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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, MAY 15, 1922.

THE PARTY SYSTEM.

It has become the fashion of late for politicians of a particular class to rail against the party system of government. It is of course not altogether to be wondered at because such a system does not lend itself to their particular ambitions, but so far they have not been able to announce the discovery of any other system which would prove of at least equal benefit to the country. Party Government has been in existence in Great Britain for centuries, and it has been under that system that the people of that country attained the liberties they now possess so fully and built up the greatness which is theirs. Not only that, but it has been under the party system that the political development of Britain's overseas dominions has taken place, and that they are today self-governing nations. It is only of late that particular groups have come into existence, which disclaiming adherence to either of the old political parties have set out to further the special interests of the class to which they belong. They are not in the national business of politics, but are concerned only with the attainment of objects which will help their own selfish ends, though they profess of course to be actuated by a sincere regard for the welfare of the country as a whole.

A reasonable acquaintance with modern English history will show what the party system has accomplished. Of course this does not mean to say that such things as particular groups may exist within the two great parties, in fact there always have been groups of some sort within them. For instance in the years following 1832, the Whigs or Reformers had among their following Mr. O'Connell and his Repealers, the members of the Manchester school, the Philosophical Radicals and so on, whilst the Conservative party of landowners, commercial magnates and Churchmen ran through all shades from High Toryism and unbending Protection, to open mind of Sir Robert Peel. The Maynooth grant and the demands of the Repealers disturbed the English parties just as the United Farmers or Progressives are disturbing Canadian political life today.

The party system is of course, like any other system of government or anything else, not without its defects, but there are few men of any degree of wisdom or experience who are going to claim that the group or class system of government is likely to be an improvement upon it. Party government has developed in the course of its existence a good deal of party machinery, which by being kept in constant work cannot be said to be altogether free from evil effects. Many of these effects are so apparent that many good party men have been led to speculate whether the use of this party machinery is, on the whole, productive of good or of evil, and whether if it could not be absolutely dispensed with, some readjustment might not be possible under which the more flagrant bad consequences might be diminished. When these enquiries find a voice, they are often met with the declaration that party government is indispensable and must be taken with all its defects. It may tax the intellects of many to imagine other modes of life than those in which we live; and there is a natural inclination on the part of the men who have been called upon to direct a great machine to deny suggestions for its reformation or abolition; but still discontent will recur, and the grounds of it, must be examined.

A leading English political writer, goes so far as to say that "Every party in power leans in the direction of the policy of its opponents. A Conservative Government is Liberal, and a Liberal Government is Conservative. It is a common experience for each in turn to be condemned by its extreme followers for adopting the policy of its adversaries. The complaint is well founded, and it shows that both Liberal and Conservative are conscious that the true line of national movement follows a course between their exclusive fields of policy. If it were possible to organize the representation of national life so that it should be faithfully embodied in something representing this central line of movement, we should be spared the halcyon and the waste resulting from an organization always producing more or less serious misrepresentation." That at least, was the opinion of the late Lord Courtney, formerly a leading member of the British House of Commons.

WELLS AS A HISTORIAN.

When H. G. Wells came over to this city to write the Washington Convention, he took care to get every advantage of all the advantages that

came his way. This resulted in attention being drawn to his work, an "Outline of History," and the question of its suitability as a college text book was looked into. The American National Civic Federation has been collecting the opinions of historians and educators upon the matter, and these are interesting, not so much from a technical standpoint as in showing what the history sharps think of a volume that has gained a wider circle of readers than any other non-fiction book published in years.

Several of these experts praise the book. A majority of them condemn it as a scientific work. This was to be expected. Popularity and hard, unvarnished, facts rarely go hand in hand. The most of the critics hold that Wells has laid the varnish a little thickly upon his facts and that other decorations in the way of personal opinions and propaganda have detracted from the value of the work as an agency for the dissemination of knowledge. Of course Mr. Wells may have omitted to point out that America won the war, which would itself be enough to cause its exclusion from American schools and colleges.

"Too much Wells and not enough history" is one verdict. "Inaccurate, misleading and calculated to appeal only to ignorant or thoughtless people" is another. "The work of a pamphleteer, not a historian," says a third; while still another accuses him of having copied the paragraphs on feudalism direct from the Encyclopedia Britannica.

Other critics are much kinder, and Professor Shapiro of the College of the City of New York sums up the defense thus tersely: "He has interested the average reader in history; no professional historian now living has ever done it or could do it."

