

DISEASES OF THE BODY POLITIC.

Terrible Word Picture of American Conditions.

Sydney Brooks Says the U. S. is a Dangerous Criminal Oligarchy.

These wretched insurance scandals, this spectacle of men high in the commerce and public life of the United States using the accumulated wealth of millions of policyholders for their personal gain, these multiplying tokens of corruption, lawlessness and a stony materialism are they, I wonder, beginning to impress even the mercurial optimism of Americans with some sense of anxiety and doubt? They well might. It would indeed be difficult to point to a country where the body politic is more manifestly diseased than in America.

Only the grosser symptoms are discernible three thousand miles away, and the grosser symptoms by the very fact of their grossness tend to cure themselves. It is the everyday conditions that matter, the evils that a blunted national conscience has come to endure with scarcely a pang, almost, indeed, without realizing that they are evils. What we are witnessing in the case of the American insurance companies is no more than the culmination under circumstances of peculiar iniquity of a spirit of illicit gain, the spirit, as Americans call it, of "graft."

APPALLINGLY EXTENSIVE.

It is appallingly extensive, and not less appallingly extensive. One can hardly pick up an American paper from whatever State without finding traces of its workings. Within the last two years there have been three exposures of gigantic stock-company frauds, each one of them worthy to rank in rascality with the worst—it is saying a good deal—we have ever known in England.

Only a few weeks ago an official in the Department of Agriculture was convicted of selling advance information of the cotton crop reports to brokers on the Cotton Exchange. Since 1903 three United States Senators have been indicted for fraud and two have been found guilty. It is less than three years the National Post-office was proved to be a nest of corruption and jobbery. President Roosevelt has just found it necessary to dismiss the superintendent of the Government Printing Office. Philadelphia at this moment has only partially, and by the most heroic measures, loosened the hold of a band of public robbers. The present Governor of Missouri owes his position simply to the courage with which as District Attorney he exposed the rottenness of the municipality of St. Louis.

Arkansas has recently indicted four State Senators and two representatives for bribery. The California Senate has expelled four of its members for the same cause. Kansas has appropriated \$3,000 to probe well-grounded reports of official dishonesty. The District Attorney of New York was declaring the other day that the city's police force was in a formal league with thieves and murderers. Louisiana is struggling to eradicate blackmail and the protection of crime from the New Orleans police force. Wisconsin, after expelling a member of the Senate, has indicted 21 members of the Milwaukee Municipal Board. Texas is trying to round up a band of carline "graffers." Oregon is busily investigating land frauds. South Ohio and Indiana have each and all scandals on hand of greater or less magnitude; and Mr. Roosevelt has returned to Washington "to find the public service at a lower ebb than it has been for many years."

A CRIMINAL OLIGARCHY.

One immediate cause of all this is that the United States, which used to be a Government representative of the people, has become an oligarchy representative of special interests.

A powerful American writer described about a year ago, with absolute accuracy, the three classes that compose this ruling oligarchy: (1) Saloonkeepers, gamblers and others who engage in business that degrade; (2) Contractors, capitalists, bankers, financiers, company promoters, big merchants and manufacturers who can make money by getting franchises and concessions and other property of the community more cheaply by bribery than by paying the community; (3) Politicians of the classes, he went on to say, combine and get control of the party machine.

They nominate and elect men who will agree to help them rob the city or the state for the benefit of themselves, and who will agree also not to enforce the laws in regard to the various business that degrade a community. We find under various modifications this criminal oligarchy in control of many communities in the United States. We find representa-

tives of this combination in the United States Senate, among Governors of States, State legislators, mayors, aldermen, police officials. We find them among men in business life—captains of industry, bankers, street railway magnates. In short, wherever franchises or contracts of any kind are to be secured from a community, we find leading citizens in the ring to rob their own neighbors, managers of corporations bribing law-makers, lawyers for pay helping their clients to bribe safely, juries refusing to render just verdicts.

GRAFT EVERYWHERE.

