

The Evening Times.

ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER 4, 1907.

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THE EVENING TIMES, THE DAILY TELEGRAPH.

New Brunswick's Independent newspapers.

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RESPONSIBILITY

Clean politics is not a condition to be created instantly, at the flourish of a leader's wand. There is too much humbug in current discussion of this question. Corruption will not be prevented by the declaration of a few public men, any more than drunkenness is prevented by the Scott Act. The obstacle to be overcome lies not in this or that party or system, but in human nature itself. There are two participants in every act of bribery, and no man is forced to sell his birthright.

But the case is not hopeless. Strong declarations by leaders are useful, if they are sincere as well as strong. The voices of the independent press, the pulpit, the university, and the thoughtful man on the street, all add to the influence tending to the formation of a strong body of public opinion, opposed to corrupt methods. When thrust home, however, the responsibility rests upon the individual, not upon the party. It would be impossible to have a corrupt party of incorruptible men, although it is true that a party as such will sometimes do things which the great mass of its members if asked to do the like in an individual capacity would promptly refuse.

What the Canadian people need to realize to a greater extent is the far-reaching effect and great value of individual precept and example in relation to public affairs not less than private conduct. To the patriotic citizen, who takes his citizenship and its responsibilities seriously, there is nothing more depressing than the cynical attitude of so many clever men with reference to the result of an appeal to the average voter on the merits of a candidate or a policy. They will tell you that you may appeal with the most convincing force in behalf of an admittedly strong cause, but if the unworthy cause has the sinews of war your effort is wasted. In other words, they put the venality of the voters against the claims of the most righteous policy, and predict the defeat of the latter by the astute and "well-heeled" advocates of the unworthy.

The remedy for political corruption, therefore, must be applied at the root of the disease. Public sentiment must be aroused to such an extent that it will no longer be possible to handle bribery funds on Saturday and pass the plate on Sunday.

We are never weary of saying that we have a great country, of boundless resources, destined to play a great part in the world's future. How great that part may be depends not upon what some political or other leader is somewhere saying, but what the people down in the constituencies are thinking about honesty and decency in private and public life. For they are the people who will determine the destiny of Canada.

The country is filling up with people of many races, differing in language, traditions, social customs and political ideals. They are ready to listen to the voice of this western civilization, and to be moulded into it. There is, therefore, upon the existing Canadian electorate a stupendous responsibility, to so fix the standards and formulate the ideals of the commonwealth that the new material absorbed from year to year will be impressed and encouraged to try to measure up to those standards and adopt those ideals.

The man who works in a factory in St. John, or the man who tills the soil in a distant settlement, may not think very much about it, or see that his influence may be of much value in relation to national affairs, but it is the aggregate of the men in the factories and on the farms and in other pursuits that makes up the body of public opinion, which formulates

policies and determines the trend of national life and character.

To apply the argument to the matter of clean politics, the movement to overthrow corruption must begin with the people. Parliaments and governments are as the people choose to make them.

WILL REMEMBER IT

When next Mr. Mulholland, the defeated Liberal candidate in East Northumberland appeals to the people he will doubtless remember the comments of the press on the efforts made to bribe that constituency with public works. The Conservative and Independent papers have freed their minds with great frankness. Thus the Ottawa Journal (Independent) on the eve of the election said:—"The Mulholland campaign, of course, has been plainly vicious. Such a cold, frank appeal to the venality of a constituency probably has not been heard for many years, in Ontario at least, and the question as to whether or not there are in East Northumberland enough decent voters to condemn the practice of bribery by committees must remain for a few hours a matter for curious speculation. Mr. Mulholland has shown that he is willing and eager to buy his way into parliament by the expenditure of money that is not his. For it should be unnecessary to point out that the public treasury is not the private property of the ministry at Ottawa and that Mr. Mulholland has no right to promise on behalf of the ministry that the spending of public money in Northumberland is dependent upon his return to parliament."

