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The Party System vs. the New Era

II.

By Fag.

Summary Review

IN the March number of *The Civilian* this series of articles, purporting to deal with politico-economic domination under the bi-party system of government, was begun. As a practical exhibition of this system in two great democracies (so called), the United Kingdom and the United States, attention was called to the contrasts of great wealth (accumulated through privilege and favouritism) on the one hand, and dire poverty on the other hand. The purpose in emphasizing the inequalities of opportunities and conditions under this system is not simply to draw attention to its inherent injustice, but to speak on behalf of the permanency of our race—so that its decline and fall may be at least less precipitous than that of other great world races, such as the Roman and the Athenian. It is the intention to combine closely in these articles effective construction and caustic criticism and in due course to suggest a method by which reforms may be achieved by constitutional means in order that Canada's name may be preserved from the horrors of those disorders which the ruling classes of other countries have brought upon their peoples.

The thesis and hypothesis of this argument is that oligarchic plutocracy is responsible for the horrors of the war, and democratic plutocracy is responsible for the horrors of peace.

In the opening chapter of this series of articles, passing reference was made to conditions in Great Britain and the United States. In the present chapter some attention will be given to Canada.

The Horrors of Peace in Canada

To those who accept the Darwinian theory, the horrors of peace will not be entirely inexplicable. In the economic struggle of the human race man has shown the propensities incarnate of the reptile, animal or bird

of prey. Vol. I of the History of Canadian Wealth is a book that has fallen under the ban of the censor, by accident, so it appears, rather than by design, but it is not in truth fit to read. The book exposes some of the feudal expropriations of the lords of privilege from the earliest days down to 1914, and in it is to be found a verification of the "Origin of Species" in the reptile vices of both the pioneer and modern profiteer, in the carnivorous animals of our feudal system who devoured our public lands, timber, franchises, subsidies, etc., and who have their canines hard fixed in the carcasses of some 65 per cent of their fellow human beings in a tight-locked economic grip.

Economic and Generic Percentages

A high statistical authority on this continent gives us the information that 2 per cent of our people own twice as much as the other 98 per cent, and that 65 per cent of our people have on an average only \$200 to the good. This means that a great proportion of this 65 per cent is under the poverty line. It also means that this great proportion, in propagating its species under poverty conditions, is slowly but surely reducing the virility, the longevity and the supremacy of the race. It is a moot question as to whether the children of the excessively rich (that is of the "2 per cent") add a progressive strain in the generic sense to the blood of the British stock, but accepting the 2 per cent at a par value, we must admit on the authority of the Yale University economist that Canada, instead of being at 100 per cent, is only at a 35 per cent standard of fitness in the contest for race supremacy, permanence and stability. The school of Idealism reasons in this manner, and in so doing raises itself upon the very pinnacle of thought. There is another school of thought—call it what you like—which boils with anger at the idea that 2 per cent of our people have been permitted and are being permitted to pauperize the 65 per cent.

The Ruling Class in Finance

The "2 per cent" began to establish itself in Canada in the earliest days when they drugged the Indian with brandy and took his beaver skin "for a tin mirror or a needle." The Indian having been dispossessed of his country, the "2 per cent" turned on the other 98 per cent of its own race and have wrung from them a tribute similar to that extracted from the Indian. How is such a stunt pulled off? Read the "History of Canadian Wealth," by Myers, after it has been released from its inadvertent ban. In the meantime note a few pregnant facts. Approximately 2,800 million dollars' worth of water has been added to the stocks and bonds of Canadian securities which the "98 per cent" have been compelled to turn into wine or gold for the benefit of the few. You, dear reader, might go and buy up all the cement plants (that is, you might, if the thing had not already been done), add \$50,000,000 profit on the deal and the law allows you to issue stock for the amount of the cost and the profit. The Cobalt and Calgary wildcats make night hideous with cries for supervision of issues of stock, but in this place there is room for a sentence only for matter that would fill volumes.

The Ruling Class in Morals

One paragraph, however, must be devoted to the effect of this economic orgy upon our observance of the Ten Commandments, the Sermon on the Mount, and like tenets which ostensibly we adopt for our guidance. Sir Clifford Sifton is a paragon of the politico-economic type. He was accused by documentary evidence in the hands of Canada's political "Cato" of despoiling his country of lands, timber, water powers and everything else he could place his hands upon at a time when he was a Minister of the Crown and a trustee of the people. Before Christ was born, in heathen Rome Sifton would have been thrown over the Tarpeian Rock, but in Christian Canada