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WILL THEY NOT BOTH FALL INTO A DITCH?

In a book entitled, "The British Empire, Past, Present and Future," edited by A. F. Pollard, M.A., and which book is dated 1909, the following appears: "The Question of Federation."—In Newfoundland, as in other Parliamentary countries, including Great Britain, there is a great deal of misrepresentation and some corruption at election times; and it was said that the proposal that Newfoundland should federate with the Dominion of Canada, which was laid before the electorate in 1868, was defeated owing to the tales which the electors were misled. But such methods do not account for the emphatic and prolonged refusal of Newfoundland to part with any of its independence; and the General Elections of 1893, after which more than half the members were unelected for bribery and corruption, were also exceptional. I am not much concerned about Confederation with Canada. I have my opinion about it nevertheless, still it is not with that phase of political life that I am now dealing, so much as with the other phase, that of bribery and corruption. Some St. George needs be or be raised, who shall lay the region of public vice in the form of greed and Corruption, low. Many have been victims to his insinuating and indish attacks; many have entered the field to destroy him but have not been there long before they themselves are swallowed up by him. When he was at the university during the ever-green Freshman term, he silently vowed that when he became a Sophomore, Hazing, Dumping, Initiating, etc., would be for-ever banished, but when he became a Sophomore,

he was so full of the College spirit as any of them and often got inebriated by it, he was so full of it. Nay he was worse than some of those who fell not the righteous indignation against the Sophomoric tricks as he did, twice as he was humbled before the august presence of the Principal for bad conduct to the "Freshies." So it seems to be with the politicians of Newfoundland. It does not matter how indignantly some men seem to storm against the supposed vices and greeds and corruptions of those whom they may be trying to unseat, if they are elected as members of our House of Assembly; newly elected invariably adopt the reputed vice practices of their predecessors in office. The only men who, (to my knowledge), have passed through the mill unscathed, are the men who had not brains enough, or ambitions enough or "pull" enough, to attain to any place of trust in the Government. Or to put it another way;—with possibly one bright exception, the only men who are not guilty of the practices involved in such terms as corruption, greed, patronage, etc., are the men who have not handled public monies. Not all M. H. A.'s are members of the House of Assembly, as it often happens that men who would have absolutely no chance of being elected to the House, these are the men who rule the finances of our country and render us poor indeed. These are the real M. H. A.'s; the dark horses, who carry neither blame nor praise, but who get the business, and do it.

THE SWEETS OF VICTORY.

One thing struck me forcibly as I read Professor Pollard's words, and it was the "fact that things have not changed for the better, that whether

the issue be Confederation, or Prohibition, or what not, the politicians are the same; young men, old men; Catholics, Protestants; rich men, poor men; new men, tried men; clever men, dull men; college men, non-college men; lawyers, doctors, merchants, fishermen, farmers; all and in all, and all and all, give them the sweets of victory in an election, and they take so much sugar and plum of Government patronage as they can, consistently with the policy of not being found out. Of course, I say again, there are known instances of bright and glorious exceptions, i.e., if you will go back all the way to 1855 when responsible Government was first granted. Generally speaking, however, all that is needed is the chance and presto! sugar and plums.

SOME NATURAL PROBLEMS.

Newfoundland, under the very best of conditions, is a very difficult country for any form of Government. When such a large area, so many indentations in the coast line; so many bays and coves, inlets and islands, it is not easy to connect place with place and part with part. Add to this the population, 240,000 people on an area that in England exceeds forty millions pro rata, and remember that the "sparsely populated Districts" (like the poor) is always with us. If by some super-law, the fishery could be laid aside, and some other industry instituted, or industries, the whole population of the country could be comfortably gathered in the area of a town. The population problem is the father of many more problems. Our railway service, an economic study in any country, in our country with its scattered and small sized townships, becomes a veritable menace to our economic safety. No private company could possibly tackle it without it being heavily subsidized. The cost to the country is enormous, yet there seems to be no other way of doing it. The only other way of managing the

railroad beside that of private ownership, (so far as I know) is that of nationalization, or Government ownership. After the experience of other countries, however, the nationalization of any public utility is not recommended. Add to the railroad problem; the Telegraph, the steamer service; the Educational and other problems, and it will be seen that the revenue of the country, is in great demand, even before it is collected. The main line of our railroad runs through hundreds of miles of country and not even a hamlet in sight. Our Educational system works out so that scores of teachers are wasting their time in schools with an attendance of six to ten scholars, and yet it is unavoidable owing to the Denominationalism of the system of Education and the sparsity of the population. Teachers, in spite of the generous increases in their grants to the salaries of teachers made by successive governments, yet are underpaid. More and more money is needed for educational purposes. More could be said along these lines, much more, whole volumes could be written about the roads and bridges and wells. In hundreds of cases, as high as \$100.00 and sometimes more, is spent by one individual in one year, for one by-path, from one main road to one simple and single house. It takes a lot of money to meet all demands. In one known year, besides the usual general grant for roads, bridges and wells, \$500,000.00 was granted specially. To go through the settlements where most of that large grant was spent, one would hardly imagine that 10c. had been spent more than the usual amount. It takes a lot of money to meet all demands.

A REAL CASE.

