The Evening Times.

ST. JOHN, N. B., JULY 17, 1908

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AN ILLUMINATING SMILE

Dr. Pugsley smiled yesterday when Mr. Foster's motion to make it a crime to offer public works to constituencies as an inducement to voters, with an election pending, was voted down.

An election campaign without visions of great public works contingent upon his success would be to Dr. Pugsley a most solemn and depressing affair; with them it becomes a joy unspeakable. Whether it be a Valley Railway, a Carleton post office, miles of wharves or a dry dock, Dr. Pugsley's airy fancy can make the vision so realistic that one almost sees the finished work. Millions are but trifles when great policies begin to shape themselves in his prolific brain. Not that he would bribe a constituency. This is too sordid a suggestion. But he would lift the people up to his own lofty heights of vision, to behold the transformation to be wrought by genius with a snug majority at the polls. Public works are a necessity—and so are parliamentary majorities—why not associate the two?

It is true there are carping critics, who prate about principle and that sort of thing, after the manner of the Montreal Gazette,, which gives expression to its views in the following terms:

"The Graphic of Campbellton, N. B., citing the number of federal public works lately constructed in its locality urges that they are a reason why in the coming parliamentary election the voters should support the candidates of the Laurier government. The Graphic's appeal is not new, nor is it characteristic of any particular locality. As parties cease to represent principle those who manage their affairs and profit from their existence look for other means to influence the voters in their favor. This association with the local expenditure of money is the usual recourse for those who have nothing else to say for themselves. It is coupled usually with another proposition, namely, that the constituency which elects a supporter of the government is entitled to warm sympathy when it presents a claim for some local outlay, while that which shows its independence by returning whomsoever it chooses as a representative can expect only cold justice. It assumes that the public revenue and the proceeds to taxation are the perquisites of the men who happen to be in power and that these men are justified in using the national resources for the purpose of aggrandising their political opponents. As is natural enough, also, the weaker a government and its supporters feel themselves to be, the more do they seek to present themselves in the role of dispensers of the national bounty. Usually it is the task of the Minister of Finance to check the demands of sections of the public for the money that belongs to the whole public, and some men who have occupied the office have won honorable reputations for penuriousness in the connection. Mr. Fielding, however, is of another kind. When he was head of the Nova Scotia government the expenditure and the debt of the province steadily grew larger, though all the time the population of the province was practically standing still. His outlays helped his party, perhaps, but not the country. He has continued at Ottawa the same line of policy. And because he wanted much for Nova Scotia he has had to consent to giving much to the representatives of other provinces. In Quebec some of the results have been seen in wharves over which no trade ever passes, and sometimes where no trade can come to them by water, or on ponds that are only used for pleasure craft. Other works have been constructed on non-navigable rivers. Post office buildings have been erected at considerable cost in villages which could be effectively served, like thousands of other places, from the side of a country store. The effect is first wasteful of public money and then destructive of public opinion, working as it does to create a class of voters who regard a few dollars of local expenditure more important than the public welfare, and degrading parliamentary life to a game of grab. Where people stop to think what the meaning is of such appeals as that of the Graphic, they can hardly fail to be impressed with the view that it is time to change an administration whose supporters can only say for it that it is a free spender of money among those who give it their favor."

The words of the Gazette are interesting, of course, but the memory of them fades before the illuminating smile of Dr. Pugsley.

THE POWER OF LABOR

The extent to which labor organizations control the situation in the United States is set forth in a remarkable statement made a few days since by Vice President Brown of the New York Central Railway, in reply to a protest by the Manufacturers Association of New York against an increase in freight rates. Mr. Brown states that, while there has been no appreciable advance in the basis of freight rates between New York and Chicago for thirty years, there has been in the last fifteen years an increase of 33 1-2 to 50 per cent. in wages, and an advance in almost every class of materials consumed by railroads of 50 to 100 per cent., and in taxes of 95 per cent. He argues that despite increased tonnage and increased efficiency the present conditions are such that there must either be an increase in freight rates or a "very substantial reduction in wages of railroad employes," which early last year were increased approximately $100,000,000 per annum. He advocates the increase in freight rates, and would leave wages as they are, for reasons which are thus stated:

"I want to say that I fear the Debs strike, bad as it was, would be like a summer shower compared with the blackness of the storm which confronts the business interests of the country if the railroads are compelled to attempt to enforce a general reduction of wages. Union labor was never so well organized, never so united, and never so abundantly able from a financial standpoint to oppose what they would honestly believe to be an uncalled for reduction, and organized railroad labor would have the united support of every department of organized labor of the nation."

