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BREW HARTMAN,
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THE PHILOSOPHER

Editorial disquisitions have been plentiful in the newspapers of this country upon the present British Government's trouble with the House of Lords. Not until the next change of Government at Ottawa will our Canadian House of Lords become a live topic, as it

OUR CANADIAN HOUSE OF LORDS

was for a few years after the last change of Government. Strongly entrenched as the ancient hereditary chamber in Great Britain is against assault, the life-tenure upper chamber at Ottawa is a veritable Gibraltar of an institution, too. There are formidable constitutional difficulties in the way of its abolition; but even if there were not, it would still be safe. The Greek Kalends will have arrived long before any Government, even if it should desire to do so, will be able to begin to make preparations for getting rid of it. The exigencies of politics will perpetuate the Senate while grass grows and water runs and political human nature continues to be what it has been. And if the future of the Senate as an institution is to be judged from its past and its present, its usefulness will continue to be in inverse ratio to its costliness. It was a surprising declaration of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's not long ago that the Senate was in the nature of a safeguard of the interests of the smaller Provinces. What Sir Wilfrid can have been thinking of it is difficult to make out. Provincial rights are about the last thing that the Senate has ever in the forty years of the Dominion's history shown any desire to trouble itself about; nor is it easy to imagine any such sentiment manifesting itself in the Senate, except possibly on the part of the Senators from Quebec. The fact of appointments to the Senate not resting in any way whatever with the Provincial Governments, but being wholly in the hands of the Dominion Government, certainly does not point—whatever party may be in power—to the likelihood of the safeguarding of Provincial rights ever being regarded by the Senators as a prime duty. Not a few of the Fathers of Confederation were in favor of making the Senate elective, but the appointive idea prevailed. Among the suggestions made was that the Senators should hold the rank and title of Knights Bachelor. In an official memorandum written in London, in April, 1867, by Sir John A. Macdonald, on the subject, addressed to Lord Monck, this suggestion was disapproved of, one of the reasons given being (as may be seen in the official life of Sir John, by Mr. Pope, vol. I, page 387, where the memorandum is set forth in full) that "it must be remembered that the conferring of Knighthood on a Senator would entail a title on his wife, which might not in all cases be considered desirable."

Turn we now to a glaring anomaly—from the Western Canadian point of view—in the construction of the elective House at Ottawa. A special Dominion census of the three Prairie Provinces was taken in June of last year, and, in accordance with the provisions of the charter Acts of Saskatchewan and Alberta, the representation of these two

Provinces in the House of Commons was readjusted on the basis of that census. That is to say, in the next Dominion general elections, whenever they may come round, Saskatchewan and Alberta will send to Ottawa 10 and 7 members respectively, instead of the 5 members each which is their present representation. But Manitoba will only send 10 as at present, the British North America Act standing in the way of any readjusting of the representation of the oldest of the Prairie Provinces between the regular censuses taken every ten years. Not until the first Dominion general elections following the readjustment after the next Dominion census in 1911—and those elections may not be until 1915—will Manitoba have any more than its present 10 members. Saskatchewan and Alberta, too, will in those elections send to Ottawa a number of members based on their 1911 population, though their actual population in 1915 will undoubtedly be very much greater. Thus the representation of Western Canada is at present, and is destined to continue to be for a considerable time to come, very considerably less than in due proportion to the population. Each Western member will represent several thousand more people than each Eastern member; and the East will thus have an unduly large representation in Parliament. This is not as it should be. The House of Commons ought to be fairly representative of the Canadian people, and no Province, or set of Provinces, should be handicapped by being under-represented. The Fathers of Confederation were wise men in their day and generation; but they never dreamed of the present rapid growth and development of Western Canada. Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta now have in all 20 repre-

sentatives in the House of Commons; yet they have a population which ought to give them 32 representatives. This plea, of course, is one of justice, not of law; but the law—that is to say, the British North America Act, which is the Charter of the Dominion—ought to be amended in this respect. Such a constitutional amendment is too much to hope for, however, in view of the increasing concern which is being manifested in the East in regard to the inevitable approach of the time when the balance of power in Canada will rest with the West, any way. The future belongs to the West.

And yet an anonymous gentleman, writing learnedly in the New York Medical Record under the portentous heading, "Are the Settlers of Western Canada Doomed to Failure?" is grievously distressed about the future of us prairie-dwellers. The cloud he discerns hanging ominously over our

THE SUNSHINE OF THE WEST

future is, strange to say, the absence of cloud. The prevalence of sunlight in this favored land afflicts his theorizing soul with gloomy forebodings. There could be no better illustration of the besetting mania of certain scientific writers to startle the world with novel theories. The New York alarmist has simply appropriated and enlarged upon an idea put forth by Rev. E. C. Henstis, of Red Deer, Alberta, based upon a book recently published by Major Woodruff, M.D., Surgeon, United States Army, designed to show that what white people suffer from in the tropics is not the heat, as they think, but the sunlight. Major Woodruff advises people going from this continent to Panama or the Philippines not to lay in a supply of white clothing. The wearing of white, he declares, is "partly responsible for the irritable temper and wrecked nervous system of many Americans in the tropics." While white clothes, he tells us, deflect the long or heat rays, they "do not deflect the dangerous actinic rays, which strike through to the skin." The native has a defence in the pigment of his skin, which the white man lacks. Therefore, the latter is counselled to wear colored clothing in the tropics—red, or still better, orange. A compromise suggested is orange underclothing, with white outer garments. But this Woodruff theory, which is only a theory after all, applies only to the tropics. As distorted to apply to Western Canada, it takes this form: that all of us who are of fair complexion in this country will find the sunshine too much for us, and only those of us who are of dark complexion will thrive. As a matter of scientific argument, this has been disposed of by Dr. A. G. Welsford. But the question is not one of theory or arguments; it is a question of facts. And the foremost of these facts is the astounding energy which is the characteristic of the dwellers in this country, and which puts out of court this attempt to apply to Western Canada the Woodruff theory designed to explain the demoralization and debilitation suffered by some white men in the tropics.

