of the monstrous incompetency of the Liberal government and incontrovertible evidence of the fact that Coddin was the friend of labor, and not Short.

Among the stern and serious matters heralded by Mr. McBride as included in the demands he made upon the Borden government was one for legislation which will exclude Asiatics and maintain British Columbia as a "white man's country." Mr. Borden has already responded to a part of that appeal by granting justice to the Hindus in British Columbia whose wives are alienated from their husbands by alleged restrictions of the Immigration Act. We commended the government for this act of justice until such time as it discovered that there was really little need for government interference in a matter of transportation. As for the other demands of Mr. McBride, the Ottawa government has answered that it can take no steps until it consults with the Imperial authorities.

What the Times believes—if there was ever a scintilla of truth in the demagogic utterances of Mr. McBride, Mr. Bowser and the whole following of party newspapers respecting the power of the local government to enact legis-

lation excluding Asiatics—is that the day of their opportunity has come. If the Natal Act will do what it was instantly claimed for, let it be re-enacted at the ensuing session. There is now no danger that it will be disallowed at Ottawa, for there is not a government in power friendly to Mr. McBride, and did not the very leader of this government telegraph to Mr. Borden in 1906, on the eve of the election in that year, that he pledged himself to the exclusion of Asiatics? Was not this telegram read and published in Victoria and throughout the whole province as the strongest card played by the then opposition party?

Here then is the situation. We have Mr. Borden at the head of the government. Mr. Borden pledged himself to Asiatic exclusion in 1906. He can have no reason for changing his mind, as the mind of British Columbia was the mind of the province has not changed. Mr. McBride, therefore, should not wait for Mr. Borden to commit the Imperial authorities to his views, but Mr. McBride should re-enact the Natal Bill, exclude Orientals and Asiatics and thus give the only possible evidence of his previous and present sincerity on a matter so vital to the interests of labor within the province. Premier McBride is so transparently sincere in everything he does that the Times feels confident—now that his opportunity is pointed out to him and the matter is reduced to such simplicity—he will not lose an hour of the time of the legislature in re-enacting the Natal Act.

TAFT AND BORDEN.

The two messages of President Taft sent to congress this week have served to arouse new interest in the strength of character which is being so persistently maintained by the chief magistrate of the American people. The developments taking place in the national life of the people at our south present to each new occupant of the presidential office not only opportunities but responsibilities which test and demonstrate the metal of which he is made. If congress follows the advice of the messages already sent there will be a notable advance, not only in the war against iniquitous trust rate, but in the broader realm of international country. Mr. Taft presents a side to his character which is becoming more prominently prominent with each year as the necessity for a strong stand on important issues arises. Public honor and place cannot swerve him from his fealty to conscience or duty. While not unwilling to be president again, he is emphatic as to the conditions.

"I have not been willing, nor will I be, to purchase it at the sacrifice of my freedom to do my duty as I see it." The Montreal Herald satirizes Mr. Borden by comparison. It points out that this is pure drift. If the rule Mr. Taft lays down were a state one, the Borden cabinet could never have been formed. Mr. Borden could not sit in the same cabinet with a man who had denounced him all over the province of Quebec. Mr. Monk could not sit in the cabinet with men whose views, as communicated to the public, are directly contrary to his own. Freedom to do one's duty? Why, Mr. Pelletier, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Nantel, Mr. Rogers are free only to draw their salaries; and that, to do them justice, is what they apparently think to be most important. How is it a smart man like Mr. Taft cannot see the merits of so perfectly simple a proposition? Freedom to do his duty? What is that beside the right to hold office?"

William Taft, the weakling chosen by Mr. Roosevelt, has been a disappointment. But not to his country. The moneyed interests which accepted him are defied and within the limitations of his office Taft stands for the people. Compare the coalition at Ottawa and Canada is shamed.

Dismissal of officials by the Borden government still goes on. All the leeches and quacks who have been employed on the work of the smelters branch, trades and commerce department, have been notified that their services will not be required after December 31.

It is frankly admitted by those eastern ministerial organs with ears close to the keyhole of the Privy Council that all is not harmony around the red table in the Borden cabinet. They justify the fact by recalling similar differing opinions in British and Canadian cabinets, but they do not allege that their references are to differences so vital to the integrity of the empire and the imperialistic boastings of the Premier. That is kept under the hat.

Truly loyal to its patron, the Hon. Richard McBride, wed to Tory traditions congenial in a resolution of the provincial Conservative convention, the Abbotford Post says: "We hope Borden and his followers pile up the duty on American fruit to such an extent that it will not be able to enter into competition with Canadian produce to the disadvantage of the interests of the Canadian grower. We must have the B. C. fruit grower protected just as much as it is possible to protect, and not hinder our citizens from enjoying luxuries during season at reasonable prices. The less foreign fruit that enters the province the quicker will our provincial fruit lands be settled and our fruit growers rise to the occasion of supply and demand. How do you like the prospects?"

