THEATRES * MUSIC * LITERATURE * FINE ART * EDUCATION * SOCIETY * FOREIGN trimeny The Toronto Sunday World tmawn
3 30TH YEAR-PAGES I TO. 12.12.

Undue Exaltation of Property Versus Humanity.




 hereditary house of lords and the landed class:
Roosevelt said that any and all property
Roosevel said that any and all property belonged to man, and, herefore, the tighs of of man himsslf. In other words, when the con-
count than the
venience and the comfort and the progress of humanity venience and the comfort and the progress of humanity came in collision
with the rights of property the rights of man should overide those of with the rights of property the rights of man should overide those of
property, or in ohter words, thatathe rights of property should take second
place.

Look at the United States to-day and you see deplorable conditons
in the way of government; you see the consolidation of wealh in the hands of a few, the control of legislatures and congress by interests, the allpuwerful influence of the railways, the capture of the press by money,
widespread cortuption in municipal, state and federal politics, and a thouwidespread corruption in municicapa, state and federal politics, and a thou
sand and one evis that beset he various forms of organized society. I would be hard to ask one to believe and yet we must ask the reader to
believe, that as a basis of moos of these evils is the undue importance that is attached to the rights of property and the lack of appreciation of the
rights of humanity that characterized the political documents that are at rights of
the basis of government in the States and that marked the transactions of the basis of government in the States and that marked the transactions of
the men who started the oplitical machine at the outset So imbued were
the early Americans with the sanctity of property that they put provisions the early Americans with the sanctity of property that they put provisions in the constitution, and it follows down thru all the minor state and muni-
cipal institutions, that any legislation that violated a contract was uncipal institutions, that any legisiation that violated a contract was un-
constitutional; and so from the foundation of the republic up to the present time no congress, no state government, no municipal organization
has been able to interfere with a condition that existed by reason of a contract, no matter how improvident, no matter how much against public interest, no matter if obtained by bribery or corruption, no matter how much
it interfered with public or human rights or the convenience of the citizen.
Such a contract is held Such a contract is held sacred and not to be ointerfered with. Little or
no provision was ever made for the cancellation of the no provision was ever made for the cancellation of these contracts by
purchase or expropriation at their fair value or anything of that kind. There purchase or expropriation at their fair value or anything of that kind. Ther
was just a straight declaration of the sanctity of contract, the sanctity property, no matter how much the citizen or organized society might suffer.
The suppreme court would seem to have had as its greatest objec? the maintenance of this doctrine of the sanctity of property. We have no
hesitation in saying that the demoralized condition of thine in the is due to this wordhip of the idea of property. One way it.works out at
 regulaterailway rates if it can be shown that property is unfairly affected;
and legislation by state commissioners for the benefit of the public has om time to time been declared illegal for this reason.
We, therefore, take Roosevelt's speech to be that he recognizes what
we have above set out, the undue prominence given to property, and We have is prepared either by his own act or the act of others who may follow him, to either change the constitution or in some way to override it so that the rights of man, of the individual, shall be placed above the mere rights of property, especially when this involves the comfort and -oon-
venience of the citizn. the fair traament of man by all the corporations that have been created in that country. Roosevelt would secure for the in Germany, in France, and sometimes even in our own country, tho we
too have been awfully hampered by this doctrine of the sanctity of contoo have been awfully hampered ty
tract and the sanctity of property.

