

Cotton's Weekly

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Formerly THE OBSERVER

WM. U. COTTON, B. A., B. C. L., Editor

\$1.50 PER YEAR IN UNITED STATES
1 Can. and 1 New U. S. Subscription, \$1.50

COWANSVILLE, P. Q., THURSDAY, DEC. 10, 1908

WE FIGHT THE BATTLE OF THE PLAIN PEOPLE

VOL. XXXVIII No. 13

A CHANGE OF NAME

We have changed the name of this paper from THE OBSERVER to COTTON'S WEEKLY. The change is in line with the progress of the paper, and with the change in the subject matter of the contents. In calling this publication by the name we do we have much authority in contemporary journalism. Munsey's, McClure's, Collier's, Harper's, Scribner's, Appleton's and many other publications now widely known, and with a distinctive policy and style, show that the present name of this paper is likely to prove popular.

We desire to publish a newspaper of ideas rather than a newspaper of local events. There are great questions to be discussed and new lines of thought to be developed. Our course is marked out for us and we have been gradually changing the style and make-up of the paper for the new lines. It is our purpose to try and decipher the lines along which humanity is tending in politics, economics, and other departments of life and to endeavor to assist the development along the lines which we believe to be good. We may run counter to some of the opinions and beliefs of our readers. We will be in good faith, however, and will open the columns of our paper to those who are persuaded we are wrong, provided, their letters are not too long. Brevity is the soul of wit and we invite those who disagree with us, and wish space to answer us in our paper, to be witty in this respect.

ELECTION PROTESTS

At last the election protests have been filed and we know the amount of corruption that the Conservatives think can be proved by testimony. Thirty-four Liberal seats in Quebec are being protested, including the seat now occupied by our old friend the Honorable Sydney Fisher. Eleven Conservative seats are being contested by the Liberals and the Liberals now wish that they could protest twenty-four Conservative seats in the province, in order that the Conservative protested seats could equal the Liberal protests.

It is evidently the intention of the Conservatives to press the suits instituted against the Liberal members and it is equally evident that the eleven protests against the Conservative members have been taken by the Liberals more for the purpose of sawing off than for the purpose of punishing corrupt acts on the part of the opposition members.

Mr. Ames of Montreal is said to be at the back of the protests. If this be true the Liberal members whose seats are put into jeopardy can expect little mercy. Mr. Ames possesses an over developed bump of honesty, great persistence and little humor. These qualities make him a dangerous prosecutor for evil doers. He will not look upon corrupt acts as part of the game and as a sort of a joke. He believes the country should be pure and law breakers punished and many Liberal workers are consequently swearing under their breath.

You must recognize advertising as a commodity. It is imperatively necessary that you get this truth fixed firmly in your mind, before you can hope to give it that broad consideration which its importance demands. Get away at once and forever from the idea that it is an expense. It is not an expense, it is a commodity; just as necessary a commodity in the selling of necessities, as business is conducted today, as are the necessities themselves.

The only conclusive evidence of a man's sincerity, is that he gives himself for a principle. Words, money, all things else, are comparatively easy to give away; but when a man makes a gift of his daily life and practice, it is plain that the truth, whatever it may be, has taken possession of him.—James Russell Lowell.

NEW PARTIES

We believe that a new party is necessary in Canada. The two parties at Ottawa represent merely the ins and the outs. Both parties clamour that they are the party of honesty and the average elector believes that the two parties should be distinguished as the rogues in office and the rogues out of office. Laurier is honest and uncorrupt, but many of his followers are as dishonest a sin. Borden, the leader of the Opposition, is honest and uncorrupt, but many of his followers are also as dishonest a sin. Many of the Liberals would like to get rid of Laurier but they do not see how this can be done as he is necessary for victory among the French speaking population, and besides some of his most strenuous followers with dishonest propensities are placated with high office. Many of Borden's strenuous followers with dishonest propensities would like to get rid of him and it is extremely doubtful, had the Conservatives been returned to power, whether Borden would have been made Premier. Even as it is there is a strong movement on foot to oust him from his position as leader of the Opposition. As neither commands the confidence of the honest electors it is time that a new party was formed to advocate great questions and to arouse the people of Canada to real party divisions instead of petty office squabbles.

