

THE OBSERVER

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THURSDAY, OCT. 8, 1908

THE LIBERAL PAMPHLET

There is a pamphlet put out by the Ottawa Liberals in which the work of the Minister of Agriculture is highly lauded. Therein is told how the Liberals have increased the expenditure for Agriculture and stamped out contagious diseases in animals. According to the pamphlet Mr. Fisher is the one and only person who can do anything for the farmers.

The pamphlet relates with great glee how the expenditures for the Department of Agriculture are now \$892,470 a year. Think of it, farmers. The Minister of Agriculture now spends nearly a million dollars a year on your needs. The expenditure altogether is about a hundred millions a year now and the Minister of Agriculture tells you that he has succeeded in getting almost a whole million dollars of it for you. It is true that the farmers represent half the population of Canada and pay over fifty millions of taxation. And the Minister of Agriculture gets almost a million dollars to spend on them out of the fifty millions they contribute and the hundred millions spent.

The Pamphlet sneers at the Conservative expenditure for Agriculture in 1896. We are not upholding the small Conservative expenditure of those days for Agriculture. We assert, and defy the Minister of Agriculture to prove otherwise, that the Liberal expenditures of 1908 in proportion to the expenditures is no greater than was the Conservative expenditures of 1896. The Minister of Agriculture may endeavor to explain away the fact but he has treated the farmers no better than did the Conservatives of 1896.

EXPENDITURE FOR AGRICULTURE

Eight hundred and ninety-two thousand four hundred and seventy dollars in one year is the Ottawa Liberals' record for expenditure. Is not this a great sum, gentlemen farmers, to be spent on Canada's greatest industry.

When it comes to soothing the farmers the Ottawa Liberals tell the farmers that eight hundred and ninety-two thousand dollars is a vast sum to spend on Agriculture. When it comes to Western land deals the sum of eight hundred and forty thousand dollars is considered nothing but a fair profit for Liberal friends of the Liberal government to make on a couple of options of Western government lands.

The pamphlet lays stress on the fact that the Department of Agriculture is paying less money for contagious diseases in animals than formerly. Outbreaks of contagious diseases are said to be lessening under the beneficent operations of the present Minister.

In this the pamphlet is nonsensical. The Minister of Agriculture is utterly unaware of the advance of the contagious disease of tuberculosis. He has passed legislation to strangle the complaints of the farmers and to spread the disease.

The pamphlet is a fair specimen of the misrepresentation of facts that the Minister of Agriculture intends to foist on the public to keep himself in office to the detriment of Canada and the farmers.

COMPETITION

To some economists the free and unfettered competition of the various producers is the sole and only remedy of the economic ills of society. This is a comfortable theory and possesses the benefit of simplicity. The great trou-

ble with it, however, is that it will not work out in practice.

Competition means that each producer will endeavor to undersell other producers and that the public will receive the benefit of goods sold at the lowest price consonant with the welfare of the seller.

This theory of competition does not work well. When competition really works the producers sell below cost price in order to capture the market and when the market is captured prices go up.

With expensive machinery and large plants of the modern industrial world competition is almost impossible against an established business as the capital necessary to start a new business would be enormous, and the class of men who today possess the necessary wealth and daring to start a new factory are the kind of men who will combine with the established business to divide the market and keep up prices.

Competition, could in past ages when each man was his own boss, be relied upon to keep prices at a fair point, but that age has passed. Modern manufacturers are told that it is their duty to compete. Legislators tell them so and enact laws to that effect. The few manufacturers in any line of goods listen with calm air, and prices are kept up. Combination is to the benefit and profit of the manufacturers and they are going to continue to combine until the various governments take it into their heads to appoint permanent inspectors whose duties it will be to inspect all accounts, charges and expenses and to fix a fair price for the product.

HOW DO YOU SPEND IT?

