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LINDSAY, FRIDAY, JUNE 7th. '12.

#### THE CHURCH AND MODERN PROBLEMS

The bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States recently adopted this declaration:

"We live in an age in which the vast enterprises essential to the progress of the world require the association of men of large means under corporate management. Out of this necessity have grown serious wrongs and consequent resistance.

"Organized capital stands indicted at the bar of public judgment for the gravest crimes against the common welfare. Among the counts in that indictment are such as these:

"1. Conspiring to advance prices on the staple commodities indispensable to the life, well-being, and progress of the people.

"2. Resorting to adulteration of foods, fabrics, and material in order to increase profits already excessive.

"3. Destroying the competition in trade through which relief might be expected under normal conditions.

"4. Suborning legislation, and thus robbing the people of the first orderly recourse of the weak against the strong.

"These are sins against humanity. If God hates any sin above another, it must be the robbery of the poor and defenceless. Otherwise his love fails when it is most needed and might find its largest opportunity. There is no betrayal more base than that which uses the hospitality of a house to plunder its inmates, unless it be that form of treason which so perverts the purpose and machinery of popular government as to turn its power against the people who trust and support it.

This is not saying that all corporations deal treacherously with the people. There are honorable exceptions. But enough is known of the heartless greed that fattens off the hunger-driven millions to warrant the strongest protective associations on the part of the people.

The New York Outlook, in commenting on the same, says: "We recall no utterance that states with more clearness, more cogency and with more moral and religious feeling the verdict of enlightened consciences

#### LAND SPECULATION

In his annual address as general manager of the Imperial Bank of Canada, Mr. D. Wilkie sounds a note of warning. For some time to come the country may continue to experience increasing prosperity. But this very prosperity has induced a feverish desire for inordinate gain, which shows itself in a saturnalia of speculation in city property. "From Atlantic to Pacific," he says, "values have advanced 200, 300, 400 and even 500 per cent. Enormous profits have been realized and enormous obligations incurred." The spread of this wanton spirit brings perplexity to bankers, who "find it difficult to prevent customers engaged in legitimate purposes using their commercial credits in the purchase of land for which they have no legitimate use." He would not be surprised to hear of failures and defalcations as a result of speculation in real estate, "and of a waste of capital which must result from the investment of borrowed money in ventures that bring in no immediate revenue, the reinstatement of the invested capital in legitimate business being dependent upon realization at higher figures than cost."

The warning is needed. Rapidly as the country is growing in population and wealth, it is to be feared that in some quarters people are going beyond all reason in anticipating the future. The lesson of Manitoba in the eighties ought not to be forgotten. Everybody then was going to be rich in a few years through the boom in land values and there are men of excellent business ability who were so unnerved by the shock when the inevitable crash came that they have never attempted anything similar since.

Of course there are circumstances favoring the view that the present buoyancy of land values will not soon come to an end. Vast amounts of capital are being expended in railway construction. British and American capital is being attracted by our now properly appreciated resources. Immigration is streaming into our prairie provinces. But let it be remembered that the new transcontinental railway systems are nearing completion, and construction will continue only on branches, and that at the first symptom of reaction or distress the flow of capital and immigration will be diminished. Vacant farm lands cannot become scarce, as in the Peace River Valley and the Mackenzie basin there is an unlimited supply after the Saskatchewan valley is exhausted. As for city lots, every railway divisional point cannot become a metropolis, and local optimism must be heavily discounted.

Mr. Wilkie is right, says the Hamilton Spectator. It may be well to spread all sail while the skies are clear, but care should be taken to be ever ready for any sudden squall.

#### JAPAN'S SURPLUS POPULATION

will quarrel over the flesh pots have it out. The government has had nearly enough of it. The end is in sight.

#### ALBETA'S VERDICT

The Sifton Government carried the five bye-elections in Alberta this week. This illustrates the feeling of the people in the west. When Saskatchewan is heard from the result will afford very little comfort to the Conservatives. The handwriting is on the wall.

#### HUNGRY OFFICE SEEKERS

The hunger of the Conservatives for patronage leads the Montreal Witness to compare them with certain unpleasant denizens of the deep. In speaking of the recent disturbance over the loot in Halifax the Witness says:

"With hungry maw the sharks swarm open mouthed looking for bait. It is a horrid sight. They would tear at the very heart of their own party to obtain an easy and secure living.

