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WE FIGHT THE BATTLE OF THE PLAIN PEOPLE

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PASTORS SALARIES

The average small denomination, whether Presbyterian, Methodist, Anglican or Congregationalist, thinks it must have a separate church and separate pastor. No matter how small the congregation, its spiritual needs must be satisfied just to its taste. It must have the church it likes and it must have its own peculiar brand of doctrine.

These things cost money and the little church usually does not like to pay the price. As the pastor is usually a meek and Christian individual who will not fight for himself his congregation proceeds to impose upon him in the name of Christ. First of all, they give him a salary at which a first class mechanic would turn his nose up. Upon this salary the minister has to wear clothes, the most expensive that can be got. He must give good sermons which necessitate hard mental labor. He must receive all callers any time they want to come. He is supposed to be at the beck and call of every parishioner whenever the parishioner takes the whim. Moreover the pastor's wife is supposed to be hired along with the pastor and is supposed to listen graciously and sympathetically to the chit-chat of every church gossip and all this is paid by a beggarly pittance with which any decent man would be disgusted were it offered to him as his remuneration.

CHURCH SELFISHNESS

The average church in its corporate capacity is a most cold and selfish entity. The average minister is filled with enthusiasm for the cause of right and the average church proceeds systematically to squelch the minister's enthusiasm. The church wants everything and wants to give mighty little in return. The average church member wants his religious needs taken care of for next to nothing. He is willing to praise the minister as long as it costs him little, but the moment he is requested to pay his share towards giving his pastor a decent salary, he waxes highly indignant.

Very frequently those who give the least want to run the church and, giving little themselves, their conscience pricks them for their own meanness. The pricking of their conscience makes them disagreeable and ugly and they are ready to make the minister's life uncomfortable in so far as it lies in their power.

The concentrated religious selfishness that crops out in a church at times is colossal. No wonder pastors get discouraged and leave for new fields. They can at least rest assured that when they seek a new field their new charge will conceal its selfishness for a while for very shame. There are many good workers in churches upon whom heavy burdens fall but until a church as a body awakes to its own duties and is willing to pay its minister a living wage in return for his giving his very life to it, God help the minister.

CHRISTIAN SNOBBERY

Many Christians are snobs. There is as great snobbery in religion as there is in society and one of the principal reasons for this snobbery is the over-accented idea of personal salvation. The idea of conversion means a turning away from that which is evil. Too many Christians mistake esthetics for religion and develop into the cultured cold morality of the ancient Jewish leaders.

The Pharisees were good men. They were cultured and good and moral, but they wrapped themselves up within themselves and would not admit any to their charmed circle who did not believe as they believed and who would not adopt their moral and esthetic atmosphere. The hot indignation of Christ was raised against their religious snobbery and He denounced them.

To-day the same snobbery has crept into many churches. The members are moral, esthetic and cultured and they will not admit into their charmed circle any who do not believe as they believe and who will not adopt their moral and esthetic atmosphere. These church members are firmly convinced, in the same way as were the

Pharisees, that they are the depositaries of all truth and everybody must see the truth as they see it in order to enter the charmed circle of the personally saved. The religious snobbery has caused many cruel wars and it is what is causing workingmen to-day to curse the churches while they praise Christ.

REASON FOR THE CONGO ATROCITIES

In the December number of the North American Review the underlying reasons for the Congo atrocities are given. It has been recognized by the great powers of Europe that the basic troubles are rubber and profits. The natives have been exploited and the atrocities have been committed in order to force the natives to bring in more rubber. Any scheme of reform to be successful must do away with the enormous profits which now go to the King of the Belgians from the rubber trade.

The United States and Great Britain are working along these lines and Leopold is likely to see his rubber profits disappear. Kind Leopold wants to get from under the impending calamity and is trying to unload on the Belgian nation. The Belgians are anxious to acquire the Congo State, but before the transfer will be recognized by the signatory powers of the Treaty of Berlin, the profits must disappear from the rubber trade. The King of the Belgians will likely find that his iniquitous profits will vanish into thin air.

In reading the Nineteenth Century article it struck us that the writer was imbued with a spirit half way between the ancient Solomon and the Socialist. The modern Socialist says that all profits are iniquitous. Old Solomon says that he that hasteth to be rich sinneth.

THE TURKISH SITUATION

The young Turks hold the power in Turkey to-day, but their power is as yet insecure.