The question of immense fortunes has arisen during the past fifteen years. The old Democratic simplicity of economic theory was that all men were born equal and that each man would be able to get all that he had any right to in the way of money. When the great fortunes began to pile up under the operations of Dingley tariff, men began to see that something was wrong somewhere and to wonder what it was. For a long time men did not see that their theory of life was at fault. It was considered to be but the natural results of unremovable causes that gave some men riches and other men poverty and the solution offered was that it lay with the rich men to use their wealth as a trust. The puritanical conscience was at work and the European idea of men using their wealth on their own pleasures was not considered to be right. Ten or fifteen years ago men honored the rich man who gave to a hospital or a church a part of his riches. The rich man who led a moral home life was looked up to and his wealth was considered to be but the gift of the Supreme Being as the reward of the rich man's virtue. The only question asked was how did the rich spend their money and that question being answered according to the consciences of that day all was well with the rich.

HOW DID YOU GET IT

Later on conditions changed. The wealthy in America became a class apart. Large incomes rolled in on a chosen few who had to devise various ways and means of living up to their annual revenues. Hospitals were founded and colleges endowed by the rich, but gradually men began to discover that all men were not free and equal. The old democratic simplicity of theory was evidently not working and men began to try and solve the problem along other lines. During the past few years it has not been enough for the rich, who have gathered together millions, to distribute them in part on philanthropic and charitable works.

In coming to the question of inequality of wealth the first question to be solved was why were not men born free and equal; why was it that some men had too much and other men not enough. This brought up the question as to the origin of great wealth and it has been found that most of it has been due to tariff-fostered combines, special privileges obtained by bribery, unjust advantages in freight rates, or the monopolistic hold of a few individuals on the

THE FREE SILVER ISSUE

Bryan has dropped the free silver issue. He no longer wishes to allow the unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of sixteen to one. Bryan saw an evil and he thought he saw a remedy. When Bryan was advocating free silver the western farmers were heavily in debt. Mortgages encumbered the farms. The effects of the panic of 1893 was still strong in the country and the farmers were suffering. The farmers could not repudiate their mortgages. Such a proceeding would be against the Constitution of the United States under which no law can be made to break the effect of a contract. If free silver, however, could be brought about and men could pay a dollar's worth of debts with fifty cents worth of silver the result would be that all obligations would be cut in half. The farmers saw the point as well as did all debtors and were wild for the measure. The silver mineowners also were in favor of the measure as a silver currency would make a good market for the product of their mines.

Bryan was defeated and we hear no more of the issue except when some gold Republican sneers at Bryan's former utterances. The issue is dead simply

natural resources of the country. The theory advanced by the wealthy that their wealth was due to the bigness of their brains was found to be false. Now no wealthy man in the States is altogether free from suspicion. The moment a man is known to be wealthy the question immediately arises, "Where did he get it?"

WHY SHOULD YOU HAVE IT

The idea that all men are born free and equal is found to be false but the Americans like the idea. It has been their watchword for over a century. It has been assumed by them to be an axiom and they cannot forsake it. They are therefore, unconsciously to themselves, changing it a little and working on the principle that if all men are not equal they should be. The Americans are studying the problem slowly and they find that under the glorious liberty of the free Republic some men are born to luxury and idleness and other men are born to toil and misery. They are studying the problem slowly and are coming to the conclusion that if some men had less other men would have more. They are beginning to ask the rich with regard to their wealth, "Why should you have it?"

The wealthy are replying, "We inherited it," "our fathers got it and we should have it." "We are in a nice position, but you cannot dislodge us to the benefit of the have-nots without shaking society to its foundations."

The Americans are not saying much, but when they have made up their minds thoroughly that the few have too much and the many too little they will proceed to take away the property of the few in the name of liberty and equality. It may shake society and government to their foundations to remedy the evil, but the Americans will remember the War of the Revolution and the War of Secession and they will go forward in calm assurance that when they get through the turmoil their country will have again shown the way to a broader freedom.

NATIONALIZATION OF RAILWAYS

In Great Britain the radical members of the British Cabinet are beginning to hint at a possible nationalization of railways. The British railways are heavily capitalized and some of them are earning but one or two per cent. The British railway companies have been held up by the lords who have demanded large rentals for the privilege of passing through their estates. The railways have also made it a practice of charging up to capital account new engines and supplies although their purchase was for the purpose of replacing worn material. The railroads are more or less in a bad way and are endeavoring to amalgamate to cut wages and reduce expenses. The nationalization of public utilities is one of the strong planks with the radicals. The railroads within the next ten years are bound to be taken over by the state and run as one system, because the people want it and the stockholders want to unload on the government.