The clergyman who stated in a sermon in this city yesterday that men of both parties high up in the church buy votes at elections may be censured by some for having meddled with politics instead of confining himself to the task of expounding the Scriptures, but if the religious teachers of the people are to be silent on such matters there is little hope of reform. From every pulpit throughout the land should be thundered stern denunciation of the man who buys and the man who sells a vote. In Montreal yesterday Rev. Dr. Barclay, it is said, caused a sensation by his outspoken denunciation of political corruption. Let us have more sensations of the same sort. They will benefit the country.

Mr. Borden, with an insistence which must make life more cheerful for Dr. Pugsley, returns to the charges made by the latter relative to the campaign funds in the last federal elections, and declares that there should be a full investigation of the funds of both parties in that campaign. If both parties could be made to realize the enormity of the offense of bribery a movement for cleaner politics might be started with some hope of good results.

Speaking of parties in politics, the state of Massachusetts today affords a remarkable illustration of disunion. There are seven parties in the state elections, each with a candidate for the governorship. They are republican, democratic, independent, anti-merger, prohibition, socialist and socialist labor. The most prominent figures in the contest are Guild (Republican), and Whitney (Democrat). Reciprocity with Canada is a plank in the platform of both the great parties.

This is election day in Bellechasse. Whether Turgeon or Bourassa will win it is apparently not safe to predict. The friends of each are said to be confident of success. If Mr. Bourassa wins, or if he makes a close fight it will be very significant. Mr. Turgeon was elected by acclamation in 1904 and in 1900, and had a majority of 434 in 1897.

One result of the present situation at city hall must be the appointment of a permanent auditor. The city accounts are of sufficient importance to warrant this course, and those aldermen who have in the past opposed such a course will doubtless now admit that such an official is needed.

It is worthy of note that while United States bank clearings have shown a decline there have been continued gains in Canada. Montreal clearings for ten months show an increase of \$41,031,000 over the corresponding period last year, the clearings for the ten months amounting to \$1,288,745,000.

The Socialists were thoroughly beaten in the municipal elections in England and Wales last week. The great mass of the people are prepared to enlarge somewhat the scope of public ownership, but not to go the length of accepting the ill-defined doctrines of Socialism.

WILL GO TO CHIPMAN

The mission of Chipman, Queens county, has been erected into a parish and Rev. Wm. Hannigan, curate to Rev. F. L. Carney in Fredericton, has been appointed pastor. He will take charge on Sunday next. There are attached to the new parish St. Patrick's church, Cambridge, Queens county; St. Bridget's church, Northfield, Sunbury county; St. James' church, Springfield, Kings county. There are about 150 families in the new parish. A Fredericton despatch says Father Hannigan's place in Fredericton will be taken by Rev. M. O'Brien, now at the cathedral.

THE EVENING TIMES, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY NOVEMBER 4, 1907

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A. B. WETMORE, Tape Girdles 43c. pair. 59 Garden St.

AUTUMN

In yonder field the stubble gleams, the sun's rays flaming red—
A road belated, idly ways 'mid weeds and drops its head.
The orchard trees are low with spoil, the moon rides ghostly white,
And louder chirps the crickets in the early autumn night.

The cattails in the marsh are dry—at night there comes a hint
Of frost; the leaves are taking on a red and golden tint.
The river mirrors purple flags, now wilted, and the thrush
Makes sweeter music—slowly curls the smoke from burning brush.

The summer sun has browned the hills; the garden's rank with weeds;
With in the stagnant pool stand dry and lifeless, broken reeds.
The nights are chilly; the heart's fire leaps and sheds a cherry glow—
The country roads are dull where once bright blossoms used to grow.

—Milwaukee Sentinel.

IN LIGHTER VEIN PROOF OF DISTINCTION.

MiscA—"And that nephew of yours who—er—ran away, don't you know, and joined the army, how is he getting on?"

Misc B (proudly)—"Oh, very well, indeed. He's just been made private secretary to the lance-corporal of his regiment."—Punch.

BOTH DISAPPOINTED.

"You said the house was only five minutes' walk from the station," complained the victim; "to say the least, I'm disappointed in you."

"And I'm disappointed in you," replied the agent. "I thought you were a very rapid walker."—Philadelphia Press.

COURTING DAYS.

Jack—"Was yours a long courtship, old fellow?"

Will—"Gracious, no. My wife had nine little brothers and sisters!"