When any country adopts a system of government the various classes find a niche and the country possesses a peaceful government. There may be many grave oppressions under the system adopted, but the oppressed have little to say and no one will listen to the ragged and emaciated wretches. Witness our Canadian treatment of the ragged and emaciated out-of-workers.

In Turkey under the regime now passed away, there were many people drawing great incomes in return for their services. They were the guards of the palace who were always well paid to protect the Sultan. They were a host of official spies who drew large salaries in return for their services of hunting out and causing to be assassinated modern reformers. They were pashas who governed provinces after the same manner. All these people, who drew large incomes from the former regime, find their occupation going and they are not going to give up their fat revenues without a struggle. If they can prevent the carrying out of modern government they will do so and they will attract to their help ignorant soldiers from the hills who revel in disorder and pillage and who will be forced to hard work either in the army or in some industrial occupation should a new democratic and stable government be brought into existence. There is great danger ahead of the Young Turk Party. But the Young Turks are showing great caution and intellectual capacity. If nothing untoward happens the revolution will be carried to a successful conclusion.

The brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God is the way modern revolutionaries are talking. This sounds suspiciously like loving the Lord well and your neighbor just like yourself. The first, however, is not regarded with favor in high quarters. The latter is highly praised, after it has been duly interpreted by those in high quarters, and the proper construction put upon it to suit vested interests.

If the newspapers of a great city were to tell the truth as they see it half the advertisers would withdraw their patronage and the newspapers would go into bankruptcy.

THE DIAMOND OUTPUT

So far South Africa has been the great diamond producing region of the world. The Transvaal has been the chief country of production and the De Beers and the Premier are the two chief companies. These companies, holding a monopoly of the supply, have raised the price of diamonds and have made them more valuable. The Transvaal Government has raised no protest against limiting the output of diamonds. They agree in the policy of high prices and charge the companies a tax of sixty per cent on the output.

Other diamond fields are being discovered. It is expected that Northern Canada around Hudson Bay will become a great diamond producing centre. In German South West Africa, diamonds have been found and the Brazilian fields are just beginning to be worked.

The Brazilian stones are as good as the South African and the supply seems to be large. In South Africa the diamonds are found in limited areas. Diamonds are formed at high temperature under great pressure and they are found in a natural state in the pipes of old volcanoes. In Brazil these pipes have not been "located," but diamonds are found in the river beds, having been washed down from the original pipes. They are found quite freely over extensive areas and the Brazilian government exacts no tax from the fortunate possessors of the diamond bearing river beds.

THE SILVER OUTPUT

The value of precious metals naturally depends upon their preciousness. In the Middle Ages in England, the wages of workers were two pennies a day. In the time of Henry VIII, the price of wages had risen to five pennies. In old Palestine, wages were a penny a day. To-day, wages are a dollar and a quarter a day and the average day-labourer's lot is harder than it was six hundred years ago when he was getting but four cents a day.

The precious metals have become less precious. With modern mining methods and with the discovery of great fields of silver, easily worked, the price of silver has dropped. There was one mine of silver in the Western States whose enormous output depreciated the price of silver the world over.

The commonness of silver is working its own destruction. Formerly great quantities of silver were used by governments for a currency and as a standard of value with gold. When silver became common, the bi-metallic nations were forced to give up silver and become gold nations. This liberated more silver which had to be used in the arts in competition with silver fresh from the mines.

Cobalt has been discovered and Gowganda also. The North of Eastern Canada is rich in silver deposits and there is considerable danger of silver becoming a drug in the market. No shares in Cobalt stocks for us.

Samuel Gompers, president of two million American laborers, has been condemned to twelve months in jail for contempt of court. The two million American laborers will probably see that Gompers does not go to jail. The American courts have been so run by political bosses that many honorable men hold them in continual contempt.

Present social conditions cannot last. Society is turning too many of its members into criminals, tramps, broken spirited shufflers and anxious suicides. The world is either becoming too populous and we should as a matter of charity chloroform the superfluous members, or our social organization is on a wrong basis and should be revolutionized.

The King of England has written a letter to Carnegie praising the philanthropic activity of the little iron master. The King is a great diplomat. It takes one to hold the job he has got of pretending to rule a great people who have a habit of ruling themselves.

