



REFLECTIONS

IIII BY - STAFF - WRITERS IIII

A SIGNIFICANT VICTORY

NOT so long ago, the name of Benjamin Barr Lindsey was little known beyond the State of Colorado. Now, it would be difficult to go into a city on the continent where someone would not arise and call Judge Ben Lindsey blessed. It was a small work that this little man, with the brave eyes and frail hands, set himself to do—just to win the confidence of the “bad boys” of Denver. He persuaded them to tell him how they got into trouble, he actually trusted to their sense of honour when he sent them away to learn how to keep out of the courts, and, when they came back, he induced citizens of repute to give them work and confidence. Not very much to do, the worldly-wise might say; yet it has become an immense force in the saving of the youth of this new world, for the Juvenile Court of Denver has been preached wherever there is erring childhood to be rescued. Judge Lindsey visited Canada in the winter of 1907, impressing all who met him with his blending of delicacy and courage. As might have been anticipated, Judge Lindsey has had bitter foes, for there are deadly enemies of social order who are only too eager to destroy that which “the kids’ judge” seeks to protect. In a recent contest, Judge Lindsey ran independently, in opposition to both the old-party candidates, and received about 20,000 votes to 17,000 apiece polled by the Republican and Democratic aspirants.

The victory is essentially a women’s triumph, for the suffrage of Colorado women went in favour of this Daniel of Denver. The *Nevos* of that city, commenting on the election, declared that the voting strength of the women of Denver has been effectively demonstrated, because “it is undoubtedly to the women—to the mothers largely—that the tremendous strength of Ben. B. Lindsey, running for judge of the Juvenile Court, is due.” The victory is one for moral reform and enlightened legislation. Judge Lindsey is no sentimentalist. A boy would find it as hard to deceive him as he would find it easy to confide in him. But the Judge has followed the plan of fixing the blame where it belongs—on the negligent parents and criminal dive-keepers, and these classes naturally resent being called to account for their wrong-doing. The Judge of Denver’s Juvenile Court has put up a splendid fight and it is welcome news that the merely political forces have been soundly defeated. One observer declared that it was the wine-shops against the women, but the latter’s candidate proved too strong for the forces arrayed against him. The recent movement in behalf of juvenile courts will receive decided impetus from the election of Judge Lindsey, the man, “who believes in the boys.”

A DEPLORABLE FEATURE

ONE curious feature of our financial operations in this country is the ease with which “insiders” find out all about a raise in dividend rate long before it is publicly announced. Several prominent financial and industrial companies have increased their dividend during the past two years, and in every case the announcement has been preceded by a considerable rise in the price of the stock. This does not occur in the case of companies like the railways, which publish their weekly earnings, nor of coal and steel companies, which publish weekly statements of their output. It occurs in the stocks whose earnings are published only once a year, or whose statistics are so complicated that the ordinary student of finance cannot understand their significance.

The regularity of the occurrence would, however, seem to indicate that managers and directors of many companies are in the habit of handing out advance information to their friends. This is unfair and immoral, even if it is not illegal. Further, it is discouraging to the real investor, who is a person to be encouraged, not discour-

aged. The man who is a trustee for stockholders should not use advance information nor allow it to be used until all the stockholders are in possession of it. This is the only fair rule, but it is one which Canadian directors honour in the breach rather than in the observance.

SELLING AND BUYING STOCKS

WHEN the United States of America got into financial difficulties in the fall of 1907, the European investors and speculators bought a large quantity of United States stocks. Now, when the United States people have put their money back into the banks, and business has resumed its natural characteristics, these stocks are coming back from Europe. The big men of New York are not buying them, but the people are. Perhaps, even at present prices, they are a good investment, but the European speculators have made a fairly good profit in the twelve months.

The moral of the tale is simple. The capitalist who is looking for a “scoop” in stocks must buy only when the general public is in difficulties. He will sell when there is a rush to buy, and buy when there is a rush to sell. It is a splendid moral, but one which has little popularity on this optimistic continent.

VANITY OF VANITIES

AN experienced prima donna gives an interview to the newspapers in which she warns young singers against ambition to follow her art, saying that they will be happier if they confine their efforts to the home or parish circle. A great actress who has spent years upon the stage gives a similar warning to the young women who are stage-struck. She declares that the way is hard and dangerous. She advises all these young women to marry, create a family circle and be content in “woman’s only sphere.”

Two great millionaires warn all men against amassing great wealth, because it leads only to vexation and unhappiness. They declare that millionaires who laugh are rare, that the most miserable men, as old age approaches, are those who have made money-making their god. Like the prima donna and the actress, they are generous with advice which they themselves have not followed.

It seems difficult for the human to be content. Ambition makes slaves of us all. The manager of one of our largest industrial concerns told the story of his growing ambitions the other night. He was raised on a farm and loved horses. When he visited the city he conceived that the goal of his ambition would be reached if he could get a situation as coachman with one of the rich merchants who owned a pair of horses. After he had been in the city a while, his ambition was to own a pair of horses and have a man to take care of them. Now he drives an automobile. This is typical. It is practically useless to give advice to human ambition. It bounds from rise to rise and never rests. It drives us all from point to point, until we are finally broken in body, mind and spirit and are willing to cry “Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.” Yet not us all; a few keep their heads, live wholesome lives, acquire a little competence and a few friends, and live out a pleasant old-age. Ambition under sensible control is one of the greatest of all great qualities, the misfortune being that so few of us possess it in any noticeable quantity.

WHEN SCOT MEETS CANADIAN

SOME years ago an Englishman of much discrimination visited Canada and made a tour of inspection from the Atlantic to the other great ocean which belongs to this Dominion. When he went home he talked and wrote about Canada in a fashion much more benevolent and discerning than that cultivated by the ordinary journalistic tourist. Among other things he said, that, with the