LINES OF CLEAVAGE

There are numerous lines along which a new party might work. There might begin a prohibition party that would pledge itself to the abolition of the liquor traffic by federal enactment. Such a party would certainly be a party for which men of conscience and integrity could work with whole hearted vigor. An agriculture party might also arise which would swing Dominion Legislature in the interests of Agriculture. It is a noted fact that in England, United States, Australia and Canada, the city or urban populations control the central governments and the agriculture interests have comparatively little to say in the actual shaping of legislation. The Ontario Grange might be a nucleus around which the new party might form itself. Another party division, and one which looks the most probable, might be a Socialist party wherein the common good of the actual workers might be advanced as against the private control of the large corporations by a few non-workers in their own interests. It is becoming generally recognized that our present laws tend to the over prosperity of a few and a Socialist party would produce a beneficial effect against the activities of bonus hunting special privilege charter mongers. The old parties are more or less outworn; what new party will arise in Opposition?

LAW AND MORALS

"You can't make people moral by law." Of course not. Neither can you make them healthy by law, but this is no argument against law. Laws are not designed to make men either moral or healthy, but to protect them in person and property, in their homes and in their interests. Doing this they promote morality by punishing evil doers and restraining those who would do evil. They also establish conditions favorable to morality and health.

A pure-food law may not compel a man to eat healthful food, but it prevents men selling him, under false labels, what is unhealthy. A law against cigarettes does not take away a boy's appetite for them, but it prevents men selling them to him and so protects boys from temptation. It protects others from the formation of the appetite. A law against saloons may not make drinking men temperate, but it creates an environment favorable to temperance. A law against Sunday trade and sport will not convert a Sabbath breaker, but it does save many working-men from seven days of weekly toil, and it tones up the moral and spiritual life of all citizens.—The Defender.

POLITICAL CORRUPTION

Political corruption is undoubtedly with us. The question is to find a remedy. The great mass of voters are against bribery during elections and yet bribery exists. The mere fact that the sentiment of the Canadian voters is in such a healthy condition makes the remedy easy, and the Conservative party, in bringing so many election protests, are performing its obvious duty in persecuting those persons whom it believes to be corruptionists. Our laws, however, make the task difficult, as the Dominion Statutes are so drawn as to protect the election rogues as much as possible.

One of the reasons why Canadian elections are dishonest is that many electors consider it makes little difference which party is returned to power. Our orators speak gravely of our Canadian statesmen, of their honesty and singleness of heart, and the majority of our electors look upon our campaign orators as prevaricators.

The average elector believes that the country will be plundered no matter whom he sends to parliament and believes that he might as well get a little of the boodle that is going.

When it is proved to the electors that an honest government with honest members carrying out the honest ideas in the electors' hearts can be elected the boodlers will go. The trouble with our electors is not a lack of honesty but a lack of faith.

CHURCH UNION

This is the ages of combines. The day of the little business is going. Union is strength and men find it more profitable in business to unite than to fight. This movement has struck the churches and the amalgamation of the different religious bodies is being discussed. A convention was recently held at Ottawa for the amalgamation of the various Baptist bodies throughout Canada. Tentative proposals have been put forth for the union of the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches in Canada. Conventions have been held in Chicago by the various religious bodies of the States for the purpose of discussing matters of common interest and of taking joint action thereon.

It is a wonder that the union of churches has not taken place before. Many little villages maintain two or three small Protestant churches and these churches generally straggle along on the ragged edge of extinction. Were one church maintained instead of three, there could be efficient service and a greater bond of sympathy would arise in the community.

The reasons for separate existence is generally sentimental. The care of souls can be as safely entrusted to one non-conformist minister as to another. The separation is useless and inefficient and, if union were effected, the money and time now wasted in competition could be more effectually spent in jointly fighting the freak religions which are springing up.

Man's Strength for Man's Distress

By RUDYARD KIPLING

Father in heaven, who lovest all,
O, help thy children when they call;
That they may build from age to age
An undefiled heritage.

Teach us to rule ourselves always.
Controlled and cleanly night and day:
That we may bring, if need arise,
No maimed or worthless sacrifice.