That is not an exaggerated picture. The alliance between organized wealth and conscienceless political leadership is the determining and constant factor of American public life. From the smallest municipality in the country up to the United States Senate there is not an elected body of any kind that does not contain some members who are the nominees and representatives of one or other of the trusts, and charged with the well-understood mission of protecting its interests at any cost. The moral lawlessness thus engendered engenders in its turn physical lawlessness.

Is it a small fact for instance, that 3,337 persons should have been lynched in the United States between 1882 and 1903? Is it a small fact that the numbers of murders and homicides should now be four and a half times as great for each million of the population as it was twenty years ago—that between eight and ten thousand Americans should be annually murdered?—Is it a small fact that the present Secretary of War, himself a lawyer and an ex-judge, should feel impelled to describe the administration of criminal law in America as "a disgrace to our civilization," and should be able to prove his contention by an irrefutable appeal to the judicial records?

Since 1885 there have been in the United States 131,551 murders and homicides and 2,286 executions. In 1885 the number of murders was 1,808. In 1904 it had increased to 8,482. The number of executions in 1885 was 108. In 1904 the number was 110.

These are terrible facts and they raise terrible problems. A detached political scheme, an atmosphere of private and public corruption and lawlessness, an inefficient judiciary, and surrounding and permeating everywhere else, a spirit of materialism more crude, more grasping, more pitiless than any the world has yet experienced—whether will so portentous a combination lead? No one can pretend to say. Even Americans do not attempt with any confidence to forecast the future of their civilization; the data are perhaps too many, the conditions too novel and complex.

MENACING POSSIBILITIES.

The industrial future alone is full of menacing possibilities. Labor in America, already violent in its methods, is just becoming conscious both of politics and economics; conscious, that is to say, that by organization it may hope to control the ballot box, and conscious, too, that there is something for it to learn in the trusts and in Wall Street. The new American unionism is deliberately preparing to fight monopoly with monopoly. Its objective is the same as the trusts—to crush competition. One drives the independent company ruthlessly to the wall, the other painfully discourages the blackleg. The union boycotts, the trust blacklists; the union has its pickets, the trust its paid spies; each limits output; each restricts membership; one fixes a minimum wage, the other a maximum wage; both clamor for special legislation, and both, in their different spheres, seek a complete monopoly—the one of production, the other of labor.

The concentration of wealth and of management in a few hands is gradually heading off opportunity, and is giving to the struggle with labor the aspects and the ferocity of a class war; and labor, already embittered by that very lack of natural distinctions between class and class, that theoretically should soften the relations of employers and employed, the rifle and the torch, feeling that force alone can bring the high Toryism of America to its knees.

No one can contemplate these phenomena without deep misgivings, deeper in the case of America than that of any other country because of the absence of those ideals of social welfare and conduct that elsewhere might mitigate the harshness of materialism—Sydney Brooks, in The Outlook, London.

THE ROYAL CANADIANS.

Halifax Chronicle—Halifax is now the headquarters of the Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry, and the officers, non-commissioned officers and men are beginning to feel at home in the Wellington Barracks, where so many British regiments have preceded them. The R. C. R. I. as the first regular Canadian permanent regiment stationed in Halifax, the 3rd special service battalion having been, as the title indicates, a special service corps, originated for duty here, while the Imperial and Canadian troops were in South Africa and disbanded as soon as the Imperial troops came to the garri-

son again. Raw material was enlisted for the ranks, the battalion, which was chiefly made up of men who had volunteer experience, and some who had none. The men were gotten in shape in good time and the short history of the battalion creditable. But the R. C. R. I. battalion now here, is composed for the most part of officers and men experienced in soldiering though, of course there are recruits joining all the time. The regiment is not yet up to its strength, either in officers or rank and file. The officers who have nearly all taken up their quarters in the officers' building at the bar-

racks are:

Lieut. Col. R. L. Wadmore, commanding officer.
Major A. E. Carpenter, second in command.
Lieut. A. H. Borden, adjutant.
Lieut. and Brevet Capt. Nagle, acting quartermaster.
Capt. and Brevet Major Fiset.
Capt. J. H. Kaye.
Capt. F. F. Uniacke.
Capt. H. Kemmis Betty.
Capt. J. D. Doull.
Capt. A. B. B. Grey.
Lieut. J. Carlon.
Lieut. R. F. C. Horetzky.
Lieut. D. R. Papineau.
Lieut. A. K. Eaton.
Lieut. E. L. du Domaine.