Assuming that all were honest and fair, that men knew of nothing but public interest, that all were consumed with a passion to do the right and proper thing;—the greatest good for the greatest number; even then, the

revenue of Newfoundland would not be sufficient to meet the proper and legitimate demands which a modern citizenship would make upon it. But when men use the revenue of the country to enrich themselves, or to establish their friends in lucrative positions, it but requires a grain of common logic, which is common sense, to see, that one is enriched at the cost and impoverishment of the many, and that the general tendency is toward corruption and general public inefficiency. Newfoundland cannot afford to have as its statesmen and Crown Ministers, men who are guilty of questionable public deeds, or guilty of political jobbery and mis-appropriation.

CALL FOR TRUE LEADERSHIP.

The times call for true leadership in our political life. We are coming to a crisis. Our national debt is staggering; our tariff is stretched to breaking point, our railroad is abominable, we need new steamers, our roads are mere trails for the most part, there is not a Public Library in the country, there is not an University. But why go on? Let me say this with caution, but I say it with emphasis; there is not one tenth of the entire electorate in this country, but his

ideas of the franchise at once morally and nationally bad, and I blame the under-studies. After careful thought, I am convinced that it is not the men who gives the vote so much as the man who seeks the vote, who is primarily responsible. Our leaders go wrong and those who follow him go wrong; "and if the blind lead the blind, shall they not both fall into a ditch?" Certainly! There is this difference often between the man who is a blind leader, and the man who is a blind follower; the former is deliberately blind, the latter is unfortunately blind; the former won't see, the latter, cannot see.

Permit a quotation from "Crown of Wild Olives" by John Ruskin; Para 115: "Remember, no Government is ultimately strong, but in proportion to its kindness and justice; and that a nation does not strengthen, by merely multiplying and diffusing itself. We have not strengthened as yet by multiplying into America. Nay, even when it has not to encounter the separating conditions of emigration, a nation need not boast itself of multiplying on its own ground, if it multiplies only as flies or locusts do, with the god of flies for its god. It multiplies its strength only by increasing as one great family, in perfect fellowship and brotherhood. And lastly, it does not strengthen itself by seizing dominion over races whom it cannot benefit. Austria is not strengthened, but weakened by her grasp of Lombardy; and whatever apparent increase of majesty and of wealth may have accrued to us from the possession of India, whether these prove to us ultimately power or weakness, depends wholly on the degree in which our influence on the natives race shall be benevolent and exalting."

THE WAY OUT.

The teaching of the great Art Critic in the quotation is just the one that is ever being drilled and drummed

into us by the Jeremiahs, and Isaiah's, and Daniels, of our time. Not by material wealth, not by the increasing of territory, but by common honesty and truth, and a recognition of the great spiritual forces of the world, does a nation become strong; by the exaltation of righteousness and the due and proper emphasis on brotherhood, is Newfoundland going to ride safely over the surging seas which seem to threaten our national life. Leaders show the way. Go in it yourselves. If the leaders are blind leaders of the blind, shall they not both fall into a ditch?

"God give us men as leaders, God give us men. Men whom the lust of office has not spoiled. Men who will not buy and who cannot be sold. Men above Party and Creed and Sect; Men of honour and all that. God give us men."

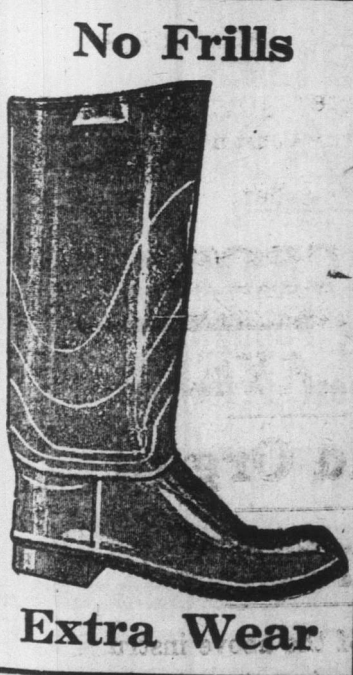
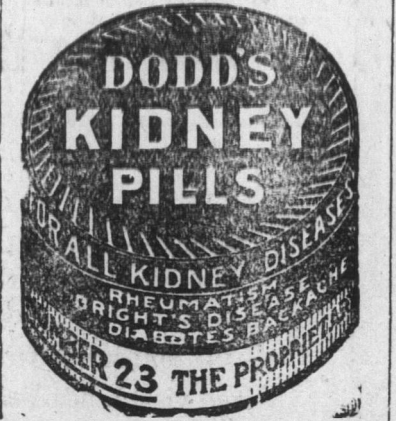
Macaulay's, "Horatius at the Gate," shows us the type of man we need, for there are heroic needs to-day, as there are heroes:—

"For Romans in Rome's quarrel Spared neither land nor gold; Nor son, nor wife, nor limb nor life In the brave days of old.

Then none was for a party Then all were for the State; Then the great men helped the poor The poor man loved the great. Then lands were fairly portioned, Then spoils were fairly sold; The Romans were like brothers In the brave days of old."

To whom it may concern: This is to certify that I have used MINARD'S LINIMENT myself as well as prescribed it in my practice where a liniment was required and have never failed to get the desired effect.

C. A. KING, M.D.



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