Teach us to look, in all our ends,
On Thee for judge, and not our friends
That we, with Thee may walk uncowed
By fear or favor of the crowd.

Teach us the strength that cannot seek
By deed or thought to hurt the weak;
That, under thee, we may possess
Man's strength to comfort man's distress.

Teach us delight in simple things,
And mirth that has no bitter springs;
Forgiveness free of evil done,
And love to all men 'neath the sun!

—From "Puck of Pook's Hill."

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THE PANAMA SCANDAL

President Roosevelt has at last struck something he cannot overcome by denial and although he is not personally smirched, nevertheless the scandal comes so near him that he cannot altogether escape blame. We quoted a few weeks ago some of the facts as given in the American radical papers. These facts were that a group of politicians had bought up the French rights in the Panama canal for four million dollars.

Roosevelt has come out with a strong denial. He asserts that the money was paid to the French liquidator. He does not state, however, that the money went eventually to French holders. But even this statement that the money was paid to the French liquidator appears to be erroneous. It was paid to J. P. Morgan & Co.

It appears that the Nicaragua route was the best for the canal. The Panama route is difficult of construction and even yet it is not certain whether it is practicable. Troubles have arisen at the Gatun dam which may prove insurmountable. Although the Panama route was the poorest, nevertheless there was a chance for a deal. The French rights in the canal were worthless but could be made valuable with the assistance of the American government.

The charges are as follows. Wilson Nelson Cromwell, a Republican politician, Charles P. Taft, brother of Big Bill Taft, and another individual who is a brother-in-law of Roosevelt, bought up the French rights in the old company for four million dollars. They thereupon used the American government, particularly Roosevelt and Root, for the furtherance of their schemes. The Panama revolution was brought about, for which the American government paid ten million so that the American syndicate might not be out of pocket. Then the minority report of the investigating committee on the two canal routes was forced through Congress as well as a measure buying the old French rights for forty million dollars. Profit on the transaction to the syndicate, comes to thirty-six million dollars.

This scandal appears likely to stick and Roosevelt will find it difficult to free himself from the imputation that he used his powers as President to enrich his relatives and friends to the extent of thirty-six million dollars at the expense of the American nation, and that he has fostered upon the nation a poor and expensive canal route.

TAXATION ON CHURCH PROPERTY.

The idea is gaining ground in many quarters that church property should be taxed. Property is becoming valuable and as civilization becomes more complex, heavier burdens fall upon municipal, provincial and federal governments and these heavier burdens must be met by new source of taxation.

It is only just that the churches should be taxed. Religion is a simple matter and the seat of religion is not stone edifices, but the heart of man. Churches represent a great deal of wealth and are built as much for comfort, convenience and pride of church members as they are for the exercise of religious functions. The Methodist did their best work for actual religion when they were preaching through the lanes of England before they possessed churches. The Salvation Army accomplished great work before they became the possessors of huge barracks.

We are all equal in the sight of God and yet the congregations of poor brothers are forced to worship in cheap churches under poorly paid pastors, while the rich brothers and sisters worship in large expensive churches under the ministrations of large salaried pastors.

It would work no injustice to tax churches. Just as much religion would exist in the hearts of men while the well to do member of expensive churches would pay in worldly money for the pride of his eye and his big church.

Nothing is so wrong as an unintelligent application of a right principle; nothing is so unjust as inflexible justice; nothing is so monstrously unrighteous as a righteousness that cannot bend.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

The safety of a democracy rests in an honest and intelligent electorate.

The paper under its new title does not want to be good. It wants to be just human.

We are paying our readers the compliment of believing they prefer ideas to gossip.

Members blame the electors for being corrupt and electors blame the members for not being altogether honest, and both parties are about right.

We who live in the Eastern Townships are somewhat out of the hurly burly of the world's strivings and hardly feel the pulsings of the new movements.

The country is disgusted with the Liberal regime, but the Conservatives need not get a swelled head over this fact. The country is disgusted with the Opposition.

The title of this paper has been changed from "THE OBSERVER" to "COTTON'S WEEKLY." There are several Observer's in Canada, there will be only one "COTTON'S WEEKLY."