CHURCHLY TOLERANCE

A case has arisen at Parry Sound that deserves more than a passing notice. A young man who is a Roman Catholic, married a Protestant girl. They went to the Anglican minister of the town to have the ceremony performed. This being contrary to the rules of the Roman Church the parish priest took the unusual course of publicly denouncing the marriage as null and void. His medium of expression was the weekly newspaper of the town. Not content with that, he is said to have visited the young couple at their home, and caused them to be turned out, because he said it was a disgrace for anyone to harbor them.

In his letter he threatens the young man with loss of his soul, and warns the wife that it is, and must be, the duty of her newly-wedded husband to separate himself from her, if he wants to keep his peace with heaven. In fact, this priest—Rev. Father Artus—has done all he could to destroy the happiness of the couple. He has endeavored to make the man desert his lawfully wedded wife. The terrors of hell are employed to bring him to obey the priest. Further than that he has planted in the mind of the young woman the fear that some day the influence of the Church will be strong enough to take her husband and natural protector from her and leave her a deserted wife with a blighted life to live. We trust the young man is made of better stuff than the priest, and that he will prove himself superior to the influence of such a suggestion.—The Sentinel, Toronto.

THE ORIGIN OF CRIMES

There are certain fundamental rights which civilization must accord to its citizens or crime will become prevalent. England possessed savage laws against those who violated the rights of property a couple of hundred years ago and yet crime was as prevalent under those savage laws as it is at present under much milder methods.

Sir Thomas Moore declared: "If you do not remedy the evils which produce thieves the rigorous executions of justice in punishing thieves, will be in vain."

All our modern civilized governments have passed strong legislation against those who steal. Yet the economic trend of society has been concentrating property more and more into the hands of the few. The proportion of those who pay rent is rapidly increasing and those who pay rent are usually none other than those who depend for their daily bread upon their labour alone. When a man is dismissed and mills shut down, the worker can earn no money. He cannot pay his rent and himself and family are evicted from a place of habitation. A man to live under such conditions must get bread and the only way he can get it is to steal. Our laws and economic conditions force men into crimes, and society then puts the criminals into jail for doing what they had to do or perish. Change the conditions and criminals will disappear.

THE GALICIAN AND THE ITALIAN

The Galician and the Italians have recently come to Canada in large numbers. They are two types for which the average Canadian possesses little friendship. A beneficent government has imported the Galicians to fill up our North West and our beneficent railway companies have a special liking for the Italian because he will work hard on poor fare for passable wages.

The Galician comes from the North of Austria where civilization, as we know it to-day, has hardly touched. He is a stolid creature and will take impudence from a section boss. He has hardly begun to think, and lives close to nature like a beast; but he has the elements of civilization in him, and the second or third generation will develop into a splendid type of Canadian manhood.

The Italian, on the other hand, has been a civilized creature for centuries. He has lived under the splendor of Italian skies and possesses the patient

weakness of a long civilized race. He is quick to resent injury with a swift thrust of the knife.

The Italian type will never become assimilated to our Canadian civilization. In time the Galician will become an honored and respected citizen.

SAMUEL GOMPERS

Laws are made for individuals. They are not made for big men backed by a large party. Edmund Burke remarked "You cannot indict a whole nation."

Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, has been sentenced to twelve months imprisonment for contempt of court. He was responsible for the publication of an unfair list in the organ of the Federation. The Bucks Stove Company of St. Louis refused and still refuses to employ union laborers. The Bucks Stove Company was placed in the "We don't patronize" column of the Federationist. The matter was taken to the courts and Gompers was enjoined from publishing the name of the Bucks Stove Company in the above mentioned column. Gompers paid no attention to the injunction, hence the present jail sentence for contempt.

There are two million organized laborers who will back Gompers. There are two million Socialists who will back him. The big corporations and the lawless trust magnates will try to back the courts, but the American courts have been too often the playthings of the big corporations to have this backing count for much in the eyes of the people.

The President will probably pardon Gompers. He is too big a man to punish and it will look better for the authorities to exercise their clemency of their own free will than for the authorities to refuse clemency and to be flouted with impunity.

PITTSBURG GRAFT

The lid has been removed from Pittsburgh's municipal affairs and the public is allowed to look into the mess. Municipal councillors, bank managers and prominent business men whom citizens were taught to regard with respect were found to be men of very common clay. In fact the higher up in the scale the investigation goes, the more corrupt and loathsome do the leading citizens appear.