Store Hours From 8.30 A.M. to 6 P.M. PLEASE SHOP EARLY

Having decided not to open evenings we ask our customers to help us in thus shortening the hours of our usual Christmas shopping

Novelties in the Art Needlework Department

- TIE AND RIBBON RACKS—These come in a variety of styles, some with wood and others with metal bars, all with fancy printed linen backs or stout pasteboard backs, with neatly burned and tinted designs. Various sizes, all one price. \$35c
HAT-PIN HOLDERS—These come in plain cylinder styles, decorated with colored printing and ribbons, also some with a basketwork cylinder mounted on a stiff background with a printed design. A good assortment to choose from at, each \$35c
PIN CUSHIONS—These come in many shapes and styles, and are daintily worked in colored silks. Price, each, only \$35c
NOVELTIES—These are linen, all stamped ready to be embroidered, and are complete with pasteboard backs and all necessary fittings to complete them. The range of articles to choose from is very wide, and the prices start as low as, each \$5c

Fancy Ties, Mufflers and Handkerchiefs for Men

- MOTOR SCARFS FOR MEN—These are made of good silk and wool, in colors black and white, and are finished with fringe at each end. Price, each, \$1.50, \$1.25 and \$1.00
BROCADED SILK MUFFLERS—In colors white and black only. Good value at \$1.50
CORDED SILK MUFFLERS—In a big assortment of plain colors and black. These are a specially good wearing quality. Price, each \$1.50
MEN'S TIES—We are now showing a specially interesting assortment of neckwear for men, including four-hand and wide flowing end styles. These come in hundreds of fancy patterns and colorings. Your choice at 50c and \$1.25
JAPANESE SILK HANDKERCHIEFS—In cream color only, have a broad hem and initial or plain. They are full size and rare value at, each \$25c

Gift Suggestions from the China Department

- CHINA TEA SETS—There is a very large variety to choose from—in fact we have never had so large a stock. They come in so many shapes and styles of decoration that it is hard to give you any real idea of their appearance or value. Forty-piece sets at prices ranging from \$25.00 down to \$3.50
FIVE O'CLOCK TEA SETS—All complete with China tray to match, at prices ranging from \$5.75 down to, per set, only \$1.00
21-PIECE TEA SETS—Made of good Austrian china. There are 10 different patterns here for you to choose from, all in fancy floral effects. Per set \$1.90
HAND-PAINTED CUPS AND SAUCERS—These are a specially good quality and are handsomely decorated. Your choice from a variety of designs at, per pair, \$50c

- 97-PIECE DINNER SETS—Made of best English semi-porcelain, in new and useful shapes. A variety of neat designs to choose from in this lot, and all are rare values at, per set, \$17.50, \$15 and \$12.90
AUSTRIAN CHINA DINNER SETS—These are 97-piece sets, in neat and useful shapes, with a small floral border effect in pink and blue. Per set \$17.50
TOILET SETS OF TEN PIECES—Made of high grade English semi-porcelain. These are a new line that has just been unpacked, and represent rare values for the money invested. Per set, from \$13.75 down to \$2.50
BERRY SETS OF SEVEN PIECES—These are made of fine Japanese china, hand-painted in many beautiful designs. The set consists of one large bowl and six small dishes. Per set, \$2.50 and \$2.00

Some of Spencer's Umbrella Values

HIGH QUALITY IS WELL COMBINED WITH A LOW PRICE HERE

At this season there is no more useful article than an Umbrella, and it would be hard to find a present that can be purchased at a moderate price, that will give so much satisfaction to your friend. See these lines before you finally decide what to buy:

- FOR MEN
There is a neat line with cotton covers, that are finished with stitched edges, have steel frames and rods and mission wood handles, in various styles. Price \$1.25
These have gloria covers with stitched edges, strong steel frames and rods and mission handles tipped with nickel or gilt. Price \$1.50
These have gloria covers of a superior quality, steel frames and rods, while the handles are finished with nickel or gilt. Price \$2.00
Umbrellas with cherry wood handles that fold up to go in a trunk. They have strong steel frames and rods and are a dependable quality. Price \$3.50
These have silk covers, steel frames and rods, also cherry wood handles, in a variety of shapes. Price \$5.00
FOR WOMEN
These have cotton covers and steel frames, and are a specially good value for the price. They have mission wood handles inlaid with nickel. Price \$1.75
Gloria covers with stitched and selvage edges, steel rods and frames, hobble handles with fancy trimmings. Price \$2.00
These have gloria covers, steel rods and frames, and fancy handles trimmed with sterling silver or gilt, and have a case. Price \$3.00
These have gloria covers with a wide ribbon edge and steel frames. There are many very smart styles to choose from in this lot, including some with detachable handles. Price \$4.00