The Liberals are talking about applying the gag at Ottawa. There are many things the Opposition want to talk about which the government is not anxious to hear.

Our genial friend, Daniel Bishop Meigs, M. P. for Missisquoi, holds his seat uncontested. The Missisquoi Conservatives evidently believe that those in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.

Does the Laurier government desire the people to believe that all the rakes-offs stayed with the little folk at the bottom and that none of the boodle found its way into the campaign funds of the mighty?

The Kaiser is keeping out of the line light and leading a calm and peaceful life. Little Bill is probably earnestly studying the life of his uncle Edward in order to find out how to succeed in diplomacy.

The old idea of what to do with a heretic was to burn him for holding wrong ideas. The modern view of what to do with a heretic is to educate him into right views of life and if he cannot be educated to say he is stupid.

There are mighty changes taking place in the governments of the world. During the next twenty years the world will witness great revolutions of thought and modes of government. Some will come with peace and others with war. The changes themselves are inevitable.

As children are afraid of the dark so men are afraid of those regions of thought with which they are not familiar. In ages past, and even yet, men through fear refuse to face new phases of questions simply because they are new and strange to their own experience.

President Roosevelt has delivered his annual message to Congress. He has, however, remained silent on two questions upon which the American people are most curious. These two questions are, first, his political alliance with the pope of Rome for the winning of the last elections, and second, the Panama canal scandal.

There have been two theories in the world as to the origin and cure for the evils which afflict us. The one is the Socratic doctrine that men do evil through ignorance of cause and effect. The other doctrine is that men do evil because of a perverse will, and they must be converted to a good will. The two theories combined make a perfect doctrine.

THE EDITOR

Who weeps with you when you are sad,
And laughs with you when you are glad,
And smiles at you when you are mad?
The Editor.

Who has to be both kind and wise,
And never, hardly ever, lies,
And when he does creates surprise?
The Editor.

Who owns a heart as well as cheek,
Possessed of spirit, proud yet meek,
And lives on thirty cents a week?
The Editor.

The U. S. War Department is engaged in experiments in the way of compressing coffee and sugar into tablet forms under conditions which will preserve them for a lengthy period, with a view to including the product in the new haversack ration which has been adopted for the army. This ration includes hard bread, bacon put up in tins, and salt and pepper carried in stout separate envelopes.

The white man has been regarding the darker skinned and yellow skinned brother as made by a divine providence to be exploited by the white man. The German Kaiser has been all in a sweat during the past ten years lest the yellow skinned brother should get it into his head that the white brother was made by a divine providence to be exploited in the interests of the yellow brother.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has been asked how women should go about getting the franchise. He has replied that they had better get the franchise from the provinces before approaching the federal house for it. Cute old Sir Wilf. He wants to get his friends, Hazen, Roblin, Whitney and McBride into as much hot water as he possibly can. And he does it all with that sunny smile too.

Canada is valiantly striving to develop an independent economic life but we are still influenced by conditions to the south of us. When we have a deficit the Americans have a deficit and when we talk economy the Americans talk economy. Our border tariff is a peek-a-boo fence through which each country looks at its neighbor and does as the other does.

Paris has had a riot at the Comedie Francaise where "Le Foyer," a venomous satire upon the upper classes has been running. If the upper classes cannot behave themselves when in a theatre they should be suppressed. It is really surprising how much the people of France have stood from the upper classes without complaining.

The coming Dominion session is to be a scrappy one. There are many things to come up and the Liberals are not so strong as their mere number of members would indicate. We may have to go through another appeal to the country within a year.

Very often men think they have opinions upon political questions when they possess only prejudices about them. Prejudices come from whooping it up at political rallies; opinions come through quiet reflection.

A dividend receiving mill-owning multimillionaire is nothing but the old despot prince in disguise. Very often the suffering among workmen today is caused by the selfish caprices of the millowner.

Civilization is not civilization to us unless we experience it ourselves. So to the poverty stricken laborer the wealth of Canada is as nothing unless he himself shares in his benefits.

We talk about living by the laws of love and yet our laws and whole economic fabric is built upon a basis of supposed enlightened selfishness.