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A Vote for Fisher is a Vote for Corruption

A COMMUNICATION

We have received the following poetical effusion from the pen of a Brome voter. His Pegasus resembles a heavy horse which has been started out on a long journey on a dose of butter. It goes all right on the start but gets heavy before it stops.

In Tory town there lived a man
Whose name was William Cotton.
"I'll be a candidate if I can,
And run in Brome and Potton.

I know our cows diseases had,
I know they were all ill.
And died; I was mad cause Fisher,
Cause Fisher would not pay the bill."

So fellow electors of Brome county,
Don't be caught in Olmstead's Cotton
yarn,
For a trader, merchant for to vote,
Instead of a farmer from the farm.

Comments

We were exceedingly doubtful whether we would publish the last verse as the last verse contains a pun. Now a pun must not be inserted in a serious poem because by the insertion of a pun the attention is detracted from the more solemn thoughts and the unity of the work is broken.

The second verse no doubt expresses the sentiments which the Brome Liberal organization will endeavor to instill into the minds of the electors. The sentiments however, are based on erroneous impressions. In the first place we have never owned a cow, consequently we have never any disease among our cattle. Mr. Ford, Independent farmer's candidate for Missisquoi, however, possessed a numerous herd. Many of these cattle were found to be diseased. Mr. Fisher's agent came down and earmarked them. They were publicly advertised for sale and were disposed of to a Montreal buyer for cash in hand paid and delivered. Why should we therefore be provoked at all? We never possessed any diseased cattle in the first place. In the second place Mr. Ford's cattle were sold, disease and all, for prime roast beef. Our Brome friend is mistaken in thinking that we are personally provoked at Mr. Fisher for personal, financial considerations. Did we want to get money we would support Mr. Fisher's candidature in Brome county and our columns would be overflowing with government advertising.

We admit we do not like the fact that Mr. Fisher allows diseased meat to be sold as prime roast beef, but this is an altogether different thing from being provoked at him personally over a money squabble.

Third Verse

The poem is not logically thought out. This may be considered either as the result of dim reasoning on the part of the writer or as the result of poetic genius which overleaps both fact and logic.

Mr. Olmstead is a good man who is running a clean election. Mr. Fisher may be a good man but his elections certainly have not been clean. If we should prefer a clean straight man to one whose elections have been corrupt we do not see why we should be classed as a Tory. There are many persons, no doubt, who believe that Liberal principles are wrapped up in Mr. Fisher and that Liberalism will die with him. Our own impression, as we have stated frequently in THE OBSERVER, is that Mr. Fisher has no right to regard himself as a Liberal.

Were Mr. Fisher different from what he is and were he and Mr. Olmstead in the field alone, then it we did not support Mr. Fisher, we might be classed as a Tory. Considering circumstances as they are, however, we are not supporting Mr. Olmstead. We are engaged in the more personal, delightful and satisfactory pursuit of supporting ourself.

To this present occupation of ours Mr. Fisher can raise not the slightest objection as he has busied himself many times in the same occupation and evidently found it a congenial task.

We are not Tory. We are not a Conservative Liberal nor a Liberal Conservative. We are Liberal, Independent and Radical.

AN APOLOGY

We must apologize for the numerous editorials we are writing upon the Minister of Agriculture. To readers out of Brome County the long editorials upon the shortcomings of this honourable gentleman are wearisome. After the elections the columns of THE OBSERVER will be filled with more interesting discussions. At present, however, we consider it our duty to work for the defeat of the Minister of Agriculture in Brome. We are aware that the position of Minister of Agriculture of a colonial dependency is not of such magnitude as to warrant in the eyes of foreign readers, such fierce attacks. We are, however, endeavoring to do the duty which comes nearest us at the moment such duty is presented to us. A newspaper is not fit to fight great battles unless it is prepared to fight the little battles which come in its way.

We give this word of apology with intimation that we have been holding up other important fights for the sake of the present one. After October the twenty-sixth, THE OBSERVER will be prepared to take up such fights as events present.

BROME CORRUPTION

Does Mr. Fisher stand for purity in elections? He does not if the unanimous consensus of the people of Brome county is to be believed. Everywhere we have been in Brome county the opinion is strong that Mr. Fisher's elections have been due to corruption and that in the coming election did those who manage the corruption funds of the Liberal party cease their activities, Mr. Fisher would be defeated.

We wonder how any member of Parliament has the effrontery to arise in public, as Mr. Fisher has done, and talk of the purity of the Liberal party while the speaker himself is regarded by every voter in his county as the product of corrupt elections. Mr. Fisher may not have bribed personally but his elections in Brome county have certainly been the result of money spent for the corruption of the voter. Mr. Fisher cannot pretend that he is the apostle of righteousness, purity and the moral reform when his elections have been the result of secret money. Mr. Fisher may claim that he has given offices to the half of Brome County; Mr. Fisher may tell how hard he has worked for the farmer. It is time however, that Mr. Fisher should pass from political life. There are two reasons why he should go. The first is that he exemplifies the doctrine, "Do evil that good may come." His elections have been due to corruption and he is apparently none the worse off for having been elected in such a manner. The interests of the public demand that Mr. Fisher's career should not stand to the end an example of material prosperity. The second reason is that his elections have corrupted the youth of Brome County. His elections have taught the youth to regard their votes, not as a sacred right, not as trust to be used to the best of the voter's knowledge and belief, not as the highest exercise of patriotic duty. Mr. Fisher's elections have taught the youth of Brome county to regard their votes as a commercial commodity, something to be bought and sold. For these reasons the Brome voters should see to it that Mr. Fisher is not again elected from Brome County.