That tells the story. Anyway friend Wells has started the people to reading history who have not touched the subject since leaving school. It has given many of these readers a smattering of knowledge of the processes of evolution and the development of the race with respect to which their minds had been previously well nigh a blank. Many readers of Wells have been persuaded to pursue the subject, further in order to find what others have said about the topic in which they have become interested. If Wells has copied from the encyclopedia, he at least may have the satisfaction of knowing that he has got to reading his extracts people who never would have ventured within the covers of any of these ponderous tomes. However, critics in the main agree that Mr. Wells has written a most readable book and has interested thousands of people in a subject it is worth while knowing much about. Those who condemn him could well feel proud to have done as much.

GERMANY'S REPLY.

How closely the problems of Europe are linked together is shown by the appearance, almost simultaneously with the Russian note to the Allies at Genoa, of Germany's reply to the second and more urgent note sent by the Reparations Commission in regard to the demands formulated on March 21. In tone the German note is as conciliatory as might be expected from the ministry of Chancellor Wirth, who took office on a programme of doing the utmost possible to satisfy the demands of the Allies, and is admitted to have worked honestly and zealously to this end during the year and more that he has been at the head of the German Government.

This fact, however, makes all the more ominous what amounts to a refusal of the Commission's demands. The refusal, to be sure, is not outright, and the way is left open for further discussion. In the second note of April 13 the Commission declared itself willing "to examine any practicable suggestions which may be put forward by the German Government for meeting the difficulties in which it is placed," and this should cover Chancellor Wirth's proposal to make his budget May 21, when the ultimatum expires, "a complete scheme to cover expenditures without further monetary inflation."

If a hopeful scheme of this sort can be worked out it ought, of course, to have careful consideration. It should be possible also to demonstrate before action is taken whether the new taxation amounting to 60 billions marks demanded by the Commission is materially impossible as the Chancellor asserts; if he calls it impossible no other German ministry will call it anything else, for among important critics outside of Germany the severest criticism made of Dr. Wirth is that he has been an extravagant optimist in regard to Germany's ability to pay.

His eye is on the problem, it is now a

loan to enable Germany to meet the needs of the industry without ruining its business and wrecking foreign exchange the world over. This the German experts urged at the London Conference early in 1921, but their proposals were then frowned upon; a year's experience of efforts to secure cash payments has brought a great change of sentiment, and negotiations for a loan, with American capital participating have made considerable progress. The German note must therefore be read in the light of these new developments.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Growing Wiser

(Vancouver Province.)
Canada is not a bad place for a home. This is the verdict of the Manitoba Menonites, who went to Mexico to escape the obvious educational laws and other regulations of civilized life. The exiles have only been away a few weeks and now they want to get back. Mexico is hot. The land is not suitable. Surroundings are unpleasant. There is no guarantee of peace and safety. These and other disadvantages more than offset the privilege of bringing up their children in ignorance. They find it better to have their children in Canada than to have them in Mexico. These people are not the stuff to be martyrs or even pioneers. They claim the convenience and protection of an organized community without belonging to it.

The Victors and The Spoils

(London Free Press.)
The uplift, righteous speeches of Mr. King during the election campaign, in which he thundered in his best grandiloquent manner against the political crime of the Melton Government in appointing Conservatives to the bench and to the Senate, seem to have been forgotten, like all his pre-election pledges. For downright hypocritical burlesque there was never in Canada anything to equal the campaign oratory of Mr. King.

Our local contemporary (Liberal) is carrying on an agitation to amend the Civil Service Act so that members and ministers will have control of appointments. This it solemnly asserts is solely in the interests of efficiency. The Klondike rush for the few political places now available, such as at judges and senators, and the manner in which the faithful are alone awarded, shows what would happen if the Civil Service Act were repealed. The hungry followers of Mr. King would fairly storm Ottawa.

Here is a partial list of the appointments of Mr. King since January 1: John B. Adamson, defeated Liberal candidate in St. John's, 1917 and 1921, appointed judge of the King's Bench of Manitoba.

Gerald Powers, brother of Major "Chubby" Powers, M.P. for Quebec centre, appointed to the Quebec Harbor Commission.

J. St. George Stubb, defeated Liberal candidate in Marquette, appointed to be County Court judge in Manitoba.

Paul F. Pardee, defeated Liberal candidate in West Lambton elevated to the Senate.

