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MANAGEMENT OF POLICE FORCE.

The chief of police has resigned, alleging that he was prevented maintaining the proper discipline in the force by interference from the commissioners. Such interference the mayor emphatically denies, declaring that police officers were not allowed to discuss the troubles of the "force" with the commissioners.

The case must rest with the city executive, the council being the final court of appeal. The city charter places the management and control of the police force explicitly in the hands of the commissioners, thereby making them absolutely responsible for its efficiency. It necessarily lies, therefore, with the commissioners to say how far they shall delegate this authority to the chief of police. Pre-empting the conditions to exist which should exist—that the chief enjoys the full confidence of the commissioners—they might then be expected to turn over the management practically into his hands. If they do not do so the conclusion must be obvious that they do not care to assume complete responsibility for him. Under such conditions efficiency could scarcely be looked for.

Undoubtedly, from the logical viewpoint, the chief should be entrusted practically with the control and direction of the force. But this is only another way of saying that the chief should be a man in whom the executive have complete confidence and for whom they are prepared to become fully responsible. It must always rest with the commissioners whether this is the case or not. And when in their opinion it is not the case they may be presumed to have the alternative of either trying to manage the force themselves with the existing chief, or of getting a new chief for whose work they are ready to stand sponsors.

While this system exists it must always remain the privilege of a new board of commissioners to consider whether their chief of police is a man for whom they are prepared to assume full or only partial responsibility, and to govern themselves accordingly. Men cannot be held responsible for another man's work unless they have the say as to who the man shall be, and the power of delimiting the extent and bounds of his authority under them. In this respect the appointment of a committee to consult with the commissioners in the selection of a new chief may be wise or unwise.

An important feature of the present system is illustrated here: Within a couple of months the board of commissioners will change by the election of a new mayor. It will be one of the privileges and duties of the new members to consider the newly appointed head of the police department, and so far as his authority in the executive will go to maintain or remove him as he considers in the public interest, and also to determine the conditions and the authority under which he or his successor shall work. There is thus the possibility of a choice made at the present time being unsatisfactory a couple of months hence, and either of the appointee being discharged or his authority curtailed in a manner which he might deem humiliating.

Whether this liability to frequent disturbance is sufficient disadvantage to call for the placing of the police department under some other supervision than that of the commissioners is a matter for consideration, and one in which the consideration is not all on one side. It can scarcely be satisfactory to a chief that his tenure of office should be subject to frequent reconsideration and his measure of authority to frequent change. But on the other hand the public are very much averse to any man coming to regard the chiefship as a "sure-thing" life job, or coming to believe that the chief's baton is the symbol of power to "run the city."

No incumbent is likely to get such ideas firmly rooted under the present system. Whether it would be safe to alter this for one offering greater continuity of office and thereby a concentration of power is a proper subject for the council's consideration. A difficulty in the way is that some body of

elects must in any event be made responsible for the occupant of the position. If not the commissioners, then the council, or a committee of the council. That the occupant would be any surer of his job under such auspices or any freer from interference is by no means certain. At present, in any event, the duty and the responsibility rest with the commissioners. With them must also rest authority commensurate with the duty and the obligations.

THEN AND NOW.

Chagrined, perhaps, at putting his money on the wrong horse, the Toronto News declared pettishly the other day—

"It is not at all clear that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, when his whole official career is considered, has done anything at all to effect a better understanding between the two races or to allay sectarian feeling in Canada."

A half dozen years ago a gentleman named J. S. Willson published a book entitled, "Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Liberal Party." In it he penned the following paragraph—

"His is essentially a constructive mind and a serene temperament. He trusts in the future and reveres the past. He will always be slow to lay destructive hands upon hallowed institutions and reluctant to disturb the ancient landmarks. His administration has been eminently constructive and progressive. He labors with strenuous hand and abounding faith to unify and consolidate the various elements of the confederation, to promote material development, and establish national self-confidence."

The following extract is from the same volume—

"Sir Wilfrid Laurier's public career is remarkable for consistent and unchanging devotion to three great objects: the assertion and maintenance of the principle of federalism, the denationalizing tendencies of racialism, sectarianism and provincialism, and the promotion of national self-confidence."

The author of the book is professedly the editor of the News.

CURRENT COMMENT.

As was expected, Mr. Bryan seems to have held "the solid South"—and not very much else.

To John Sharp Williams, formerly of the House minority, belongs the credit of forecasting the results of the United States elections. "From all I see, from all I hear, it is a Bryan tidal-wave," he said to a newspaper man; but he added: "I have seen many Democratic tidal-waves carry the Republicans into power."

