

The Evening Times.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER 29, 1908

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PERSONALITIES

There are not wanting indications that the present political campaign in Canada is to be marked by personalities of somewhat unusual bitterness. This is not good politics. Not only so, but the new election law takes cognizance of it in the following paragraph, to which the Times would respectfully direct the attention of eager partisans:

"False statement as to character of candidate.—Any person who, before or during any election, for the purpose of affecting the return of any candidate at such election, makes or publishes any false statement of fact in relation to the personal character or conduct of such candidate shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars and costs, or in default of payment of such fine and costs to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years and not less than six months, with or without hard labor."

CHURCH AND SOCIALISM

The feeling grows that in the work of social reform the attitude of the church must change somewhat, and its active members interest themselves more in those problems which are so vital to the great toiling masses of humanity. It is recognized that there is a very large portion of the population which is not vitally affected by church influences, and that there is a certain lack of sympathy between religious teachers and many working men. At the present moment in Canada an effort is being made to bring church workers and labor organizations into touch in the consideration of labor problems. There is much food for thought in the following article from the Victoria Colonist, dealing with conditions that exist in the east as well as in the west:

"When church work is spoken of most people think of work within the church, attention to church duties, attendance at services, taking part in meetings of various kinds, and contributing as freely as possible to the financial support of church organization. All these are very excellent things in their way. Without them the maintenance of churches as organizations would be impossible, and it is in the highest degree necessary to preserve them as organizations. But outside of the churches themselves there is a vast amount of work to be done. The parable of the marriage supper, when the command was given to go out into the highways and byways and bid people to come in, has much applicability to the conditions of today. There is a vast work for the churches to do outside of church organizations. Only those who are brought into contact with the conditions existing around us can fully appreciate what the extent and character of this work is. To those people whose religious life consists of close observance of church rules, the great untold field is an unknown quantity. In every community a spirit of irreligion is growing up. Here in the west one frequently hears the expression 'The Church people,' as though they constituted an element distinct and separate from the rest of the community and were inspired by sentiments hostile to the development of the public welfare. This is largely due to the fact that ecclesiasticism has of late been gathering its robes about itself, as if afraid they might be contaminated by coming in contact with the every day working world. Clericalism has become more of a profession than a practice. Many conspicuous exceptions can be cited, but it is unfortunately only too true that the greater body of the clergy, though never more righteous in respect to the manner of living, never more conscientious in the discharge of the duties of their holy office, are very much out of touch with the great mass of the people. Yet there never was a time when there was a greater work for the churches to do. In every walk of life there is scope for their action, and especially is it their duty to get as closely in sympathy as possible with the movement which is finding expression in labor organization and in its extreme phases results in a socialism that threatens the very foundations of human society. There is also a great work to be done among the leisure classes. They are growing irreligious. They are a long way

from being as evil as they once were, for they preserve the outward semblance of goodness, but there are signs of decay among them and the influence of the churches ought to be exerted towards arresting it."

A GERMAN PROBLEM

The following interesting review of impending fiscal changes in Germany is from Bradstreet's:

"Germany is apparently on the eve of a reorganization of its fiscal system. Early in the month an inspired article in a semi-official journal declared that the deficiencies in the revenues were such that they could no longer be evaded by the expedient of loans, and that even new taxes would not be enough, but that the whole financial system must be reorganized and placed upon a sound basis by abandoning the vicious habit of borrowing and by substituting the principle of redeeming debt for that of creating it. This matter will occupy the principal share of the attention of the Reichstag at its next session. The seriousness of the situation confronting the German treasury finds fresh expression in an article prepared by Herr Reinhold Sydow, secretary of the Imperial Treasury, for a German periodical. This official says that the depreciation in the quotations of imperial and state loans and the increased interest demanded for fresh issues render reform imperatively necessary, and that all parties are convinced of the necessity of abolishing the system of borrowing in order to carry on the government of the empire. The task is to equalize the revenue and the expenditure, even with economies in all departments, and in the next five years the deficit in the revenue as at present calculated may reach a total of \$556,000,000.

This outcome the government proposes to avert by increasing the taxation on luxuries, especially spirits, beer, tobacco, champagne and bottled wines, and by introducing general succession duties which, however, will leave small fortunes of from \$2,500 to \$5,000 untaxed, though with the proviso that in case of a person dying without a will, the state will become heir in place of distant relatives who have no real claim to inherit. It is intended also to augment the poll tax from federal states for imperial purposes. Herr Sydow declares in his article that the regulation of the imperial finances is a question of life and death for the empire and the federal states, which must be solved now or become increasingly difficult. He adds that he cannot imagine that the prosperity and the very existence of the empire, which was created at the cost of so much idealism and unselfishness and of so much labor and blood, should be jeopardized because the German people, despite their increasing wealth, are unwilling to furnish the means of subsistence."

