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ROGERSQUE ELECTION METHODS BECOMING COMMON IN CANADA

Ottawa, March 2.—All right thinking Canadians are hostile to electoral corruption. In that fact lies the confident hope that the recent exposures of glaring instances of the grossest kind of machine politics both in province and federal by-elections will soon work their own remedy. Once alive to the true situation, patriotic Canadians will enforce decency and honesty in politics.

References need not be made to the outrageous methods by which the by-elections in Macdonald, Hechings and Chateaugay, respectively, were won for the Ottawa Government by the Rogers' "machine." These methods have already been widely discussed and condemned in the newspapers of the country. There have been of late other equally disgraceful instances of improper tactics in behalf of provincial Conservative candidates in the by-elections in Manitoba, and Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

In a provincial by-election in Nova Scotia last year an attempt was made to influence the electors by publishing to them the supplementary estimates for the riding before those estimates had been submitted to Parliament. Hon. Mr. Rogers the Minister responsible for them. In the recent by-election in Victoria Nova Scotia, a Dominion Government steamer, the Alert was used to carry Conservative workers and Conservative whiskey into that local option constituency. In the Provincial by-

election in York, N. B., promises of new Federal public works for the constituency were held out by a gentleman who said that he spoke with the authority of Mr. Rogers and a Government engineer was hurried to the spot in order to give color of sincerity to the promises.

But had as these things may have been they were trivial when compared with the methods by which the Provincial riding of Gimli, Manitoba, was won by the Rogers-Roblin "machine."

Corruption almost unbelievable was practiced last fall on behalf of E. L. Taylor, the Conservative nominee. His election was protested by the Liberals. By resort to legal technicalities, by absence from the Province at a time when it was sought to serve papers upon him. Mr. Taylor staved off the hearing of the protest until the opening of the Legislature when proceedings were automatically stayed. To put final end to the case and prevent the revelation of the methods by which the election was won, Mr. Taylor and the Rogers-Roblin "machine" relied upon the fact that the Provincial elections are to be held shortly after the close of the Legislature's session.

But this reliance in vain. The extent of the corruption practiced in Gimli has now been revealed in charges made in the Legislature by T. H. Johnson, a Liberal member. Mr. Johnson has made his charges and has pledged his seat in the House that they are true.

What about those charges? Are they serious or trivial. The facts answer.

Mr. Johnson charges that out of a total appropriation of some \$140,000 for roads in Manitoba last year in less than \$92,000 was spent in Gimli when the "machine" set out to win the riding for Mr. Taylor. Not only is this charge made but the items in the public accounts which establish the charge have been pointed out.

Mr. Johnson charges that employees of the Government directed and carried on the campaign of corruption—bribe, intimidation, distributing liquor in local option districts, protecting law-breakers. He does more than this. He cites names, dates, places, offences.

He gives the names of Provincial Constables, Road Inspectors and other employees of the Manitoba Government, who gave money and liquor to electors. He tells of whiskey distributed among foreign voters in oil cans and in barrels marked "salt pork." He tells of J. F. Lauzon, a former Conservative of the Manitoba Legislature, offering money to electors. He cites the case of a man to whom Mr. Lauzon offered no less than \$300. He tells of the distribution of whiskey on Sundays as well as week days. Bringing the matter directly home to Mr. Taylor, Mr. Johnson cites the case of an elector, who had liquor which the man himself said he had received from Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Johnson had spoiled the "machine's" plan of preventing exposure. He had made the facts public and under circumstances which make it impossible to believe that they believe that they are other than he has stated them to be; a man does not pledge his seat in Parliament unless he is sure of his ground. Mr. Johnson has shown that Gimli was won by the Rogers-Roblin "machine" by means of a veritable carnival of election criminality.

The toleration of such methods as those outlined above must put a premium on crookedness in politics and makes the election trickster and scoundrel the man of power and the honorable citizen a man of no influence in the affairs of his country.

Whether followed by Grit or by Tory, such methods merit only the severest condemnation. But they have become more frequent and their use more brazen since men of the Rogers' school of politics gained power in Dominion and Provincial affairs. Conditions will grow worse, not better unless the right-minded Conservatives join with opponents of the Ottawa Government in teaching the Ministry's election "expert" the lesson which is imperatively necessary in the public interest.

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THE HOBBLE SKIRT INTERFERES WITH COMMERCIAL LIFE

The knell of the hobble-skirt has been sounded.

The tight fitting skirt which has for so long been popular is really and truly disappearing and the summer will see the beginning of a new fashion, less—well less scanty.

For seven long years the hobble-skirt has reigned. And loud has been the chorus of lamentation which has gone up from the textile trades.

Only yesterday, Mr. Walter E. Lansdel in regretting at the meeting of Crocker, Sons and Company, Ltd., wholesale warehouseman, the poor results of the year's working, pointed out that a good deal of their trade depended on the fashions of the moment, and said that their greatest difficulty was the paucity of clothing worn by the women of today.

But, he went on, the indications in the coming fashions were that more material would be put into dresses in the near future, and he believed that the present year would be more satisfactory.

A DIFFERENCE TO BUSINESS.

Later, Mr. Lansdel frankly confessed to The Daily Mirror that the tight-fitting skirt had meant a big difference to such business as his.

"It is not only the question of the tight fitting skirt itself," he said, "but it is also the general lack of clothes and material which go with it."

"In the first place no lining is ever used with the tight skirt. Before it came into being skirts always had linings."

"Then very little—extremely little—clothes are worn under the tight skirt, which is practically only a sort of sheath in many cases. All this lack of material tots up, and makes a big difference to the textile trade."

HOBBLED INDUSTRY.

"But things are going to change. I have this on the very best authority and some of the Paris fashion plates are already showing the change. Skirts are to be more voluminous, and fuller over the hips—the lampshade fashion. And we shall be coming back to the more normal state of things which existed in 1907 just before the hobble-skirt really started."

Another big warehouseman told The Daily Mirror: "The hobble skirt has really hobbled the textile industry. For every seven to eight yards were required for a dress, but now four and sometimes three and a half, only are wanted. These reductions have very considerably affected the woollen and silk industries, and have about cut in half the undershirt and lining trades."

UNDERSKIRTS NOT NEEDED

"Under hobble conditions women do not want underskirts at all. The hobble may have displayed the 'beauty' of a woman's figure, but the feminine form is better divined than brutally outlined. It is merely an aberration. The fashion has overreached itself."

Whether women will welcome the passing of the hobble is another matter.

It has bound their legs together, and forced them to walk with crippled toddling footsteps, making them quite unfit to cope with the accidents and incidents of the streets. They have fallen upstairs and downstairs, and they have ripped their dresses at the knees when merely getting into a carriage. And they have been killed through wearing the skirt.


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