Speaking in the Imperial House a few days ago, Hon. John Burns, president of the local government board, offered interpenetration as one cause of distress among British unemployed. He said: "I have been in America three times and the only difference I saw between the unemployed in America and those of this country was that the former, for a short time after losing work, were better dressed. Many of them do not drink so much as do many British unemployed workmen, but British workmen have an advantage in the number of days they are idle." In itself the statement is harmless enough, amounting merely to the truism that there are more Americans who do not drink as much as many British laborers. But it was taken as an intimation that out-of-work men in the States as a class or on the average drank less than unemployed in Britain, and some vigorous remarks were addressed to Mr. Burns by labor members.

By error—or something else—a local contemporary accuses Mr. Oliver of having referred to the Conservatives of Edmonton as "Hooligans" in his speech from the balcony of the Alberta hotel on election night. Comment is unnecessary to those who are acquainted with the minister, but to the benefit of the others it may be well to nail this mis-statement. No such statement, and no statement intended to convey such meaning, nor yet a statement which by reasonable construction could be supposed to have such intention was made by him. He did refer to "Hooligans" in the rowdy who attempted to break up his meeting a few evenings previous in the rink and who were at the moment attempting again to prevent him from speaking. These men, the Edmonton Journal says, constitute a fairly representative of the Conservative party in Edmonton. Nobody but the Journal believes any such libel on its party.

The customs revenue for October shows a smaller falling off from last year's figures than has been the case for the past six months. The customs returns indicate the extent of our trade abroad, which in turn reflects pretty fairly the upward or downward trend of conditions in the country. According to this standard things in Canada are "on the mend."

October is the first month to feel the reviving effects of the season's crop, an influence that should be more strongly felt during the three or four months to come. That will carry us

well along to spring and the present indications are that by spring conditions financial and commercial will have pretty well recovered the normal. We should not be disappointed, therefore, in looking for steady betterment month by month. Local causes no doubt will produce undesirable and perhaps hard conditions in congested communities if a severe winter forces a suspension of out-door work, but these are causes always present or always liable to be present, and which no amount of prosperity altogether avoids. They are not the result of "hard times," nor is their presence an indication of generally adverse conditions. The worst of the financial storm appears to be over and the country well started on the road to recovery.

CALUMNY CONDEMNED.

Canada is to be congratulated on the failure of the campaign of slander. Had that campaign succeeded the results are neither far to seek nor far from the country well started on the road to recovery.

It is the essential meaning and purpose of the Government of power by repeating assertions which no accuser dared couch in the prescribed terms of a parliamentary charge. Had that campaign prospered where would the habit have ended? Suppose the Government had been driven from power by such propaganda what would have been the natural course of things?

Remembering that men are human and that they belong to the same race, it must be confessed that the Liberal Opposition would most likely have taken up the weapon which had been so successfully used by their opponents. They would in all human likelihood have retaliated in kind. And if this weapon had been successful, once why not a third time? In short, if the principle had been established in Canadian politics that a Government could be upset by the persistent slander of its members or supporters what would we have had, or what could we expect to have had in future political controversy but slander and nothing but slander?

This is a condition to which no well-meaning man of whatever social position would desire to see our politics descend, yet this was the end to which we were tending and to which we must have come speedily if the people of the country had expressed approval of it.

Had this condition been brought about the results to the public are apparent. Let the principle be established in law that a man accused of an offence is legally guilty if and only if he would feel himself safe where he would feel himself safe? Where is the man who has not enemies prepared to say he is guilty of what they have no evidence to prove? Or to whisper an insinuation that they have not courage to coin into an open charge? Similarly let it be established that men may be honored for public life by statements unsupported by evidence or by whispered insinuations which none dare coin into charges. Similarly let it be established that men may be honored for public life by statements unsupported by evidence or by whispered insinuations which none dare coin into charges.

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A HINDOO HEARD FROM.

A Hindoo resident of New Jersey, after the Annual Review of Reviews for a recent article which repeated the current "Occidental" belief that the Hindoo caste died bodies into the Ganges and bathed in and drank the

polluted water. He throws a new light on the subject which, if correct, condemns this current belief as an outrageous libel.

"The Hindoos after burning their dead bodies cast only their bones and teeth in the Ganges, which river is naturally very pure and cold, as it comes down from the snowy bed of the Himalian, the highest mountain in the world. Of course, it is made somewhat dirty by bathing of numerous pilgrims, but it is purified by the bones and teeth, the sun and the wind, and the fishes and water animals, that is, by scavengers of three kinds, which are always at work. The water, which is taken by the pilgrims to distant towns and cities for drinking purposes is taken from the Ganges only near the city of Haridwar, where the Hindoo cast bones are naturally not so good as those of the Ganges, in spite of this, day a large quantity of dirt is put into the water that is put, neither of course, great care is taken in catching the scavengers—the fishes."

STILL "KNOCKING."