When we think of foreign trade, we think of the Atlantic Ocean, as centuries ago men thought of the Mediterranean. But it is likely that in the years to come the Pacific Ocean will be fully as important a commercial highway as the Atlantic. It washes the

THE WEST AND THE ORIENT.

shores of the countries in which will take place the greatest developments of the twentieth century—China, Japan, Canada, the United States, Australia. In the years to come as large a part of the products of Canada and the United States may be shipped westward as eastward. The trade between this continent and Europe has been assiduously cultivated; the trade between this continent and Asia is in its infancy. The people of the United States are plainly well aware of the possibilities of Pacific trade. Western Canada—the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia—is geographically and by the character of its resources destined to take a leading part in the coming great developments of trade with the Orient. And Canada is destined to hold the primacy of being the most direct route from Europe to the Orient. Canada extends farther into the Atlantic towards Europe than any other nation on this hemisphere; and from our Pacific seaports to the great Asiatic seaports the distances are likewise the shortest. Jules Verne's fantasy, "Around the World in Eighty Days," has just been cut in two by a British Officer who has circled the globe in forty days, using the ordinary means of transport. He crossed from Liverpool to Quebec, and from Quebec, through Winnipeg to Vancouver, thence to Yokohama.

For easy, summary, offhand settling of the big problems of the West by an armchair critic at long range in the East, it would be hard to beat the following editorial paragraph in a recent issue of the Montreal Gazette: "Western newspapers say that, despite the

THE RAILWAYS AND THE PUBLIC

fuss made about the shortage of fuel last winter, the people are showing no disposition to lay in their supplies while the weather is warm and coal cheap. They were probably right who said the distress caused by the fuel shortage of last winter was exaggerated. A frozen community would not so soon forget its lesson." Everything would have been all right last winter, if only everybody in the West had only laid in his winter fuel supply last summer—such, evidently, is the simple view which the Montreal Gazette finds satisfactory. The wise writer of the paragraph quoted seems to consider that fuel in the West means coal, and coal only. And he has never a word of blame for the railways. The severity of last winter, which had such a paralyzing effect upon railway operation in the West, was not confined to the West. Other portions of the continent had cold dips as well as Western Canada and the Northwestern States. Down on the Atlantic seaboard unusual severity of climate prevailed, and in the Province of Quebec the thermometer sank considerably lower than the lowest readings in Winnipeg or Westward. But what made the situation so bad here in the West was that the railways were so unjustifiably lacking in the equipment requisite for operation. With every allowance for the exceptional severity of last winter and for the plea of the railways that they could not combat the forces of nature, the plain fact remains that their failure was the result of their accumulated negligence of years to provide adequate equipment. It is of such vital importance to the people of this country that adequate railway service be maintained, that there is no possible justification for the railways proceeding on the assumption that exceptionally severe winters will not occur. They are here to carry on the railway business in this climate, and the millions they have received from the public have been furnished to them for that purpose. Public opinion is moving rapidly towards a development that will mean effective compulsion of the railways to do their duty by rendering the adequate public service for which they have been chartered.

It may be that before these words are in type Walter Wellman will have started on his airship voyage to the North Pole. The latest news is that, owing to an unforeseen accident, he has had to postpone for a week or two his daring attempt. That unforeseen accident is ominous. It is a reminder that his is a desperate venture, from its very beginning, at

THOSE WHO GO UP TO THE AIR IN SHIPS

the mercy of a thousand big and little accidents, any one of which will mean disaster. In New York recently an airship made an ascension and was handled with complete success, travelling over the city and down over the bay under easy control, just as the Knabenshue airship was that performed its evolutions at last year's Winnipeg Industrial. But the airship in New York the other day, after coming up the bay, made a graceful landing, preparatory to continuing its flight over the city. A clumsy hand unintentionally disarranged one of the delicate vanes of its propeller, and when it rose again, it was no longer under control, but was simply a uselessly and dangerously complicated balloon, that went where the wind carried it, and came down at last a wreck, the aeronaut happily escaping with his life. Mr. Wellman has figured out the possibilities of his apparatus in a very scientific way, and a vast amount of mechanical ingenuity has been expended in utilizing carrying power and stored energy, but after reading all his really wonderful computations, one cannot but retain the impression that the whole dreadfully hazardous enterprise will be at the mercy of any one of an incalculable number of mishaps. His daring is superb, and the whole world will wish him the success he deserves.

Discussion of the regular business done in the manufacture and sale of crooked gambling devices, evidence of which came to light in Ontario the other day, should serve to show once more the speed with which a fool and his money can be parted when a fool engages in a friendly game with genial strangers. It was a famous criminal who said when he was referred to as a gambler: "I am not a gambler. When a man plays my game with me, he gambles. I don't." Just what he meant is abundantly plain from the Ontario developments referred to. In a hotel there was found the catalogue of a Chicago firm, announcing that it manufactures gambling outfits of every description, including some devices that are guaranteed to fleece the unsuspecting public. "A Word Regarding Loaded Dice" is the heading of one of the announcements; and there are descriptions of magnetic dice, marked cards, controllable roulette wheels, faro spreads, and various other devices for gathering in the money of the unwary. "This is your chance to clean up all the money in your neighborhood, and you might as well get it as let anyone else," says the catalogue. We cannot know how much business this Chicago firm does in Canada. But the discovery of a catalogue so frankly worded is instructive.