

But as it is now, a few of the people impose their will upon the many and so we may go on with our course of study, just pausing to intimate that the fine statement of Mr. Ronald Hooper, (of the Labor Department), on Proportional Representation before the Industrial Commission should be carefully studied by those who have not already grasped its broad significance. If we are not going to give to the various elements of society the sense of responsibility which P. R. will accord them, we are going to drive them into insurrectionary channels and we will have to face difficult days and dangerous nights.

## (2) The Initiative, Referendum, and Recall.

Politicians, especially the professionals, are inclined to think that they are the masters of the people. True, for a few days before an election their attitude is somewhat laxitive but after the votes are counted there is a relapse from the cheerful footing of equality which cheers and often inebriates the electors. The idea expressed at the head of this paragraph purposes to teach politicians to dispense with the idea that they are masters and to let them understand that, on the contrary, they are servants of the people. This is not the time or the place to attempt to elucidate in detail this modern political theory known as the Initiative, Referendum, and Recall. Briefly, the idea is that the voters may, by means of a petition signed by a certain percentage of them, cause their representative to introduce a certain piece of legislation in Parliament. For instance, if the "Initiative" were law today the voters in North Toronto might have a petition signed, requesting Sir George Foster to introduce a Proportional Representation Bill in the House of Commons. Again if the "Referendum" were a law of this land, the voters of Ottawa might petition Mr. A. E. Fripp to introduce a bill requiring the refund of \$10,000,000 paid for the common stock of the C. N. Ry., or requiring a referendum on the repeal of any legislation concerning which the electorate entertained doubts. And if the "Recall" were law, the voters might send round a petition which, upon being signed by a certain percentage of the electorate would require the representative of those voters to report himself back to his constituency for re-election. The "Recall" is used when the actions of a member of Parliament are not viewed in a favorable light by the electorate.

Will the reader cast about in his mind and decide how many times and in how

many ways he would use the "Initiative" "Referendum" and "Recall" were he permitted to do so.

## (3) Educational qualification for the Franchise.

No attempt will be made here to suggest the basis of such an educational test. One argument only will be used in favor of this plank in our platform; an argument which in itself, it is to be hoped, is not controversial. In a country like Canada, free and enlightened and all that sort of thing, is it fitting that there should be one person who is unable to read and write? Decidedly not! An educational test for the franchise is surely a most potent method for drawing attention to imperfections in our educational systems. The number of voters who may be disqualified on educational grounds will become a well advertised fact during an election and will no doubt make us all blush for shame, and would surely hasten the day when we may have a full reconsideration and re-organization of our educational system upon national instead of provincial lines. Other phases of this question which may be open to debate will not be dealt with at this time.

## (4) Electioneering Ethics.

If there is any system in our national life which should be above reproach, it is that system known as the franchise and the exercise of it by the people. The fight by the mass of the people for civil liberty absorbs a large share of the history of the British peoples. Civil liberty (so called) cost centuries of struggle, scores of years of civil wars, and millions of lives. Surely a legacy gained for us at such a cost should be sacred, and yet to what vile uses is it subjected. What penalty should be inflicted upon that parasite who would offer to bribe a voter in order to make him sell this birthright? What penalty should be inflicted upon the voter, equally a parasite, who would offer his dearly bought birthright for sale? This Ethical plank in our platform declares that the extreme penalty of the criminal law should be pronounced against those who buy and those who sell the sacred privilege of the franchise, for in so doing they sell and betray their country.

## (5) Publicity of Campaign Funds.

There surely needs no argument to support this principle. The evil influence of the campaign contributions of the privileged classes to the election funds of political parties has been pointed out for the

consideration of the Canadian electors time and time again. A sworn statement of all contributions and a like statement of all expenses should be required of all candidates for Parliament and the most severe penalties should be exacted upon those who make a false statement in this regard. Most important of all, a strict limitation should be placed upon the nature of the expenses to be permitted in campaigns that have for their object the expressions of the emotions of the people as to what is best for our native or our adopted country. Campaigning should be confined to public speaking and the distribution of literature, and expenses should be confined solely to the rental of halls and bills for printing.

## (6) Reform of the Senate.

In the popular mind, abolition is the idea involved in the word "Reform" when applied to the Senate or "House of Lords" of Canada. The status of the senate in our body politic is not in keeping with the changing conditions of these latter days. Surely the grave and reverend seigniors who occupy the seats of the senate will appreciate the will of the people. This plank in our programme provides that no further appointments shall be made to the senate, and that a petition of both Houses of Parliament be sent to the Imperial Parliament praying for a revision of the B. N. A. Act in this respect upon condition that each Senator at present holding office shall receive the present statutory indemnity so long as he lives.

## (7) Prohibition.

## (8) Woman Suffrage.

## (9) Abolition of Patronage in Public Office and Public Contract.

(7), (8), and (9) are not dealt with in detail as the problems and principles involved are already incorporated in our national laws.

There are many other planks for our platform which may not be here extenuated on account of space and other appropriate consideration. Some of these are: the emancipation of Parliament from material influences, the placing of our Public Service upon a pedestal of lofty idealism, and the organization of a national press truly representative of the attitude of the whole people.