Senator Perley apparently is not aware that the election is over. On October 25th, two days after polling, he gave an interview to the Regina Standard in which he set out the Opposition attitude toward the Hudson Bay railway and the eastern section of the National Transcontinental more clearly than some candidates succeeded in making it during the contest. He said—

"It will be suicidal on the part of the present Government to build the Hudson's Bay railway."

"The climax of blunders is the building of the Hudson's Bay road."

"There is from Winnipeg east at least 1,200 miles of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway that will prove useless, that will not give business to pay the cost of one section man, let alone pay interest on the cost of construction."

FOR CHEAP CABLE SERVICE.

Postmaster General Lemieux is off to England in an effort to secure an arrangement between the Imperial Government and the cable companies by which the rates on trans-Atlantic messages will be reduced. The project is not a new one, but it is being pushed from its age and Mr. Lemieux can get it carried into effect.

He will accomplish a work paralleling that of his predecessor in securing penny trans-Atlantic postage. The ocean cable should in the nature of things have worked almost a revolution in the rates of communication, but it has done nothing of the kind. In the ordinary course of business the cable costs very little figure compared to what it might and would do if the rates were fixed on the principle of encouraging use instead of on the principle of getting as much money as possible out of as little service. The time has come for changing this condition of things and for making the cable what it should be—an agent of general convenience and a factor in general business. Nor is there any reason to think the reducing of the rates would result financially disadvantageous to the postal rates. What was lost on the individual message would be made up in increased number.

A CALL FOR CONTINUED INITIATIVE.

The Federal Government is returned to power with as large a majority as a government could reasonably desire. This majority was not given thoughtlessly. It did not come by accident. It was not won by a snap verdict on a catch-phrase. It is the result of the people's choice of the record of the Government and the policy which that record illustrates and involves. The policy which should be continued in Canada for the next term. This judgment was delivered after full and mature consideration, after ample opportunity for the expression of Opposition policy, after every chance had been given for fully and thoroughly thrashing out every public issue. Such judgment carries the force of a mandate from the sovereign people.

First it must be construed as an order to complete what has been begun. The National Transcontinental was made a chief point of assault by the Opposition forces; the gift of the people is that the road must be completed without undue delay and as a Government enterprise. The Hudson Bay railway was thrown into the fray by the announcement of the Premier that the Government would see the immediate completion of this also as a public work; the answer from the people is explicit endorsement of the proposal. The allegations against the Marine and Fisheries department were advertised from ocean to ocean; the popular decision is that the reformation begun by the Minister should be carried to completion. The immigration policy was assailed vigorously; the decision of the people is that the efforts to induce desirable immigrants and to exclude undesirable immigrants shall be continued.

The tariff policy of the Government was attacked in the manufacturing centres as not providing sufficient "protection" to Canadian manufacturers against outside competitors; the judgment of the electors is that the manufacturers have as much "protection" as they feel justified in giving them or required by the circumstances. In every line of public policy the verdict must be accepted as a mandate to continue and complete what has already been undertaken.

But a government is not fulfilling its whole obligations in carrying out the measures included in its pre-election promises, or in completing projects definitely before the electors on polling day. Certainly a Liberal government is bound to go farther. It is obliged by the logic of events to follow what has been done and what is being done, with what this shows should be done or indicates as desirable to do. As a rule cannot grudge with the water that is put, neither of course, great care is taken in catching the scavengers—the fishes."

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There is an old and honored maxim that times of depression are disastrous to governments. The electors, it is argued, hold the government in some way responsible for the unsatisfactory condition of things and register their disapproval at the polls. The present period of stringency does not have to result that way. About a year and a half ago the McRie government went to the country in British Columbia, and were sustained decisively. A few months later the Roblin government took the reins in Manitoba, and came out refreshed. Then the Whitney government in Ontario and the Gouin government in Quebec asked for an expression of public opinion, and were both given a new lease of power. New Brunswick broke the rule by putting the provincial opposition into office. The Saskatchewan administration next tested public opinion, and were given a larger majority than they had before. Next the Federal Government appealed to the electorate, and went back with a majority practically unchanged. Presidential elections were held a few days ago in the United States, when conditions are admitted to be more or less similar to our own, and the Republicans won again in a "land-slide." Reports from Newfoundland now indicate that the Bond government have been commissioned to direct the colony's affairs for another term. On these nine elections held on the continent eight left power to the party which had been in power with the previous holders. New Brunswick alone preferring a change. Clearly the influence of "dull times" on political opinion has been tremendous, overestimated, or else the times have not been half so "dull" as some people tried to persuade us.

expense of refitting would be great the chances are the cruiser will be broken up.

From Southern Alberta comes the old story of the C. P. R. favoring the elevator men in the distribution of grain cars, to the disadvantage and loss of the farmer who wants to ship his own grain. As usual, too, the trouble seems limited to points where there is no competing line of railway. The moral should be obvious. While that or any other country is at the mercy of railway monopoly it will get monopoly policy—and the dirty end of that.

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