Let us give just one specific instance of the situation here in Toronto which will illustrate what we mean. The citizens of Toronto are crowded
like cattle in the street cars of the Toronto StreetRailway. The company,by reason of an improvident, perhaps a corrupt contract made twenty years
ago and ratifed by the legislature, has been allowed to do this. It has refused to extend the lines, has exacted double fares in places within the city and in a huncred ways has brutally ill-treated, ill-used and ill served the people of this great and growing city. They are sewn up like
fish in a net and are considered fair victims of the corporation and they
are held by this contract irespective of their suffering irrespective of their are held by this contract irrespective of their suffering, irrespective of their
rights no matter who botrayed them in the past. In other words, these rights no matter who botrayed them in the past. In other words, these property rights of the Street Railway Company are of much greater ac
隹 Canada is not bound up, fortunately for us, in the way the United States is bound up as to the sanctity of contracts. Our legisiature is free to de
clare that Toronto can rid herself of all the incouvenience, not only of this traction outfit but of all other public utility companies by the right of ex
propriation being given to the city by the legislature There is propriation being given to the city by the legislature. There is all the
difference in the world in our freedom in this respect and the lack of free dom of the people of the United States and, what we say is this: If we do not exercise our rights now in this respect we will some day be in the same ditch in which our neighbors find themselves. No damage is done
to property in connection with public utilities if its value is assessed and to property in connection with public utilities if its value is assessed and
that value is handedo to the owner of the franchise; and when this is done all the grievances of the public can be removed, the service can be taken over by the public and the public can thereafter secure a remedy to their grievances, a better service, and be free thereafter, which is the great
thing; to do whatever they like whenerer they like with what is their Ining: to do whatever they like whenever they like with what is their own.
In other words. in our country there is a money measure for property In other words, in our country
rights as against public rights.
And just one more remark.
And just one more remark. It was a condition of affairs something
like what prevails in the States which preceded the French revolution a century and a quarter ago and pretty much the same thing is bound to
come in America unless some man of great force and some party consecrated to public progress leads the way and effects the reform necessary. Again we say, very few of us recognize how near a social disturbance
ten times more scrious than the upheaval in France, is at hand in the
United States in he denial of public rights and the unde ealation of public alrais rights of property as against the individual and the common welfare of The situation is serious, and it is at the door of very citizen. Guelph Herald: A little while ago
|lerease of over 700 in the population
Ity clergymen referrec to the ques-
Who sars the pulpht has lost its pow
already in existence and the experienc
gained in the most intricate of gained in the most intricate of com.
mercial systems to solve the problem. We confess that the problem ap.
pears to be a comparatively simple one, pears to be a comparatively simple one
altho the United States municipali
iies ties which have adopted the principle
have usually been too wedded to have usually been too wedded to
tradition, and to what Americans
delude themselves into thinking is delude themselves into thinking i
constitutional practic. A constitu recuperative powers and capacities of
adaptation. In the United State adaptation. In the United State
they have always been afraid to loose and live like freemen. This :
what is the matter what some other newspapers,. They ar anchored and happy. A vessel tha
sails around the world and comes back with new ideas is a terrible adventure to such organs, and is not to be trusted
but generally suspected. Government $\overline{\text { by }}$ commission must embody the idea of a constitution
the way that a man has a constitution It must be alive and strong an muscular and rowing. A United
States constitutuon can only be com pared to an osified man. The Clobe
is afraid that The World would is afraid har The Worid would
abolish the democratic idea. Gover ment by commoission as we understand
it would give more dem it would give more democratic govern
ment than at present, for it would
. ment than at present, for it would
interest everybody. and politise now only interests the nobodies.
excepting the profesionals.
The new system would also improve the class of men on the council.
It would promote efficiency in the municipal services. It would reduce taxation and obtain better value for the expenditures made. It would
away with ward politicse, which away with ward polticses, which to public duties and hie them to the ball
The Globe and other partisan papers
gamee. Somebody ought to introduce



WILFRID: Sorry to hear you may lose some of your lieutenants, Robert.
ROBERT: Aren't you more sorry you can't lose most of yours9

\section*{| $\substack{\text { later } \\ \text { later } \\ \text { Suc }}$ |
| :--- |}



Government by Commission

PoetrythatLives Globe may not be equal to devising he decains, but we prefer to think the it is the innate conservatism of The
Globe rather than any real inability Globe rather than any real inability
which prevents it applying the ordinary
principes of principles of common sense to the
problem, and utilizing the precedents
 development of democracy. vill aife sing,
Iniste.
And a small a Canadian Black Squirrel. Amosg the wild animale that are
rapidly becoming extinct thruout. the
bushlands of Ontinit, rapicly- becoming extinct thruout, the
bushlands of Ontaio, one of the
brightest and liveliest to the Glack

British Political Situation.
With the rising of the British parliament for a month's holiday, op journment marks the close of the first period of the present session and it leaves the government in stronger shape than at any time since the general elections. The veraict of the electors was admittedy not conclusive on
any of the issues submitted. England gave a majority of 13 against the government, while Scotland supported it by a majority of 50 and Wales by 21 . Ireland returned 71 Nationalists, 10 Independent Nationaliste
and 21 Unionists. The net result gave the government a majority of 42 and 21 Unionists. The net result gave the government a majority of 42
over the opposition exclusive of both sections of Irish Nationalists, that over the opposition exclusive of both sections of Irish Nationalists, that led by John Redmond thus holding the balance of power; a po
had not occupied since the Cladstone administration of 1892.

