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## COMPLAINING OF OUR TOOLS.

FIFTY years hence the historian of the events of to-day will note few things more significant than our love of change—unless, indeed, that love of change will in that half century have developed into a veritable obsession—which is not improbable. Facility of change—of scene, of domicile, of country, of allegiance, of opinion, of creed, of constitution—has made change seem almost the normal condition of humanity; all the more so as a change in the last can be brought about almost as easily as a change in the first, instead of being, as it was in the last century, the result of revolution, and in the century before, of civil war. Even fifty years ago, to remove an impost on corn required a national clamour continued for years. To-day, to lay a prohibitive tariff on five hundred commodities requires but a general election. Given a parliament for every province, and a council for every parish, naturally legislation marches apace—whether its path be progressive, that the historian of 1947 must decide—if he can.

Not much more than one hundred years ago the key-stone of the old fabric of society fell, and of the ruins society has been trying ever since to

build itself a new edifice. Of the ruins; that is what so many forget: the old masonry does not fit the new mansion. Yet other material there is none. America, ever rushing in where others feared to tread, set the fashion, and did her best with her astounding specification anent the equality of man. France followed, and succeeded in substituting for the rule of a tyrannical monarch the rule of a tyrannical mob. England, always hastening slowly, brought up the rear with the gift of votes to those unlearned in voting. Doubtless by all three changes much was gained; but nothing so much as the knowledge that demolition was easy. There are who think we are now beginning to learn that edification is difficult. Here, at all events, began the era of change and of that dissatisfaction with the means at our command proverbially attributed to the unworthy workman.

We quarrel too much with our tools. It is so easy to try new tools that we are too much tempted to try them—with the result that no tools satisfy us, and we clamour for those never yet made by man—and perhaps unmakeable. For example:

The socialistic demagogue, wearied with his daily toil, exasperated per-