

strain mens hands from doing evil, but never their hearts from thinking guile. Do the socialists not think that before slavery, poverty, ignorance, vice, etc. etc., can be rooted up, and cast out, that there must be a change of heart, an all round change? Isn't there law now against crime and shame and wrong-doing, and yet these abound. If hearts are still unregenerate will a criminal law enacted by Socialists act differently from one framed by ordinary mortals?

A correspondent of the Sydney Post writing from Halifax, and who in some other of the tory papers signs himself Ajax, gives his views on some points in the late election. "Next to Halifax one of the finest triumphs of the party was the defeat of Mr. Alex. Johnston, of Sydney, by 223 votes. He was backed by the two governments and by the Dominion Coal Co. . . . The Sydney Record, the Glace Bay Gazette, the Halifax Chronicle and the Mining Record, of Stellarton—one of the Coal Co's side lines—were all in full cry after Mr. Madden, and his triumphant election is evidence of the thorough independence of the miners' votes." 'Ajax' as the name signified may think himself a brave man, but a brave man tells the truth and that what Ajax misses. When I read the above I was forced sadly to say 'Virtue is its own reward.' The Record took no part in the late election and did not go in whispers even, let alone 'full cry' after Mr. Madden or any other candidate, good, bad, or indifferent. The Record thought it best to make no reference to matters political in C. B., as there was unrest among some of the workmen and it did not want to step in where it could not gauge the situation. If the Post cannot 'hew to the line' itself it might insist that its special correspondents do so, that is, if they can.

Is it really true that politics is after all nothing but a game of chance, all luck and no science. If what we read in the official and semi-official government press is the true philosophy of politics then there is no alternative; we must come to the conclusion that at all times, but more especially at election times, politics is really and truly a big game of chance. The people of a city or a county who wish to see the city or the county prosper, from a material point, and who believe that the government should assist toward that consummation, should never in conventions consider principles in the abstract or otherwise. They should not bother about the qualifications of candidates or any such thing, but meet for the purpose of trying to come to some conclusion as to which party was likely to be successful in the election. 'How are the elections going,' is the paramount question. On an answer to that hangs all. If the government is likely to be sustained, no matter its character, then self interest demands that they vote for the government candidate. If they think the opposition may win then all should be 'agin' the government. Why? Because we are solemnly assured by the press aforesaid that the government dispenses assistance to those only who support it. Don't you see then that the plain duty is for needy cities and needy counties to vote always and ever for the party likely to come into power. Its all a chance. The

electors of the said cities and counties may mis-calculate, and then, where would they be? Out in the cold—if they had elected the wrong man. We are told that a railway costing a fabulous sum, is to be changed from its intended course, because three counties in N. S. did not return government candidates. This is carrying the joke a little too far. The Transcontinental is either a great Canadian undertaking or it is a political kite. If the former, then its terminal, will, as it should, be in the place best suited for that purpose. One paper alleges that Mr. E. M. Macdonald will get the terminal diverted from Halifax to Country Harbor. In that event we will conclude that that Port is the best for the purpose, and gratefully say 'Its an ill wind, etc., etc.'

The labor party in Great Britain do not now love John Burns. It may be jealousy. There are some workmen who do not like to see other workmen succeed. John Burns is not only being advised in Britain, but also in Canada by the press, from the Toronto Globe down, what to do. He goes his own gate notwithstanding. The papers are telling us that he and Mr. Asquith do not pull, and says that John won't resign because he wants to hold on to his job. If that be so it is not for the salary attached but because he is in a position to do much good. The celebrated English preacher Mr. Meyer, compliments Mr. Burns on his treatment of the unemployment question, said Mr. Meyer.

"John Burns had been criticised because he dared to say in the House of Commons that workmen spent too much on drink. A man who spoke thus made him proud, and he was going to write to his friend John and tell him he admired his pluck. The 'Spectator' is also standing as sponsor for the President of the Local Government Board, and in its last issue, writing from personal knowledge, says: 'We are convinced that there is no man whose heart is more deeply touched by the miseries of poverty and destitution than John Burns.'"

It does'nt do to be 'unco guid' in this wicked world. A candidate for municipal honors in Blackpool, Eng., told with pride that he had never drank, smoked, or walked out with a woman. The Blackpoolers can forgive a non-drinker, but because of his other two goodnesses gave him only 23 votes.

A Scientist who dabbles a little at times in political economy sends the following:—

'Judge McDonald has given decision which means that the fair wage clause can not be enforced in public contracts. The city discovered that contractors who were building a bridge were paying their men much less than demanded by the fair wage clause. Accordingly the city withheld payment of \$1,500, the difference between the wages paid and what should have been paid. The contractors sued and the judge ordered that they be paid in full.'

Has not this always been so since Adam, first labor candidate, was compelled by a woman suffragette to give up government legislation for