The New York Journal of Commerce comments on Mr. Brown's practical admission, that the railroads dare not attempt to reduce wages, in this scornful fashion:

"What this amounts to is a statement that at the height of railroad prosperity, when traffiic was overwhelming the roads and it was hard to get labor enough, organized labor in the railroad service took advantage of the opportunity to add $100,000,000 a year to the cost of that service in labor alone, with the powerful influence of the government to back it and the terrible weapon of a general strike that would paralyze business to enforce its demand. Within a year comes a violent reaction, a depression in business, a tremendous falling off in traffic and in railroad earnings, and yet it is assumed that there can be no recession in the scale of wages. Here again that formidable power of organized labor, still with the sympathy and support of public officials and politicians behind it, is invoked in a plea that freight charges must be increased because wages cannot be reduced. Reduction in wages of railroad employes could become effective, says Mr. Brown, only 'at the end of a conflict with organized labor, widespread, prolonged, and which would cost the business interests of the nation ten times the amount involved in any posisble increase in freight rates.' The Debs strike, which fourteen years ago 'stunned the business of the country,' with its riots, disorder and destruction of property, would, he says, be 'like a summer shower compared with the blackness of the storm which confronts the business interests of the country if the railroads are compelled to attempt to enforce a general reduction of wages.' In other words, this representative spokesman of the railroad interests of the country confesses that they are terrorized by the labor unions, and cower before them with craven submission, preferring to levy extra tribute upon the business of the country in the cost of transportation in time of depression and dullness, rather than attempt to get any concession from the wages extorted in time of exceptional propsperity. It is plainly implied that they dare not make the attempt because the potent influence of the government is on the side of the employes and there would be no bulwark of authority to resist the storm that might be precipitated upon the business interests of the country. This is a confession that those interests are at the mercy of the unions in the railroad service, reinforced by organized labor generally, and that there is no courage extant for resisting its power."

The Journal, which speaks for the shipper, and is not in sympathy either with the railroad companies or their employes, points out that the unfortunate shipper is between two combines—one of capital and the other of labor, and has no way of escape from the deadlock. It is, to say the least, a remarkable tribute to the growing strength of organized labor that such an admission as that of Vice President Brown should be made thus openly to the public.

The provincial government will pay one-third of the cost of the Courtenay Bay borings, providing the total cost is not above $10,000. Doubtless the work will soon be begun.

The report of Auditor Miller is a severe condemnation of the loose methods of book-keeping at Fredericton for years prior to the defeat of the Robinson government.

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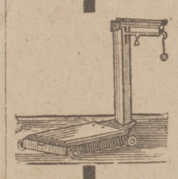
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HOME THAT IS WRONG

There's a boy on the street
Who is idling his time,
Who possesses no life for a game,
The language he speaks
Is most filthy, most foul,
He frequently uses God's name
He is young, yet in evil
He's learned and wise.
What is wrong with the boy?
'Tis the home that is wrong.

There's a boy at the club.
He is there just as soon
As the school is dismissed for the day
He runs in his house,
Grabs his ball and is off
With the bunch to engage in his play.
He comes home for supper,
Then tears off again
What is wrong with the boy?
'Tis the home that is wrong.

There are boys everywhere
With the exception of home,
There are boys at the concerts and shows,
There are boys at the club,
On the field, the street,
There are boys every place where one goes.
At home they are boarding;
They sleep there and eat.
What is wrong with the boys?
'Tis the homes that are wrong.

Ask yourself of your son:
"Do we want him around?
Are we pleasant in word and in deed?
Are there games he may play?
Do we play with him?
Are there books he desires to read?"
Oh, what is the reason
He stays not at home?
What is wrong with the boy?
'Tis the home that is wrong.

When he busies himself
At his portion of work,
And he succeeds in getting it done
May he ask his friends
To come in and enjoy
An evening of frolic and fun?
Does he find fun at home,
Or outside his home?
He goes where his heart is.
The home must be wrong.

—Arnold N. Hoath.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

EASY.

Rocker—"Doing wrong is simply following the line of least resistance."

Knocker—"Yes, it's as easy as falling off the Decalogue."—Life.