Minneapolis, San Francisco and Pittsburgh have been investigated and exposed. There are many other large cities whose leading citizens the public know to be corrupt. So far exposures have not struck Canada, yet there are grave doubts as to the incorruptibility of many city fathers of Canadian cities.

The ordinary person is taught to look upon the multimillionaire as the apotheosis of business acumen. Yet over and over again it is being proven in America that the multimillionaire is the result of special privileges corruptly obtained, and in Canada the same conviction is gaining ground.

The Pittsburgh exposure is another eye opener for the American public. In the States and in Canada the conviction is strong that for a man to remain strictly honest means for that man to remain poor. The majority are getting their eyes opened. There is a hard time coming for many prominent rich men on both sides of the border.

The prisoners in Sing Sing, New York city, had a great Christmas dinner. In New York it evidently pays better to go to jail than it does to be honest and hunt for work and starve in the process.

Revolutions must work slowly, but the average man wants a revolution to work so slowly that he will be dead before anyone hears it is on its way.

A Scotch elder of a kirk once prayed, "Oh Lord, please keep our minister humble and we'll keep him poor." His breed is not all dead yet.

What of the new year? Is it to be a year of mental, moral and spiritual advance, or is it to be a year of narrow bigotry?

ROYCROFTISM

F. C. MEARS

In the paragraphs on nature and Socialism which recently appeared in this publication a grave error of omission was committed. It was stated that Socialism had never been experimented with successfully. The readers' indulgence is asked in making a correction. For some years past and up to the present time a successful Socialistic experiment has been conducted in the town of East Aurora, N. Y., about an hour's ride from Buffalo. The Socialism or communion of that little city is of a very high order. As the members of that community are called Roycrofters, we may term their social philosophy Roycroftism. Elbert Hubbard, the eminent writer and lecturer, is the leader of this admirable experiment.

The Roycrofters would have every man a priest, every home a shrine, every school a temple, every factory a college, every workshop a church, and every church a workshop.

Roycroftism would run the world on a sunshine basis. Roycroftism would abolish poverty, disease and vice, and thus make alms houses, hospitals, jails, asylums, orphanages, and homes for the "fallen," superfluous. Roycroftism does not so much seek to save sinners, as to stop their manufacture; it does not so much seek to heal the sick, as to make health a habit. It holds that prisons, hospitals and asylums are all indictments of our so-called civilization. It holds that society supplies the candidates for prisons, hospitals and asylums, for she spins the psychology and makes the environment that produces them. It teaches that work, and work for everybody, with head, hand and heart, under ideal conditions, mixed with pure glory, in right proportion, will bring about the cure of souls. To set the rich and educated classes to work in the task the poor will follow. The impulse of reformation is beginning in the Kindergarten. But we should not let it die there, manual training must be in every public school, and should also be carried into the Universities. The Roycrofters summarize their aspirations in these words, "Let our desire be to serve, and not to be waited upon, and then we will be well out on the highway to the Beautiful City of the Ideal."

The leading organs of the Roycroftism are the Philistine and the Fra. The circulation of both since their first issues have increased at an enviable rate. The platform of the Fra; Health, Happiness, Good Roads, Brotherhood, Co-operation, Equal Suffrage, Human Service, Dietetic Righteousness, Universal Peace through Arbitration, Manual Training in all public schools, Tree-planting and Forest Preservation, Good cheer and courtesy even under provocation, the keeping of promises made to those who cannot enforce them, the Kindergarten system and its introduction into the higher grades, a Patriotism that will include other countries with no lack of love for our own, no war of aggression excepting on a popular vote of all people including women, disarmament through mutual agreement, a square deal for horses, cows, cats, dogs, birds, rabbits, guinea-pigs, guinea-hens and all other animals wild and domesticated; tax church property and all educational or philanthropic institutions not supported through and by taxation.

This programme looks to be a comer, and one that will help human progress some. It will be discussed further.

The electric street railway system recently completed in Shanghai, China, is one of the forerunners of the mechanical era which is bound to shake that country out of its sleep of centuries. The advent of the horseless cars moving smoothly up and down the crowded streets, occasioned no end of surprise and wonder on the part of the native population. The concession was granted to a Scotch company in 1905 and called for 25 miles of railway.

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