And why should the farmers have anything? The Minister of Agriculture no doubt has agreed to swing them into line on a few pamphlets. Now Manufacturing Associations and railroads are not content with pamphlets. They want the hard cash. They get the cash and Fisher gets nothing for the farmers.

Mr. Asquith, M. P., the Chancellor of the British Exchequer, received a delegation from the British Temperance League. A memorial was presented from nearly 3000 ministers of the Gospel in favor of "an effective measure of temperance reform."

INDEPENDENCE

Many persons would like to know the reason why THE OBSERVER does not discuss the corruption among the Conservatives. There are some unsavory characters among the Conservatives and THE OBSERVER makes no reference to them.

There are two reasons for the position we take on this matter. The Ottawa Liberals are in power and have been abusing their position of trust. The Conservatives are not in power and therefore have not been abusing the trust of the people. The opposition is not hurting the country and therefore at present do not merit attack.

Another more potent reason is that there is no need for THE OBSERVER to speak against the Conservative evil doers. There is a subsidized press from Atlantic to Pacific that is simply howling about how hurt Canada will be should the Tories get into power. To mention just three papers, there is Mr. Fisher's personal organ, the Montreal Herald which has received over a quarter of a million of government

money. The chief duty of this sheet is to praise Fisher and the Liberals and to decry Borden and the Conservatives. There is also the personal organ of Sifton, The Winnipeg Free Press. This paper has received three hundred thousand dollars from the government. Its chief duty is to tell what slanderous people the Conservatives are for saying that Sifton is not an honest man. There is also the Halifax Chronicle which has received two hundred thousand dollars from the government. Its duty is the same as that of the Herald and Press. There are many other papers that have received government grants on the tacit understanding of boosting the Ottawa Liberals and knocking the Conservatives. These grants are given ostensibly for printing done, and some printing is done. But the price is excessive and the extra charges are made up for by editorial articles against the Conservatives.

When there is a subsidized press especially for the purpose of criticising the Conservatives it devolves upon the Independent papers to expose the Liberals.



THIS IS US

WHY WE WANT TO GO TO OTTAWA

There are many reasons why we would like to go to Ottawa as a member of Parliament. We think the readers of THE OBSERVER would like to see us there. Our readers may be sure that if we are elected to Parliament that, if we discover any crookedness on the part of either Liberal or Conservative members, the corruption will be exposed in THE OBSERVER. Anything said on the floor of the House is privileged and not libel-slander suits can be taken. What is said, however, through the columns of a newspaper is not privileged. We are certain that the readers of THE OBSERVER did go to Ottawa, enjoy what we wrote even more than they do now and we would risk the libel suits.

The opposition at Ottawa is of a fake nature. When one side threatens exposure of scandals the other side immediately threatens counter exposure, and the Liberal and Conservative members stand like growling dogs who face each other with bared teeth but dare not fight. We would be tied by no scruples nor would we fear any exposures. We would be as it were a third opposition without any desire to hold office and whose chief duties would be to oppose all corruption and dishonesty. If Brome voters see fit to elect us we will take no office under the Liberal regime as run by the present group. If Borden becomes Premier we will not be offered any position under him nor

would we accept it if we were offered one. We would support the Laurier measures we thought beneficial and oppose the harmful ones. We would support the Borden measures we considered beneficial and oppose the harmful ones. We desire to go to Ottawa because the country needs a representative in her legislative halls who will act for the good of Canada apart from all party considerations.

Fraser bought timber limits for \$5,400 from the government and sold them for \$100,000. Mr. Fraser bought another government timber limit for \$500 and is holding it for \$500,000. Mr. Fraser bought another government timber limit for \$7,000 and wants \$600,000 for it. If the government had sold these timber limits at their true value there would be plenty of money to pay for tuberculous cattle. But the farmer must not be piggy. He should be content to go around with patches on his overalls and not be jealous of Mr. Fraser who can now occupy that position of ease and affluence to which his contact with Liberal cabinet ministers has called him.

Mr. Isaac Wilson, of Westfield, Vt., had fifty cattle slaughtered for tuberculosis and was paid twenty-one hundred dollars in compensation. The Laurier government cannot afford to be so generous. They have agreed to pay the steel trust about a million a year and they cannot help the farmer.