Lieut. M. C. Gilkin, 1st Canadian Engineers, attached for duty.
Lieut. Col. Wadmore was appointed Lieutenant in 1883, brevet captain in 1888, brevet major R. C. R. in 1898 and brevet lieutenant colonel in 1899. He was commandant at the St. John's R. S. I. in 1898 and was appointed second in command of the 3rd R. C. R. here in 1900. He is a Northwest rebellion (1885) veteran, and has medal and clasp for the Cut Knife Hill action.

Major A. E. Carpenter was appointed lieutenant R. C. R. in 1893, and brevet captain in June, 1896, since which time he gained his majority.

Capt. and Brevet Major C. F. O. Fiset, formerly of the 9th regiment, was appointed lieutenant of the R. C. R. I. in 1891 and brevet captain in 1895. He is a Northwest rebellion veteran.

Capt. J. H. Kaye was appointed to the R. C. R. I. in February in 1898, and brevet captain in 1901, acting for a time as adjutant. He is a South African War (1899-1900) veteran, and was at Paardeberg, Feb. 1900, Priefontein, Thabochu, Israel's Port, Hout Nek and pursuit of deWet. He has the medal and four clasps.

Capt. F. F. Uniacke, formerly of this city, was gazetted lieutenant in the R. C. R. I. in December, 1899, and captain two years ago.
Lieut. A. H. Borden, the adjutant of the corps, is another young Nova Scotian who has gone in for a military life, and a relative of the gallant young Nova Scotia officer of the same name who lost his life in service in South Africa. He has taken over the duty of adjutant with great zeal and is strong on drill work.

Lieut. and Brevet Capt. Arthur Nagle, the quartermaster, is a son of the late Town Major Nagle, of the Imperial service in this city, and has been in the permanent corps for some time. He was formerly a captain in the 66th P. L. F., and in 1901 was appointed to the R. C. R., acting as adjutant.

Captain H. Kemmis Betty is also well known in Halifax. He was appointed to the R. C. R. in 1899 and promoted captain in 1900, serving with the special service battalion in this station, and later with the R. C. R.

Capt. John Doull graduated from the Royal Military College of Canada in 1894, and served in the Yorkshire Light Infantry.

Lieut. J. Carlon was appointed to the R. C. R. I. in 1901, and Lieut. du Domaine (date of the 10th), and Papineau (date of the 85th) were appointed to the Special Service Battalion here in 1900. Lieut. Carlon was appointed to the R. C. R. I. in May, 1901.

The battalion here is now about 600 strong, and the number is being increased each week. Recruit squadrons are drilling in the barracks square every day and passing after examination into the companies. The conduct of the men is good, and there has been little or no desertion since coming to Halifax.

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"I know it," was the reply, "but didn't you see her give him the wink?"

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D. POTTINGER, General Manager.

Railway Office,
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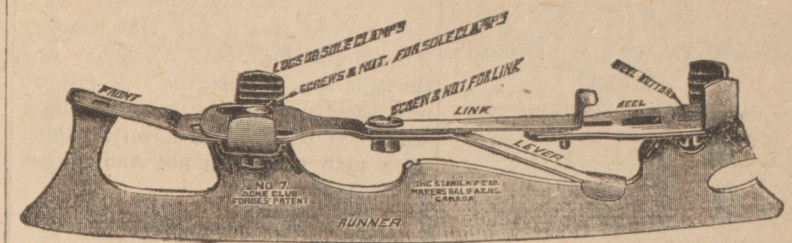
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