Seasonable Gloves for Women

PRICES THAT ARE LOW COMPARED WITH THE QUALITY OFFERED

- PERRIN'S MARCHNESS GLACE KID GLOVES—In all sizes, and colors navy, tan, brown, green, grey, beaver, black and white. Per pair \$1.00
PERRIN'S DOGSKIN GLOVES—These are a strong and popular line, in tan color only. Per pair \$1.00
PERRIN'S FLEECE LINED DOGSKIN GLOVES—Per pair, \$1.25 and \$1.00
MOCHA FLEECE LINED GLOVES—These are Perrin's make and are a reliable quality. Per pair \$1.50
SILK LINED GLOVES—These are Perrin's make, and are real Mocha. They are a specially good quality and come in colors grey and black only. Per pair \$2.00
SILK LINED MOCHA GLOVES—In colors brown and grey. A specially good value at this low price. Per pair \$1.25
TREFOUSSE DOROTHY FRENCH KID GLOVES—In colors tan, brown, slate, beaver, green, navy, mauve, rose, mode, black and white. The stitching is in black, white and self color. Per pair \$1.50
GLOVE SCRIP may be purchased here, and are redeemable at any of our three stores: Nanaimo, Vancouver or Victoria.

Rogers Silver Plated Tableware

RELIABLE GOODS THAT ARE ALWAYS ACCEPTABLE PRESENTS—WE GUARANTEE THEM TO GIVE PERFECT SATISFACTION

- SUGAR SHELLS—These are in very handsome designs. A variety to choose from at, each, \$1.25 and \$1.00
BERRY SPOONS—Made in about seven different patterns. Your choice at each, \$1.50, \$1.25 or \$1.00
GRAY OR CREAM LADLES—These are to be had in very neat shapes, at each, \$1.50 and \$1.00
PIE KNIVES—These are a strong and serviceable quality. Price, each, \$2 and \$1.50
BREAD KNIVES—These have steel blades and plated handles and are rare value at, each \$2.25
BABY SPOONS—A very useful gift for children. Some neat design at, each \$1.00
All the Above Goods are Put Up in Fancy Lined Boxes Without Extra Charge
CARVING SETS—These are the product of the famous J. W. Rogers and Atkinson Bros. of Sheffield, England, and are made of fine steel. Every set has behind it the Spencer guarantee of quality. There are many styles here for you to choose from, and the prices vary from \$22.50 down to \$2.25

DAVID SPENCER, LIMITED

WHAT WOMEN FIGHT

CASE PRESENT LOCAL

Who Gives Time and Attention From the Ang...

In view of the Mrs. Pankhurst's tant suffragette leader it is timely to support of the woman's case. Pankhurst's angle. ment of cruel man representative of the present the other. The Times will pre so he need not fear local advocate of the case of her six porter in this way "Women," she sa for the law only transgress the law have nothing to of the law. Man in the law at wh both sexes shall seniority and respectance. With ma is recognized by use of the vote, w entrance to the es sponsibilities, and gives him means of about what he con duty toward socie other hand, wh seniority and an with all the legal an abuse of the incur, has no sha the law by which is supposed to h ober, or to suffer transgressing this necessary to make So says man.

Orient "Women have su fering from the fa beliefs of our tim in their origin, a much of the Ori about women. that women shou they should be s ment; that they sh of their own, b certain episodes h have overlaid the venter of manners hold them from the known from their see these views qu "Woman has nev now, publicly ac the ancient Germ the matronly sh lor; her sons and name, and the me work now appor modern Britain J plants in St. Geor women, and wom an inferior mind, a good nurse in s drudge, every ph nature having be with man, just as old and useful ho to shoot it when past. Almost nev old woman as his great war with female began wh body to feed her. Herself is pa "Woman is pa responsible for m She has played u a sense of her d man's assumption has made herse possession, and h placement have f fish nurse and a homes. But self-e of all human of human duty world. The only t has saved the sex an indefinite de where two separa sprung into being. The son inherits his mother's we father, so that e commences afresh sex distinction. nounced woman's concern with life affairs of life. W hand is occupied dies; largely with

REX

A Water-

for shoes and is applied in a means of a s cork, a brilliant lustre is at on NO BRUSHING Being of an o preservative. We have it in colors, and it is all leathers. ONE APPLIC 25c and 30c At this store Gyrus