Of the great tuberculosis congress which opened in Washington yesterday an exchange says:—"It has been said that a list of the delegates to the great International Congress on Tuberculosis at Washington would be in effect a roll of the most famous living physicians and surgeons. It would take more space than is at our disposal to enumerate the distinguished specialists who have come from abroad to participate in the work of the congress, but it may suffice to say that the world will be much the richer in medical lore because of the discussions which will take place there, and that no aspect of tuberculosis or of its treatment will be overlooked. The congress will be divided into seven sections, each of which will be presided over by an eminent physician. The congress itself will be formally opened on Monday. Meantime an exhibition has been opened in the new National Museum in the capital, at which there will be demonstrations illustrating the methods employed in fighting tuberculosis in all parts of the world. This exhibition, which will be rendered additionally interesting by lectures on various phases of the disease and its treatment, will remain open until October 12."

A very welcome sound was that which stole gradually upon the waking senses of the citizens this morning. The wind had risen, and the sound thereof was heard, and the air that was wafted in at open windows was suggestive of coming rain. With a sense of relief came the feeling that the prolonged drought was near its end, and that the parched fields and forests would soon receive the needed moisture, and the dry wells and falling streams be replenished.

A correspondent in today's Times lays much stress upon the efficacy of law in preventing political corruption. But before you can have the law you must have the public sentiment vigorously expressed to secure its enactment. In this direction purity leagues can do much educative work, and they can also aid materially in the enforcement of existing laws. As a matter of fact there is probably more respect for the law in England than on this continent.

If St. John is to handle 14,000,000 bushels of grain during the winter the elevators will be pretty well taxed. The time is not far distant when there must be more elevator space, as well as berth accommodation for steamers.

Stores open till 8 p.m.

St. John, Sept. 29, 1908.

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And it may have occurred to you that we had no other kind of Overcoats except these Black Meltons at \$12.00, \$13.50, \$15.00 and \$18.00, that are made up with the raised seams and raw edges. But we have lots of others—Black Beavers and Black Vicunas and Tweed Overcoats of many patterns.

Men's Overcoats, \$5.85 to \$20.00

Boy's Overcoats, \$3.00 to \$12.00

Also Underswear, Sweaters, Hats, Caps, Etc.

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Take your Prescription to the Druggist who compounds correctly, uses pure drugs and charges only a fair price!

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He surely means here then.

"Reliable" ROBB, The Prescription Druggist,
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YOU SMOKE TOO MUCH

The man who smokes ten-cent cigars, Or two-fers, stogies or a pipe, Who puffs inside the smoking cars— The smokestack's human prototype (Perhaps that simile's not right, But "pipe" has none too many rhymes)— Is apt to hear this day or night, Till through his memory it chimes: "You smoke too much."

If he complains about his health, And says that his digestion's bad, They drop a hint on him by stealth, And for the opening are glad: If he observes that times are hard And that he cannot save enough, With this remark they'll interlard: His constant rhythmic draw and puff: "You smoke too much."

It gets so when he misses trains, Or buys a suit that doesn't fit, Or when his taste for drama wanes, Or when he shows a caustic wit, Or when his teeth begin to ache, Some critic then is sure to shout— And this remark is what he'll make: "You smoke too much."

No matter what the poor man does, No matter what he tries to do, No matter what the poor man was, No matter what hard luck he struggles through: If he should have growing nails, Or if his eyes are growing weak, Or if his voice in singing fails, Somebody else is sure to speak: "You smoke too much."

—Chicago Evening Post.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

ONE OR THE OTHER.

Nell—"Mrs. Bugdine says she hates to have her husband out of her sight."

Belle—"He must be a very good husband or a very bad one."—Philadelphia Record.

THE STRIDES OF SCIENCE.

(London Globe.)

"I have been taking some moving pictures of life on your farm."

"Did you sketch the hired man in motion?"

"I did."

"Ah, science kin do anything these days."

THEY ALL SUFFERED.

Long—"That violinist's execution was simply marvellous."

Strong—"Wasn't it, though? You could see the audience hanging on every note."—Boston Transcript.

THE BELLS.

(Toronto News.)