Gustave Boyer, Liberal member in Val-de-Sauvage, appointed to the Senate.

Archibald McColg, Liberal member in Kent, appointed to the Senate to make a seat for Hon. James Murdock.

A. C. Hardy, former president of the Ontario Liberal Association and anti-conscription Liberal candidate in Leeds against Sir Thomas White in 1917, made a senator.

Duncan Ross, defeated Liberal candidate in West Middlesex, named as county judge for Elgin.

P. C. Larkin, former treasurer of the Ontario Liberal Association, appointed Canadian High Commissioner in St. Antonio, Montreal, appointed to the Montreal Harbor Commission.

Hon. Duncan Marshall, defeated Liberal candidate in East Calgary, made commissioner of agriculture.

Robert Beatty, Liberal M.P. elected for East Kootenay, appointed to the income tax department at Vancouver to make a seat for Hon. Dr. King.

Robert G. Fisher, K.C., former defeated Liberal candidate in East Middlesex, to the Supreme Court of Ontario.

Servin Letourneau, Liberal organizer in Quebec, who has been elevated to a judgeship.

THE LAUGH LINE

Waiting Patiently

Daughter—"Oh, but men are so hideously lacking in self-control."
Mother—"Don't get annoyed about it. If they weren't, most girls would die old maids."

Fine Humor

Employer—"What would you do if I were to offer you work?"
"I'd be all right, mister," answered Moandering Mike. "I kin take a joke as well as anybody."

We Reverse It

Dutch children are dressed in exactly the same styles as their parents, a news item tells us. But over here the dear mamma's are now trying to dress exactly like their superior daughters.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Hunting Trouble

"I see you have a new sign in the drug department: Rubber goods sent on approval."
"Yes. Tomorrow I am going to put back the old sign: No rubber goods exchanged. That way we'll get a lot of stuff sold, unexpectedly to the purchasers themselves!"

Wise Mammas

Pastor—"Have you seriously considered the great question of life, Mary?"
Girl Parishioner (with a curtsy)—"None of the parson men has asked me as yet, sir."

A Stickler

Stickler—"Dad, why is it?"
Dad—"Well, what's troubling you?"
Stickler—"Why is it that none of the parson men has asked me yet?"

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

THE PARK AVE. NEWS.

Weather. Perfect.
The invincible base ball team held their annual election last Saturday in their temporary club house in the empty lot shed on the vacant lot, Skippy Martin, Sam Cross and Benny Potts each receiving 3 votes for Captains, and Sid Hunt, Leroy Shoemaker and Lew Davis each receiving 3 votes for Managers, the result being nobody knows yet who is with.

Enthusiastic Potts About Infirmary People. Sam Cross says his baby sister Udeen gains a pound every week of her own free will.

Pome by Skinny Martin.

THIS IS THE EXCEPTION
They say its good luck to pick up a pin
But its not, or anyways near,
In case you're stooping to get it
You get hunked by a auto in the rear.

Sissiest. Mr. Reddy Marfy expects to go to college later on but judging by the way he gets left down now nobody else expects him to.

Hard nuts in shoe laces and elsewhere untied by an expert at reasonable rates. See Arle Alexander. (Advertisement.)
Lost and Found. No.

Encouraging
Traveller (to the ferryman crossing the river)—"Has anyone ever been lost in this stream?"
Boatman—"No, sir. Some professor was drowned here last spring, but they found his body after searching for two weeks."

An Oversight
Magistrate—"You are found guilty of knocking down the plaintiff, and robbing him of everything except a gold watch. What have you to say?"
Prisoner—"Had he a gold watch?"
Magistrate—"Certainly."
Prisoner—"Then I put in a plea of insanity."

A BIT OF VERSE
WAVERLEY
By Joyce Kilmer.
When on a novel's newly printed page
We find a mandarin ecology of sin,
And read of ways that harlots wander in,
And of sick souls that writhe in helpless rage;
Or when Romance, bespectacled and sage,
Taps on her desk, and bids the class begin
To con the problems that have alighted
Perplexed mankind's unhappy heritage;
Then in what robes of honor habited
The laurelled wizard of the North appears,
Who raised Prince Charlie's cohorts from the dead,
Made Rose's winter, and Flora's noble tears,
And formed that shining legion at whose head
Rides Waverley, triumphant o'er the years.

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