#### LIVED UP TO TRADITIONS

In his recent address at the dinner of the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights in London, Mr. Winston Churchill referred briefly to the Titanic catastrophe, saying:

"I cannot omit a reference to the good and seamanlike behaviour which was displayed on the occasion of the sinking of the Titanic by the officers and seamen of the British merchant service, on whom the Royal Navy will count so much and draw so large a prejudice the findings of the Court, which is now investigating the causes of the catastrophe and endeavoring to assign responsibility so far as human responsibility for it can be said to lie. But I venture to think that I am expressing the opinion and sentiment of this distinguished gathering if I say that the story of what happened after the accident had occurred is one to which the men and women of our stock will often be content to recur. It is a story which shows that even in these modern times, when we are asked to believe there is much decadence, our countrymen do not abandon women in danger or pursue a man in adversity." (Cheers.)

#### THE TREATING SYSTEM

The "Dutch treat"—that is every man paying for his own liquor—seems booked for legal enactment. No one will view this body blow

#### A DAMNABLE SYSTEM

The Montreal Star regrets that parliament is not sitting so that it might give effect in legislation to the views of some men and ministers in legislation.

"But the leaders could get in touch with each other very quickly," says the Star, "and a combined pronouncement would put the 'patronage' hunters to flight. Even a strong utterance by one set of leaders would probably force the hands of the others. Public opinion is ready to back such an utterance very vigorously, and politicians ought to know that the time to lead public opinion is when it wants to be led. The sitting ministers would be great gainers by such a step. The leaders of the opposition would be gainers in anticipation. The country would gain all along the line. No one would lose but the political 'scavengers,' who are always nosing around after the 'carion' provided by a party victory."

The theory is all right, says the Kingston Whig, but only when men are in opposition. The men who now compose the government were red hot for civil service reform. Mr. Borden wanted it extended to all branches of the public service. In power, however, he will cling to the patronage hunters, and offered no objection when the heads of faithful officials were being cut off. For a time there was a shameful trafficking in offices, and that the patronage fiends have gone too far as evidenced by the denunciation of Mr. Foster. The business is damnable in his opinion, and it is all he pictured it to be.

The Star would like to see the parties unite in a plan to have no more of it, but it kept wonderfully quiet during the time the slaughter of officials was going on and it is moved now only because the patronage scandal has become intolerable.

The Liberals have suffered from the unreasonable attitude of the government, by the abandoning of its members to the worst phases of the patronage system, and they can afford to sit still and let those who



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with more sorrow and anger than the "sponger."—Hamilton Spectator. The Spectator seems to think that Premier Whitney's anti-treating legislation will prove a boon to the community. Even if the abolition of the treating system could be brought about it would only remove one of the effects of the indulgence in drink. The abolition of the bar would remove the cause of such conditions.

#### MR. MABEE'S SUCCESSOR

Brantford Expositor: "Mr. Borden has not yet found a chairman for the railway commission in succession to the late J. P. Mabee. It's a testing time for the new premier, because he must now show whether he is a time-serving politician or a real statesman. It is to be hoped that the selection, when made, will be such as to command the confidence of the entire country."

If Mr. Borden lives up to the reputation he has achieved since assuming the role of premier, the chairman selected is bound to be one of the faithful. That is Mr. Borden's great weakness.

#### THE PATRONAGE EVIL

Montreal Gazette: If a good man like Mr. Foster condemns a thing as "damnable" the expressions of an ordinary or a wicked person would be an incitement to violence and possibly unprintable.

Mr. Foster must have heard of the wholesale decapitations in the Midland District when he made that statement. It is a strong expression, especially for a Conservative cabinet minister to use in condemning an evil of which his own party is responsible.

#### HOPEFUL SIGNS IN IRELAND

It is announced that Premier Asquith will attend the Liberal National demonstration in Dublin on July 19, and deliver an address. It is said that this will be the first time in history that a British Prime Minister has addressed a meeting in Ireland during his term of office. Surely it is a hopeful sign and certainly not a sign of separation. Another hopeful sign is that outside of Ulster Ireland is united in support of the present home rule measure as it was never united before. And even in Ulster public opinion is about evenly divided.

Ulster sends about thirty-three members to the British House of Commons—seventeen Unionists and sixteen Nationalists. The total vote of the province, however, is in favor of Home Rule.

#### AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS

A Chicago Judge has held that an automobilist who runs down and kills a person may be charged with an assault with a deadly weapon. This is no joke, either, says the Kingston Whig. Perhaps the best way to put an end to this joy riding would be to convict the automobilist criminally and at the same time confiscate his automobile.

There is some likelihood that legislation will be introduced at the next session of the Provincial Legislature compelling automobilists to pass a certain examination before they are allowed to operate cars.

#### MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Woodstock Express. Some people in Guelph, we are told, have begun to think seriously of a change in the system of civic

government. Mayor Thorpe, in his inaugural address at the beginning of the year, introduced the subject, and one of the aldermen has followed up the suggestion since with a proposal for the substitution of the commission system for the present method.

The Guelph Herald, commenting on the situation says that Guelph is as well endowed with council administration as any other municipality in Canada; many good men have given of their time and ability at the council board; yet every year has had its quota of irremediable and costly mistakes, some due to carelessness, but the majority the result of a system that permits of scarcely any continuous direction of affairs because of the everlasting change in the personnel of the council board and the thought which permeates the whole system of the votes that may be secured by this or that move in the council. The Herald concludes that "commission government by a few men, paid for their service and devoting their time to the administration of civic affairs, will, we believe, ultimately prevail." The question is whether the time is not already ripe and it commends the alderman who has taken the first step towards placing the matter before the people in concrete form.

Whether or not the commission form of government is all that its advocates declare it to be, is a question in regard to which there may be room for some difference of opinion; the fact that there is a growing demand for it, however, may be taken as a welcome indication of a real awakening of public interest in the matter of municipal government. The demand for the commission system is simply a demand for efficiency. The representative system in the form of the municipal council has been fully tried and even its most enthusiastic advocates will scarcely claim that it has given entire satisfaction. In the United States it is frankly admitted by serious students of present day conditions that the old system has completely broken down. In Canada perhaps the record of failure does not stand out so conspicuously as it does among our neighbors; yet even in Canada it would probably be generally conceded that the popular system has been marked by deplorable waste of time, of money and of effort.

Commission government, so far as it has been tried, is said to have given very general satisfaction. Of course, like all other human institutions it is subject to the defects of human nature. Mistakes may be made in the selection of commissioners; mistakes may be made by the commissioners after they are selected; but, taking one thing with another, it is generally agreed that the commission system makes for efficiency. It is a business system. It seeks to place the administration of municipal affairs on a business basis. The theory is that men who are chosen for their special ability, who are required to devote their whole time to the public service, who are paid for their work and expected to make good, will naturally produce better results than men who are chosen in a haphazard way—often largely because of their ability to give to the public service only a portion of the time they can spare from their own business affairs, who give their service gratuitously for the most part, and whose reward unusually consists in a small measure of honor and a liberal installment of criticism.

#### TO DEVELOP CITIZENS

"Citizen-making" was the subject of a stimulating address at the Teachers' convention, by Mr. G. E. Elliott, of Kingston. "If," he said, "we can school the Dominion's boys and girls in wholesome honesty, courage and fidelity, and with consciences quick to discern the right and to do it, we need not fear that the advancement of our homeland will be put upward and forward. We have the opportunity to do it in this free land; we must strike hard to save our children for the best and purest, since the puritan and vile in life, in character and in outlook is pressing hard upon us in these fitful times. Never before have we, as Canadians, had such forces of evil to face, to conquer or subdue. To-day and with the coming generation must the seed be sown, so that the conflict to be waged against these evils will be won, and brighter, happier and sweeter days will be theirs in which to swing this Dominion into the glorious circle of the coming nations."

He suggested the spending of \$10,000 for five years by the Government in an educational campaign in Canada, as it gives money for cultivating agricultural, mechanical and commercial advancement. The need of moral training was set forth, and the speaker asked whether it might not happen that in our efforts to keep all conditions of religion and morals in what we consider their proper place they

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## OBITUARY

MRS. JAS. ROBERTS  
Eldon Station, May 30.—It is with regret that we have to chronicle the death of Mrs. James Roberts, who passed away last Sunday morning after only an illness of one week's duration. She leaves to mourn her a loving husband and two girls, Minnie, 6 years, and Jessie, 4 years of age, and an infant. They have the sympathy of the community in their sad bereavement.

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