"Really. But what difference did that make?"

"What difference? Well, if you had a bribe a crowd like that to keep out of the drawing-room every time you went to see your girl you'd soon want to cut short the expense."—Tatler.

THEY AGREED.

A fat woman, bearing a number of bundles, entered a crowded tram car. The only semblance of a seat she could find was a small space between the legs of an agreeable youth. Into this space, sufficient only for one individual of ordinary size, the fleshy woman squeezed herself, and much to the annoyance of the youth. After a moment or so the woman produced a cheese sandwich, which she proceeded to devour with every evidence of relish. At this the youth gave her a look of ineffable disgust, and drew the skirts of his frock coat closer to him.

"I suppose, me lad," good-naturedly said the woman, "that ye'd praverly to have a gentleman sittin' next to ye?"

"I certainly would!" snapped the youngster.

"So would I," calmly responded the fat person.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

BUCKWHEAT LOSER

TWO COWS AT THE REVERSIBLE FALLS

Editor Times—

Sir—I thought the doctors would wait a few weeks for their fee for attendance when we had the mumps. I expected to market a few loads of turnips and potatoes, then pay them. But no, they sent threatening letters.

Hannah said:—"Make a long story short—sell two of the cows to town. I'll drive in to bring you home. Tie a rope around the horns of each cow and lead. I'll drive behind. We'll sell them to one of the dairies up town."

At Haymarket Square a man told us it was unlawful to take cattle through the streets. We did not meet any laws on Brussels street. We turned into Union street. Everything seemed mixed here—all blocked—broken up. We got in, but couldn't get out. The cows got bewildered, and pulled me out of the wagon. Hannah fell off the seat. I held on the ropes—but one cow ran one way the other pulled opposite. I felt I was coming apart, so I let go, after being hauled over several stones and over a fence of a moving street car. I went back to Hannah. She said to put the horse up, and we'd look for the cows. Our search was hopeless. One man told us it served us right for our folly—no one in their senses would think of taking cows through the streets with milk and butter in the sky. A sober-looking man—like a minister—said he was sorry—but Capt. Webb was drowned swimming for the cows. Our search for a greater feat—trying to cross the rapids with two cows—be thankful your alive yourself."

Another man said: "Your misfortune is somebody's fortune." A man with spectacles on said he was a geologist, and member of the N. H. S. You, he said, "have passed through the irreversible falls. The Reversible falls over there were thought wonderful—but these surpass wonder. You've passed through a dark mystery, and only lost two cows. The citizens have lost all our liberties of citizenship." I said, "If these are falls, where is the water?" He said, "Just below—may burst out any moment. This is only a part of a great system of 'irreversibles' that show up here and there, now and then."

We almost forgot our loss in pity for the people. Hannah said: "Keep your mind on business—look at the doctors' bills."

I said:—"What will we do?" Hannah said:—"We have a little money in the bank, we'll draw the interest." At the bank we met the president. He said he could feel for us. He had a farm himself. "You are wise," he said, "to have money in the bank. It is an umbrella now in your rainy day." We paid our bills. We're happy again. Every place has its distinction. Halifax its golden streets. Montreal its Bore. St. John its irreversible falls. Every spring when they reverse they are more irreversible.

Yours,

BUCKWHEAT.

D. BOYANER,
Scientific Optician,
38 Dock St.

Half the pleasure of life is lost, and the earning power diminished by defective sight. The man with spectacles is often a better workman than the man without. See D. Boyaner, Dock street.

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OUR DOLLS, TOYS AND XMAS NOVELTIES are coming to hand every day. Special values in GLOVES, HOSIERY, UNDERWEAR, ETC.

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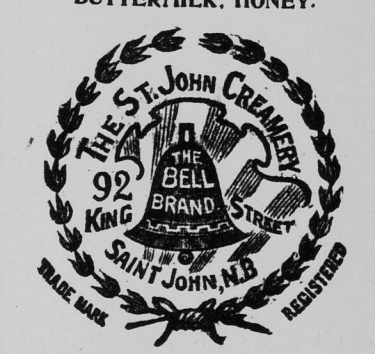
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