

principle was at stake gave fuller scope for individual likes and dislikes than in ordinary cases, and also afforded freer play for the successful use of the solid vote in those constituencies in which the P. P. A. organization had attained a certain amount of strength. Perhaps one of the most desirable results is the demonstration of the comparative weakness of this narrow and intolerant secret society, the tendency of which will be pretty surely to grow weaker rather than stronger as the years go by, and people have time for sober reflection on its unjust aims and mischievous tendencies. As for the rest, it is idle to attempt to deny, as a few of the Opposition papers are doing, that the victory rests with the Mowat Government and that their tenure of office for another four years is, in the absence of some unforeseen complication, secure. At the same time, there is some reason to hope that the influence of the Patrons in the Legislature may be sufficient, if they are united and judicious, to obtain some reforms in the matter of fees and patronage, which are very desirable in the interests of good government. The appointment of four ex-members of the Legislature to lucrative positions, on the eve of the elections, furnishes a very suggestive comment on the desirability of abolishing the patronage abuse.

Another great industrial war, and one that is not unlikely to prove the fiercest and most calamitous in United States history, is now being carried on between the railroads and their employees. The strike is somewhat remarkable in that it is, so far as the great majority of the strikers are concerned, what is called sympathetic. The railway employees as a body have espoused the cause of the employees of the Pullman Car Company. This fact gives the struggle a tremendous significance. If once the different departments of labour in connection with even one great institution of national dimensions and ramifications like the railroads, can succeed in maintaining its organization and working as a unit, their power will be most formidable, if not absolutely irresistible. Public sympathy seems to be to a large extent with the strikers. Their greatest danger is in resort to violence and lawlessness. Of this there are already some indications. Should the leaders, who no doubt are wise enough to wish to avoid anything of that kind, fail to restrain the lawless elements which enter so largely into the composition of their body in some places, they will not only suffer the loss of public sympathy, but will bring themselves into conflict with the various state authorities. Meanwhile the loss to the country by the interruption of travel and traffic, and the destruction of perishable goods, must in a short time be almost incalculable. Laboured arguments sometimes appear which enter freely into figures to show that the losses suffered by the labourers themselves during

such a strike largely overbalances any gain in wages which can result. By the same logic it might be shown that any rebellion for the establishment of some right or principle having freedom for its object, must be a losing business. Such reasoning overlooks the fact that there is usually more at stake in one of these contests than meets the eye. The loss is temporary. Any right or potency of organized labour which may be established is likely to be permanent. The struggle is often not so much for money as for independence on the one hand or mastery on the other.

A recent number of the *New York Nation* has a very trenchant review of the results of thirty years of protection in the United States. How could any sincere tariff man hope for a more complete experiment in protection, it asks, than that which has been had during these years of continuous rule by a protectionist party, which has twenty-five times made such alterations as it thought proper, and ended with the highest and most carefully studied tariff ever invented by civilized man? Could the system be tried under more favourable conditions? What is the result? Has it won over the whole people in its favour, by its beneficent fruits? On the contrary a large and powerful party has risen up against it, and has twice succeeded in electing a low tariff or free-trade President and Congress. Has it purified political life and brought the most intelligent men of the country to the work of administering the government? "On the contrary, it has supplied us with a Senate which does not contain a single really eminent man, which is largely composed of millionaires revelling in fortunes of doubtful origin, who have had within a fortnight to submit to the immense humiliation of an individual examination as to whether they have not been speculating in the Stock Exchange on their own legislation." Has it improved the condition of the labourer? It has filled the mines and factories with half-civilized foreigners drawn from the lowest races of Europe, who live in a state of savage and chronic discontent and are bitterly hostile to their employers and the institutions under which they live. Has it, then, won the adherence of the farmers, who are after all the bone and sinew of the country? The answer to that question can readily be given by any one who knows anything of the present political condition of the country. In a word the *Nation* can compare the results only with those of absolute monarchy in France, and affirms that the one has produced almost as great moral chaos as the other. Is there not in all this a lesson for Canada, especially when she compares the results with the firm attachment of the British people to the free trade which they have tried for a still longer period?

Probably more astounding revelations of systematized, barefaced municipal corrup-

tion were never made in the history of a self-governing city than those which are just now being made through the agency of the Committee of Investigation which is at work in New York. Perhaps "astounding" is not the proper word to use, at least, so far as the citizens of the metropolis are concerned, for most of them have been thoroughly convinced that the state of affairs has been about as bad as it could be for years past. The only difficulty has been to obtain legal proof of the nefarious proceedings. Thanks to the persistent efforts of a few brave citizens, and the consummate tact and ability of some of the members of the Committee, that difficulty seems to have been at last pretty well surmounted. Ample proof has now been obtained that the usual price of an appointment to the police force of the city has for years been \$300. This sum went directly to headquarters, an extra charge of from \$10 to \$50 being often made for the benefit of intermediaries. One of the Commissioners testified that during the ten years he had been a commissioner he had appointed about 1,000 policemen. The profits of this lucrative traffic may be easily reckoned.

The police service of the city being thus corrupted at its very source, it is not difficult to imagine what followed. Large revenues were regularly collected from the prolific sources of illicit liquor-selling and houses of prostitution. Five dollars was the regular tariff for the privilege of liquor-selling on Sunday. Thirty-five or forty Bohemian saloon-keepers, whose business was too small to admit of so heavy a tax, were formed into an association paying tribute at the rate of first \$100, and afterwards, their numbers having increased, \$125 a month, in a body. Not content, however, with the income from these two sources, these model guardians of the peace and morals of the city have been shown, on evidence said to be convincing, to have permitted swindling for a fixed revenue. A "green goods" operator, of many years' standing, who had been a professional criminal from childhood, affirmed that, though he is well known to the police and detectives, he has never been interfered with while pursuing his calling as a "steerer." He had often passed them with a victim or "guy" in tow. They sometimes even nodded to him as he went past. The cost of protection he understood to be five per cent. of the profits. All he knew was that five per cent. was held back by the chief operator avowedly for this purpose, and that he was unmolested. This revelation is said to have caused a profound sensation, though why protecting swindlers and counterfeiters for a consideration should be considered so much worse than collecting a revenue on liquor-selling, gambling, and vice is not clear. It will be interesting to note the outcome of this investigation.