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Canadian Loyalty.

In connection with the reciprocity negotiations there has been such an exuberance of loyal sentiment that it is well to bring some of the orators to book, and to inquire somewhat closely into their utterances and actions, for to the unbiassed on-looker word and act do not seem to harmonize any too well.

A man's loyalty is to be measured by his actions and not by his words. When a public servant makes a parade of his virtues he is always to be suspected. It is not surprising, then, to find that some of those who are today clamoring most loudly for retaining our British connection, and who are speaking as if they had a mortgage on the Old Flag, are daily committing acts which are making for natural disintegration.

TWO FORMS OF LOYALTY.

There are two ways in which one may be untrue to his land. He may work from within or from without. In the former case he may plant seeds of dissension among the people so that in due time there will be a harvest of civil ills that make it impossible for conditions of peace and harmony to prevail.

On the other hand he may assist in furthering alliances that make it impossible for old and cherished ideals to be maintained. The most dangerous enemy for us always is the man who works from within, for in Canada or in any other British possession, there is but little danger of affiliation with any other power. Even if we should be bettered financially by separating from the Mother Land and uniting with no other nation, our sentiment is stronger than our greed. We shall always be glad to live on good terms with our neighbors to the South. We shall trade with them and cooperate with them. In a social way they shall be treasured friends. They can even borrow our preserving kettle, and we can borrow their step ladder, but as for annexation!—why, that is an entirely different matter. We are married, and don't believe in divorce. Yet there are not a few just at this time whose interest it is to appear ultra loyal.

THE FOREIGN BORN.

Take as a first illustration the part played by some of the men prominent in political life. A few years ago they were seized with the idea that this West must be peopled. Instead of going to the Mother-land and enlisting the sympathies and co-operation of the Home Government, they canvassed Central Europe and brought out colonies of people, and hived them in such a way that it will be impossible in two, and even four, generations to Canadianize them. America has found it almost impossible to assimilate her foreign-born population, and yet her highest average was 1½ per cent. Western Canada has gone three times this, owing to the unnecessary haste of these men who pose as loyalists. Some men should have grace enough to keep quiet at times. It does seem strange that among those who are loudest in their cry for the preservation of British connection, there are to be found men who have done their utmost to wreck British institutions by giving the right of voting to these ignorant foreigners—men out of sympathy with British and Canadian laws and institutions. No non-English settler should receive the right to vote until he is here for a long term of years, and none but British born should have a vote for three years at least. There would be some loyalty in

legislation of this kind, but the modern politician forgets loyalty in his desire to find a purchaseable vote.

It is a land of equal opportunity and equal privilege, as is becoming wherever our good flag waves.

RACE LOYALTY.

There are thousands who are shouting "Loyalty and United Canada" until nothing else can be heard, but at the same time they are pushing their schemes for the domination of the whole Dominion by one race. They want to receive not only the plums that are served out at Ottawa, but are looking with greedy eyes on the small baskets that the provinces have to offer. It is rank disloyalty for any race or creed to claim special privilege in Canada.

EASTER.

'Tis the Spring of souls to-day,
Christ hath burst his prison,
And from three days' sleep in death,
As a sun hath risen.

—Neale

TO OUR COLONIST.

Let Great Britain's piece of the world increase,
Let Colonies be her ken,
But never a race can fill the place
Of our brave Canadian.

In a land so classed in the years long past
As a lap of Luck and Gain;
With a mineral store from shore to shore
That girdles a fertile plain.

With the spoil of seas; with a wealth of trees;
The strength of Niagara's shower
That an active brain can cut in twain
And give to the world as power.

Does it come amiss in a land like this
That men out of every clime
Should form a band that is bound to stand
The vicissitudes of time.

Then give us the man, whatever his clan
Or national tongue may be;
We've a land that moulds, a land that holds,
Where a man's a man and free.

Where a creature's need has a country's heed;
The coin of the realm is "Do";
The man that gives is the man that lives
A patriot, staunch and true.

They are silent, p'raps, but they're manly chaps
Where the nation's need is men,
And never a race can fill the place
Of our brave Canadian,

—Madge Bond Sinclair, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

TRADE LOYALTY.

Outside of the political camp are found many who are raising a loyalty cry. "Made in Canada" is a fine motto. It should be marked on all goods that are worthy, but if the consumer is to pay from one-quarter to one-third more for an article so labelled, it is anything but loyalty for him to purchase the article. Any man who would impose a tax upon his neighbors for his own gain—a tax which causes resentment, which is in itself unjust—destroys that good feeling which is essential to national unity. The real traitor in a land is the man who through gross selfishness works injustice to his fellows. Civil discord is always more to be feared than international strife.

So we all know just where we are to be placed. If we are working for purely selfish ends, if we are the servants of any section or class, or body, if we in our hearts are true to any other flag than the Union Jack, then we are disloyal, and no honeyed words, no blatant egotism and vociferous protestations will hide the fact.

CLASS LOYALTY.

It may be that some Western farmer may read this and agree with it. Let him, too, be sure that he is loyal in all his acts. If a change in fiscal policy will enrich him, that is not a sufficient reason for supporting it. The question behind this is: "Will it be fair and just to the country as a whole?" We believe that the Western farmers as a class are not afraid to ask themselves that question. What is in the interests of the country as a whole today is the very thing that will favor them in their occupation. There are some who see in the farmers' agitation the death of the old political parties, and the rise of a class organization that will be a menace to national life, for this new organization will be strong enough to demand class legislation, and all class legislation is dangerous. Very true, but will any body tell us what we have had this last twenty-five years but class legislation, the class to demand it being the capitalists and corporation owners? How much worse is it for the farming class to seek special legislation than for others to get it? The present division into parties is altogether artificial. There is no principle involved in the division. If party government has nothing better to show than the illustration furnished by Canada, the sooner it gives way to some other system the better. There is absolutely no loyalty in slavish devotion to party. The only loyalty worth a farthing is that which seeks the highest welfare of the whole social organism. Excessive loyalism to the larger race, class or party, is disloyal in the highest degree.

DISLOYALTY.

We believe Canadians are loyal when they get half a chance. They are true to the Mother-land, and they are bound to preserve their independence, but they may fail in their desires if self-seeking spirits among her people continue to work their plans, according to which classes are favored, and the votes of unsympathetic foreigners are allowed to outweigh the votes of loyal Canadian citizens. There is indeed a sense in which "Canada for the Canadians" is a good cry. It is bad enough for a man in public office to use it to enrich himself and his friends, but it is a thousand times worse for him to hand over the control of Canadian affairs to those who have no knowledge of our past and no national ambition.



Doukhobor Boys Ploughing. Swan River Valley.