OUR PLATFORM

We cannot say that we have any platform in particular. In this respect we resemble both the Liberal and the Conservative parties. Platforms are easily made and easily discarded. We believe in honesty in politics and we believe in fighting the battles of the under dog. In Germany the landed aristocracy hold the power. In Germany we would be an Anti-Agrarian. In the United States both the Republican and Democratic parties are trust controlled. In the United States we would be a Socialist. In Canada the Manufacturers Association, the Railroads, and the Banks together with the Express Companies, practically control both the Liberal and Conservative Parties. We are therefore going to fight the battles of the farming community and the workingmen. Moreover, we are going to fight barrooms, breweries, distilleries and all the associated money grabbers who desire to make money out of the woes of men and the tears of women. Voila Tout.

We may receive votes and we may not. We are asking no man for his vote. That is something we have no right to do. Every Brome voter has brains sufficient to vote for himself without any assistance from us.

If we win well and good. If we are defeated we will be in the same class with McCorkill, Dyer, Fisher and other candidates. One thing is certain. We will never swallow our principles like the Minister of Agriculture has done for the sake of votes.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Mr. E. W. Westover has been up in Brome whooping it up for the Conservatives. He has flopped at last.

A Liberal from Iron Hill way has become disgruntled. We wonder what the government has refused him.

We will be at Knowlton all day on Tuesday at the lower hotel, and shall be glad to meet our friends there if they care to come and see us.

Our barber informs us that the price of Conservative shaves will be raised to fifteen cents after the 26th inst. Conservative faces will be so long.

A Liberal of West Brome won't subscribe for THE OBSERVER but sponges his news from the copy taken by his hired man. Is not this provoking when we need his dollar so much?

We were half expecting that our senior partner would help us in Brome county. As he has flung in his lot with the Conservatives, we will plow the lonely furrow.

A gentleman has recently informed us that he helped put the Hon. Minister of Agriculture into power, but cannot help to put him out. The reason, gentle reader, is because the gentleman no longer has a vote in Brome county.

The farmers should not expect Mr. Fisher to get any money for them. His colleagues won't let him have it. They want it themselves to hand over for nothing to railroad magnates and steel trusts and contract men who like government contracts with lots of velvet.

It will be a great sight to see two legal partners hammering each other on the political stump. We do not flatter ourselves that we are as fertile in epithet as our senior partner nor as volubly vituperative, but we have been associating with him for a year now and we can go him some.

Important Editorial First Second and Last Pages

A WORD TO OUR READERS

We desire the assistance of every reader of THE OBSERVER in the exposure of wrongdoing. THE OBSERVER is run and is going to continue to be run as a fighting paper. Wherever there is wrongdoing we desire to attack it. The bigger the enemy the more we desire to fight.

A newspaper conducted as THE OBSERVER desires to be conducted needs a thousand eyes and a thousand ears. The great amount of evil in the world would cease if brought to light and exposed. We want every reader to keep a sharp lookout for wrongdoing, cruelty, lawbreaking, illegal whisky selling and all the allied evils to which humanity is prone. If our readers discover these evils we desire to get the information with such proof back of the information as will be receivable in a court of justice should a libel suit result.

There are some officials in the District of Bedford who are considered to be corrupt. Vague rumors float in the air but nothing definite is mentioned. If officials are corrupt let those who know the facts bring their information to THE OBSERVER and we will see to it that those officials who are actually corrupt are driven from their office, broken men.

Rumors reach us that certain manufacturing establishments of the District of Bedford are robbing children of the light of childhood's days by working them under legal age. Bring us the proof of such facts and we will see that this evil ceases and the parties responsible punished.

CAUTION

In bringing information of wrongdoing be sure that it is wrongdoing on the part of the strong against the weak and be sure that the wrongdoing is of a public and remediable nature. There is no good in raking up old facts of by-gone times. We must act in the living present.

There are many private wrongs which are not of general public interest. If a man gets beaten on a horse swap or has his little farm taken away from him on a foreclosed mortgage we cannot help him. Such things are unjust, but the only persons who claim they have found a remedy are the Socialists. Weigh your information carefully and weigh the question of its public interest. If you find both strong then bring it forward.

We also like our readers to write short-letters on topics which interest them. We have our opinions and we believe in giving them to the public. The public should have the right of giving us their opinions in return. If the public wish to criticize us they are at liberty to do so. We thrive just as well on criticism as on praise.

Mr. Fisher cannot get any money for the farmers because the railroad magnates have to have government money. The farmers of Brome county must not expect any money. Eighty thousand dollars could have paid for many cows with tuberculosis. But how can the farmers expect that amount when the Fosters wanted government money for their Orford Mountain Railway?

Mr. Fisher and the cabinet gave a bonus of \$3,630,000 to the C. P. R. Crow's Nest Pass section which had already been given by British Columbia over three million acres of coal lands worth a hundred million dollars. No wonder Mr. Fisher's colleagues cannot let him have money to help the farmer.

The Liberals were not going to bonus railroads but were going to help the farmers. They have bonused railroads to the tune of eleven thousand dollars a mile. Mr. Fisher's colleagues won't let him have money with which to help the farmer. Money for the railroads means no money for the farmers.

Mr. Fisher claims he has built up a great trade with England in perishable dairy products. All thing must be measured by comparisons. In perishable dairy products to England Canada has lagged behind other and smaller colonies in the rate of increase.