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LET THEM GO

Some of our contemporaries are most persistently prophesying the defeat of the Reciprocity Agreement and the downfall of the Canadian Government because of the defection of such men as Sir Wm. Van Horne of the Canadian Pacific, John C. Eaton of the T. Eaton Co., Honorable Clifford Sifton and many others who have waxed rich on the profits from government grants, government contracts, or the fruits of other men's labors appropriated in other ways. It will take a lot of such desertions to kill the Liberal party so long as that party can successfully marshal the common people—the working artisans and farmers of the country. The desertion of Sir Robert Perks, the great contractor, and some hundred of the aristocratic, rich and titled Liberals, just before the recent crisis in Britain did not destroy, or even weaken to any appreciable degree, the hold of the Radical government upon the United Kingdom. Rather, by such weeding out of undesirable elements from its midst, the Radical cabinet was strengthened. So it will be in Canada. The party that will finally win and hold this Dominion will not be a party of railway magnates, land speculators and Captains of Industry, but a party of the common people. The quicker such men as Van Horne and Eaton leave the Liberal Party the better for the real Liberals that are left.

Only one thing can overthrow the Liberal party in Canada and that is such a change in the attitude of the working man towards it as happened in British Columbia in the last provincial election, when class-conscious Labor voted so solidly for Socialism that the Liberal candidates were swamped, and the Conservatives, who secured less than fifty per cent. of the total vote, yet managed to elect 38 of the 42 representatives, the Socialists now having 3 in the House and the Liberal Party only 1.

Something exactly similar happened in Cape Breton County last month, when in the Provincial General election the Socialists ran a candidate for the first time and (according to the final figures published in the Conservative Glace Bay Standard) polled 713 votes, or between five and six per cent. of the total, with the result that the two Liberal members were defeated by a narrow margin by the Conservative nominees. Unless there was a landslide of Liberal voters to the Conservative ranks, which is not at all probable, the Socialist candidate drew his support mainly from those who had once been Liberals.

Any wholesale desertion of the Liberal Party by the great speculating and manufacturing interests, as is alleged by opposition papers to be a fact, will tend to more and more heal the breach between Liberalism and Labor, and thus keep the Conservatives still longer in the cool shades of opposition. It is not the attitude of the millionaire so much as that of the common laborer that the Liberal party needs to carefully study. With the masses, not the classes, lies the dominion of the future.

LET CANADA BEWARE

According to a Canadian Press despatch from Los Angeles, California, dated June 28th ultimo, Mrs. Ortie E. McManigal's attorneys, Clarence S. Darrow, Joseph Scott, Leemonte, Davis and Job Harriman, declare that it is difficult to characterize in temperate language their opinion of the cruel treatment accorded Mrs. McManigal the day before, that under the subterfuge that contempt proceedings against her were to be instituted because of her failing to testify, detectives an hour and a half tortured her to such extent mental and bodily extremity that she finally fainted, and required a physician to restore her; that it was added by her attorneys that the prosecution offered to send Mrs. McManigal to a hospital if she desired to go, but that she steadfastly asked to be permitted to return to her attorneys; that Arthur Veitch, deputy district attorney, stated positively that there had been no "Third degree" methods used in connection with Mrs. McManigal and declared equally positively in answer to a question about a rumor that McManigal at last had been promised complete immunity that such was not and would not be the case.

The above charges may or may not be absolutely true, but charges against United States officers of torturing witnesses in order, after they have weakened and half-crazed them by physical and mental suffering, to extract from them some testimony favorable to those who are working up the case for the prosecution, are becoming so common of late that there must be some ground for some of the allegations so persistently made. The most southern of the United States have largely relapsed into the barbarism common to Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily, Albania and Montenegro, the names of the vendetta and the blood feud of primitive peoples; and, it would seem that the mediaeval practice of torturing witnesses is reviving in the north of the republic. Such doings, if unchecked, will be revenged by assassination or rebellion, which will lead to more repressive measures against supposed criminals, and this to more assassination or more rebellion and finally to either a successful revolution or utter subversion of order.

While there is much good in the United States system that Canada might adopt with advantage, the less she copies the United States modes of dealing with witnesses and persons accused of crime the better. The closer Canada draws to the mother country—the more we assimilate ourselves to what is best and most progressive in the moral and social thought of Britain and northwestern Europe—the more our government becomes like the home government, and the more our political parties conform to the standards of corresponding parties in the Home land the safer and more lasting will be the national foundation Canada is building for herself.

TAXATION

Speaking in Vancouver not long ago Joseph Fels, the millionaire Single Taxer of Philadelphia, gave a humorous account of how he first blossomed out as a philanthropist.