In Canada Borden believes in government ownership of railroads. Borden has the right idea. Canada should acquire the C. P. R. before it becomes any more valuable or issues more stock at one hundred for which the government will think itself bound to buy in at one hundred and seventy-seven.

THE MISFIT HUMAN ATOMS

Every small village has one or two citizens who may be termed, misfit human atoms. Were man really evil at heart the communal life of a small village could not be carried on. Jones may not like Smith and Smith may not like Jones. But when Smith and Jones meet very often they feel friendly and respectful towards one another because each knows exactly what the other feels like, and in psychology there is a species of sympathy which arises from the perfect understanding of mutual antipathy. Even in their petty quarrels the villagers are more or less friendly as is shown by the fact that the enemies in one village squabble may be allies in the next.

The friendly spirit and social nature of village life is something not felt until a misfit human atom enters. This atom is usually a citizen who does not recognize his own unfitness for communal life. He longs for human sympathy and yet cannot put himself in the way of getting it. His company is an affliction because he is out of touch with the spirit of the village. He finds all things to be as they should not be and desires with a reformer's zeal to change them and to arrange them more to his liking. When he finds his efforts are not appreciated, instead of smiling at his rebuffs, he takes them more or less as a personal affront and grievance; the reforming spirit departs and a spirit of petty revenge enters. The citizen becomes a misfit human atom, a discomfort to his village and a nuisance to himself.

Professor Munsterberg, or some other freak psychologist, would confer a great benefit upon society could he discover some remedy for the inconvenience each village suffers from the presence of two or three misfit atoms in its social life.

because the western farmers have paid off their mortgages and many of them have money in the banks. Many of the farmers who in 1893 wanted free silver would now be most bitterly opposed to it. The farmer who has money in the bank can now demand that it be paid in gold. The farmer has now no use for a law by which the bank could pay him his deposits in silver which would be worth only fifty cents on the dollar.

The whole issue, however, was more or less an impossible one as even had the measure carried it would have been turned down by the Supreme Court as confiscatory of property rights and ultra vires of the federal legislation.

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Fall Business Now in Full Swing Goods All Here

Our New Fall and Winter Goods are now here and we are now busy selling them. We call special attention to our very select collection of really good quality in

Women and Children's Cloth Coats

We are not keeping much in the low prices, but have some old styles which we will make very low.

We are making a specialty of a line of Women's Beaver Coats in black, brown, green and navy, in seven-eighth length at \$12.50 each, and some very nice heavy Frieze Coats around \$8.00.

We will commence showing our Furs in a few days now and as usual we will have a very fine collection of FURS of all kinds.

Our New Dress Goods are selling very well and already we have been obliged to send in repeat orders for some of the more popular striped effects. Navy and Brown still have the preference.

We are looking well after our staple Dry Goods Department, and all lines of Cottons, Sheetings, Tickings, Flannellettes, Ducks, and all printed Cotton Lines will be found very complete.

We call attention to our stock of Carpets and Carpet Squares, Rugs, Matings, Oilcloths, Linoleums, Lace Curtains and House-Furnishings of all kinds.

WE HAVE RECEIVED

On the Men's Side of Our Store

A shipment of New Fall Suits for Men and Boys, and a very complete line of Fall and Winter Underwear in all grades, and we would emphasize the fact that we are careful not to handle anything but what we consider the very best goods that are guaranteed not to shrink.

New Boots and Shoes

We have received this week some New Boots and Shoes and our stock is now in good supply in Bals and House Slippers. We have also received our Men's New Fall Shoes.

OUR MILLINERY DEPT. IS NOW BUSY BRING YOUR ORDERS IN EARLY

Wanted in Exchange

New Laid Eggs 22c. Potatoes at 65c per 60 lbs. for limited quantity. Fresh Butter. Block Wood, No. 1 quality, \$2. We want your business. We have the goods and we are doing our best to make our terms and prices attractive to you. We will take your good Dry Maple Sugar at 7c per lb. Come early while stocks are at their best and you will have better choice and avoid any disappointments.

Yours for big fall business,

The Hub, Cowansville

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