The merry bells are ringing, They give me such a shock, Because they are a fixture on My ninety-eight cent clock. And oh, how bitter is my cup When they command me to get up.

THE MODERN STORY.

"How did you come to write that thrilling story, so full of absorbing heart interest?"

"Well," answered the eminent author, "the publishers wanted about 40,000 words with which to wedge the illustrations apart."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

NATURE'S JOKES.

"If plants have thoughts, feelings and emotions similar to those of human beings—"

"Well,"

"How the average canteloupes must chuckle with malicious glee at the look of disappointment on the face of the person who has just cut it open!"—Chicago Tribune.

WAS QUITE PREPARED.

(Harper's Weekly.)

"Why did you refuse me just now, dear?"

said he.

"I wanted to see how you would act," said she.

"But I might have gone without waiting for an explanation," said he.

"I had locked the door," said she.

PREPARED FOR EMERGENCIES.

(Illustrated Bits.)

Wife (at 7 a. m.)—Now, deny your condition last evening! Here you are with your hat and shoes on. Don't tell me you didn't come home the worse for drink!

Husband—Not a bit, dear. You know I have lately taken to drinking in my sleep, and I thought I'd got to bed prepared.

AN ENGLISHMAN ON

POLITICAL PURITY

St. John, Sept. 27th.

Sir.—Ere this I had expected that a Purity League would have been formed but I suppose we shall have one ere long. Poor deluded beings. They might as well do nothing. Of course both parties will promise to be good and will turn with virtuous indignation on anyone who so much as hints at bribery and will go on in their old sweet way of committing wholesale the buying of votes. The late provincial election was a case in point, both parties entered into the agreement, with what a result. Well ask the ordinary workman. It is amusing very amusing and yet the result is so simple. In England corruption is practically unknown, paying for votes, even more so. How did this desirable state of affairs come about. It was done by three acts of parliament, and by a stroke of the pen, as it were, corruption ceased. And yet we have men in St. John, sane level-headed business men, who say it is impossible to stop this. The three acts which did this were "The Secret Ballot" (1872), "The Corrupt Practices Act" (1883), and "The Civil Service Reform of 1870."

You have already the Secret Ballot so we need not pursue this.

"The Corrupt Practices Act," in 1883 Gladstone passed this strong law against bribery, treating, undue influence, personation, etc., the penalties being fine and imprisonment at hard labor and disfranchisement for seven years. A maximum was placed beyond which candidates expenses might not go and a public account had to be rendered of every cent spent. A corrupt practice by or with the knowledge and assent of candidate will prevent him for ever from holding a seat in the House of Commons. If a political agent commits a corrupt act, a candidate for whom he is working, cannot take his seat if elected. This is the vital fact in the law—A corrupt practice on behalf of a candidate even though unknown to him defeats him. Each party therefore watches the other with the utmost keenness to discover any violation of the law as that is the surest way of defeating the opposition. The forfeiture of elections and disqualification for public office have worked a revolution for purity in English politics.

Civil Service Reform has been mentioned of late in Dominion politics. Briefly put all positions in the English Civil Service are governed by competitive examination and once in the Civil Service a man of good repute stays there for ever irrespective of changes in government. Thus you get a far better man than by the corrupt practice of favoritism which prevails here. Thus by these measures England got pure government. Historians tell us that a hundred years ago English elections were the most corrupt in the world, now they are the cleanest talk of Purity Leagues rubbish. Let all candidates be asked throughout the Dominion, whether they will vote for a Corrupt Practices Act, Civil Reform after the English model. If promises are made see they are not evaded if the candidate will not promise see he is not returned. After the election press the government (whether Grit or Tory) and let them clearly see that their chances of re-election depend on their passing these bills. Once such bills are passed a revolution will be enacted in the politics of the Dominion, slander will cease to be heard. Instead we shall have men talking and thinking of better laws to be enacted and this Dominion will hold her place as one of the fairest spots on earth. I sincerely trust some abler and more influential mind than mine will take up this matter.

Yours Truly,
AN ENGLISHMAN.

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KINGS	No. 11 Germain Street
PRINCE	Sutherland Buildings, Union Street, Third Floor
WELLINGTON	Lelacheur's Hall, Brussels Street
VICTORIA	Hannah Factory, City Road
DUFFERIN	Hall 640 Main St., over R. J. Adams & Co.
LORNE, LANDSDOWNE and STANLEY	New Temple of Honor, Main Street
GUYS	Oddfellows' Hall
BROOKS	No. 18 St. John Street, West

JOHN KEEFFE, Chairman of Executive.

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