Seven years ago on one of his sundry trips from England to the United States "to get another breath of American corruption," a real estate agent of Philadelphia recommended him to buy a piece of property as a good investment. The agent frankly admitted that there was no railway due there just then, but the land would come in by and by. It was 11½ acres in extent and the price was \$35,000. He finally bought it at \$32,000 and then he turned around to see what he could make of it. He decided to hand it to an association to be divided into forty garden plots for the use of the people, he retaining his ownership.

He said to himself, "Fels, you will certainly get your name in the *Dominion* book," but as one of the conditions he decided to get it into as many newspapers as he could, accompanied by his picture. He thereupon became such a celebrity that he was invited to afternoon teas. The house on the property he gave to another society for the use of needy young women, and a condition of that was that he should appear in the papers as the charitable Mr. Fels.

Last year when he returned to Philadelphia he found the property still there and the agent came to tell him for how much it could be sold. He was told that at that time he could get \$100,000 and if he held it two years more he could get \$125,000.

"I said to Yokaum," said Mr. Fels, "if they want that property, at \$125,000 tell 'em they can have it."

"Now, ladies and gentlemen, I sold that property for that sum. Now I ask you who made me that \$90,000. Did I? No; I did not."

"Did that property belong to me? No; it did not. It was made \$90,000 more valuable by the people of Philadelphia, who increased it by their building, and to the people of Philadelphia it should belong. And I have the courage to say to you that I do not own it rightfully. I know that four-fifths of you here are interested in the land question. But how many of you here have the courage that I have and will stand up and say that the city should own the property which is now in your name?"

Joseph Fels is honorary president of the Ontario Tax Reform League, which is urging that municipalities be allowed to reduce taxes on buildings and other improvements and increase taxes on land values, which greatly improved plan of taxation has long been recommended for our own town of Newcastle by Alderman H. H. Stuart.

The city of New Westminster, B. C., has decided by a plebiscite to exempt buildings and all improvements and levy taxes on land values only. Vancouver adopted the same system about two years ago. Edmonton was the first Canadian town to adopt the new idea. It has worked admirably. Vancouver has found it to be the best move it has ever made.

More than 400 Municipal Councils and boards of trade in Ontario have asked that the laws of Ontario be changed to permit any town or Municipality to make the change if it so desires. The same thing was asked of the Local Legislature by Campbellton at

last session, and, we trust, the Newcastle Council will demand the same right of the Legislature next Spring.

This is how, says the Dartmouth (N. S.) Patriot, the present system of taxation works out: "A house assessed at \$5000, pays at the present rate, from \$75 to \$100 a year into the town treasury. In thirty years the owner would pay 12 at \$30 a year the sum of \$3600. The interest on that sum at 5 per cent payable yearly is worth nearly as much more or over \$4400 in all. That is the owner pays as much in taxes on his house in 30 years as his house is worth. During all those years also his house is depreciating. Land does not depreciate as a rule. A building must."

"When every lot within a city's limits," says the Ottawa Journal, "has to bear its equal share of taxation no rapacious speculator will buy up vast tracts and leave them idle, trusting to the industry of others for immense unearned increments. No home builder will hesitate to add a coat of paint or a verandah, fearing an undue increase in assessment."

Putting all, or the principal part, of taxation on land values, will not solve all the difficulty and injustice in taxation plans of the past, but it will greatly simplify and facilitate the collection of taxes, distribute the burden of taxation more equitably and will greatly lessen the extreme ease with which land is now grabbed up by speculators and monopolized. Our taxation system is hopelessly out of date, and the new way outlined above would be a long step in the right direction.

BABY'S OWN TABLETS

CURE SUMMER COMPLAINT

Baby's Own Tablets should be kept in every home where there are babies or young children. At no time of the year is baby in such danger as in summer. At the first sign of illness the Tablets should be given to the little one, for summer complaints come on so quickly that unless prompt aid is at hand baby may be beyond help in a few hours. The Tablets never fail to relieve the sick child, and if occasionally given to the well child will keep him well. Mrs. Desire Martin, St. Denis, Que., writes: "I have a baby three months old who suffered from colic and constipation. Castor Oil was of no help at all, but Baby's Own Tablets speedily cured him and now I always keep them in the house." The Tablets are sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

FRANK O'DONNELL

DROWNED IN WEST

Frank O'Donnell aged 31, son of Mrs. Phillip O'Donnell of Barnaby River, was drowned at Edward, Washington, on June 20th. His mother and following brothers and sisters survive: James and John O'Donnell of Barnaby River; Patrick in the United States and Simon of Campbellton; Mrs. Thomas Tobin, Chelmsford; Mrs. William Dinan, Douglastown; Miss Margaret, Augusta, Me., and Miss Gabriella at home. The sympathy of the community goes out to the bereaved mother and family.

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