Mr. Asquith's task was one of exceptional difficulty and it was not lessened by the difference of opinion regarding the best policy to pursua, which made itself evident both in the cabinet and the party. While the general election had been primarily compelled thru the action of the house
of lords in requiring the judgment of the people upon the budget proposale, of lords in requiring the judgment of the people upon the budget proposale,
the controversy between the regular parties at ance assumed a wider aspect. The government on the one side asked a mandate enabling re
strictions to be placed on the veto power of the peens and a declaration of strictions to be placed on the veto power of the peere and a declaration o
confidence in free trade. On the other hand the opposition aivanceal confidence in free trade. On the other hand the opposition advanced
tariff reform, including a readjustment of the taxes on food, as the only safe means of meeting the revenue reguirements and providing the means
for cartying out measures for social amelioration. Thie Nationalists stood for carrying out measures for social amelioration. The Nationalists stobd
steadily by home rule but were faced by the appearance in the fild of of
number of Independent candidates who looked to William O'Brien and number of Independent candidates who, looked to William O'Brien and
Timothy Healy for leadership. Both Nationalist parties opposidy the tudget proposals 80 far as
hese applied to Ireland, but she inderpendent section took up tronger
 little doubt he would havo yieldegs, to Chio Arrst intention of the goverment,
which was to reintroduce and paas the budget bill before tackling the retriction of the power of the house of lords. Afraid of the weapon he
would so place in the hands of the Independents. Mr. Redmand faced the government with ân ultimatum requiring the veto resolutions to be
passed before the budget and he carried his point. The earlier paite of the session saw the debate on the government resolutions absolurely re jecting the right of the peers to amend or reject money bills; requiring
other measures to become law after twice passing the commons and limiting the duration of future parliaments to five years. These resolutions have been carried by majoinites of over one hundred and will come before the
house of lords after the re-assembly of parliment in the end of M . ouse of lords alter Further negotiations between the government and the Redmond
party reuslted in an wanderstanding which enabled the govermment to ntroduce the budget bill and it has passed its first and second readinge y majorities well over dighty. That the peers wiil now accept it is
certain altho, likely enough, , ihis will only be done under protest. The
veto resolutions will as certainy be reiected and Mr. Aen veto resolutions will as certainly be rejected and Mr. Asquith will then
have to undertake the repponibility of requiring guarantes from the King have to undertake the responibility of requiring guarantees from the King
that the house of commons will prevail. What the nature of the guarantees is has not been devulged, but they can refer to only two things-the
creation of a number of new peers sufficient to overcome the Uniomin creation of a number of new peers sufficient to overcume the Uniomie
majority or to give the ministerialist proposals sanction by Royal asent. irrespective of the vote of the peers. That the King will, under present
condition conditions, consent to cither cousse can heal the the popular vote. If the
decline Mr. Asquith must resign or apperal election a third method of government is sustained at another general election a third method of
overcoming the Unionist preponderance in the house of lods will ffer overcoming the Unionist preponderance in the house of lords will offer
itself- that of limiting the writs of summons to a number that will place itself-that of liming
the Liberal peers in a majority.
What the issue of another general cection would be, were it to take place What the issue of another general ceccion would be, Unionists authoritiee admit that they can scarcely hope to gain seats enough to give an ab-
solute majority, and anything lees than that would not avail and would solute majority, and anything less than that would not avail and would
leave the parliamentary deadlock unalleviated. A further complication
 arises from the rivairy of the two Nationalist haccionss, Wr.
claims to have made many adherens during the campian he has been
conducting in Ireland, but again, Mr. Redmond's suppoott of the budget bill seems to indicate that he is satisfied his own popularity is not only anfirm that they are preparing for a general election in July which they regard as the crucial month. It is doubtful if any party really desires another election this year but events may prove too urmanageable to preo
vent an electoral reference. The United Kingdom is in the shadow of a vent an electoral reference. The United Kingdom is ine and
grave constitutional crisis which, whatever its immediate consequence.
cannot but involve a recasting of the house of lords, and either a recannot but involve a recasting of the house of lords, and ceit.
striction of its powers or the limitation of its hereditary character.


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| Auto Brings <br> Good roads，if they mean general prosperity．The automobile be ascribed to it，is the greatest influen which men of the last century reduce the hands of workers． <br> If there are a few minor，defect on the road，even if a few＂road ho casions，the fact still remains that the indication of the intrinsic value of the whole．It is useless to try to dam up whole．It is useless to try to dam up able to project thought for a distance will go on just the same，and the roa half，will be disigned and constructed <br> That the roads，if they are to seems to be too true to be clisregard told it is likely to lay bare the enti some of the roads which seem to po realizing－a fair return on the cost． traffic is too much for certain kinds <br> Before automobiles came into these same roads，and some counties of tires in proportion to the load whis mentioned merely to indicate that trouble now complained of is the years，and long before the automobile <br> Just as it is possible to go bac that no one．ever thought of complain foresee a time when they will be so reasonable ground for complaint．Fo tion；it is necessary to remove the prone to overshadow all else，and drivers of automobiles to respect the to reciprocata． | Good Roads． <br> anything at all，represent the key to e，no matter what else of good may ance for advancement of all the devices ed from a state of chaos，or placed in <br> ts of the automobile，as it is met with hogs＂make things unpleasant on oc－ e demand for good roads is the surest he automobile industry，taking it as a p an ocean；pigmy minds may not be beyond a pug nose，but the industry ads，which are，in all truth，the other <br> be good，will have to be designed， ded any longer，and when the truth is tire absence of designing；considering ound out rather too soon to allow of It is easy enough to say that this high and it may be true that automobile of roads． <br> vogue there was trouble enough with had laws which regulated the width hich weighed them down，and is here it is easy enough to forget that the same trouble that obtained for many e was in use at all． <br> ck to a time when roads were so bad ning about them，it is now possible to o thoroly good that there will be no or the present it is a matter of educa－ last vestige of complaint which is so last vestige of complaint which is so this can be accomplished by teaching rights of others，and requesting others |
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 SOCIAL NOTES

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