FUN AHEAD.

The Boy (fervently)—"You are the first and only girl I ever loved, Ethel."

She—"Ah, what lots of fun you have ahead of you, Freddy!"—London Opinion.

NOT WORTH IT.

Young Fitznoodle (with a yawn)—"Ya-as, weally, it costs five thousand a year just to live, don't y'know."

Farmer Hardpan—"Don't ye pay it! 'Tain't wuth it."—Judge.

CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE.

Mother—"Are you sure that the girl will make you a good wife?"

Son—"Sure? Absolutely certain. She is the most kindly, generous, considerate, tender-hearted girl I ever met in my life."

Mother—"I am delighted to hear that. How did you find it out?"

Son—"By asking her for kisses."

NONE OF HIS BUSINESS.

(Scene—Farmers' dinner tables well filled). Chairman—"Mr. Thamson, please tae say the grace."

Mr. Thamson, with bent head, commences to whisper to himself.

Farmer next to him—"Speak out, Thamson!"

Mr. Thamson—"Shut up; I'm no' speakin' tae you."

CHALKING UP A RACE.

Two Irishmen were about to run a race to a certain tree by different routes. Suddenly, Mike slapped Pat on the back and asked how they were to tell who reached the destination first. After as moment' thought Pat answered:

"I tell yez, Mike, if I get there first, I'll make a mark on that tree with this chalk, and if you get there first you can rub it out."—Judge.

THE OLD TROUBLE.

(M. A. P.)

Lord Palmerston and Sir J. Paget, who told the story, were walking down Bond street. A man came up and saluted the statesman, "How do you do, Lord Palmerston?"

"Ah, how do? Glad to see you. How's the old complaint?"

The stranger's face clouded over and he shook his head. "No better."

"Dear me; so sorry; glad to have met you. Good-bye."

"Who's your friend?" asked Sir James, when the stranger had gone.

"No idea."

"Why, you asked him about his old complaint."

"Pooh, Pooh!" replied the other, unconcernedly; "the old fellow's well over sixty; bound to have something the matter with him."

THE CHICAGO BRAND OF CANNED RELIGION

(Victoria Colonist.)

Chicago seems likely hereafter to get its religion canned. The Rev. Jenkin Lloyd Jones, who is in charge of All Souls church in that city, is greatly pleased with the suggestion that during the hot season ministers should dictate their sermons to a phonograph, and then go off for a holiday, leaving the machine in charge of some one, who could start it at the appropriate time. "It's a brilliant idea," he says, "one that makes for the comfort of the minister and does not deprive his congregation of the benefit of his advice." Already, we are told, a number of ministers have dictated their sermons to phonographs. While they are about it they might as well dictate their prayers to a machine. True, we are all very sad when we read of the benighted heathen who have prayer wheels, but there is a difference between a prayer wheel and a phonograph, and if you are unable to see that the latter is in keeping with the worship of the Almighty, while the former is an abomination and an invention of the Evil One, it is because you are not up-to-date in your religious ideas. But Mr. Lloyd Jones is not as advanced as he thinks he is. Years ago, a man, whose religious ideas did not permit him to omit his nightly prayer, but whose bedroom was cold, wrote out the prayer on a card and pinned it on his bedpost. Then, after he had undressed, he pointed to the card and exclaiming "Lord, them's my sentiments," hopped under the bedclothes. But the scheme of Mr. Lloyd-Jones is instinct with boundless possibilities. It could be so developed that most of the parsons could be dismissed, and a series of syndicate churches could be established, after the plan of syndicate newspapers. Some talented parson could be employed to write out good prayers and sermons, and then some one with a big voice could talk them into a phonograph, and the records could be sent out weekly to the members of the syndicate, which would then not require to have any parson. Ministerial calls could be arranged through a social clearing house. After a time churches could be dispensed with altogether, and the records could be distributed among the homes of what used to be the congregation. The whole thing would be beautifully simple. The singing could be done into the machine by leading vocalists, and a high-class service would then be possible in every home in the land. This is the tendency of the latest brand of Chicago religion.

Mrs. Mary Brady, of 230 Union street had her left foot amputated in the General Public Hospital on Wednesday last. She is reported to have stood the operation well, and to be making excellent progress.

Steamer Sobo, Capt. Purce, from Bermuda, had 64 passengers, 52 of them in the saloon.

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