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Our Ottawa Letter.

What object could Minister Foster have had in view when he stated a few days ago in London that the \$12,500,000 loan he was placing on the English market was for the purpose of paying off loans as well as for canal enlargement, while he now tells us that there will be no conversion of the Canadian loans but that, considering the present conditions, the present loan will be applied to public works. He first told us that the new loan was going to be largely applied to paying off or reducing our national debt; now he says our debt is to be increased to the extent of the loan, \$12,500,000. He has floated his loan and to the credit of the country the price is satisfactory. But is it not amusing to hear govern-ment organs and cabinet ministers pointing to the fact as an evidence of the good results of Tory rule and the confidence British capitalists have in their adminis-tration of public affairs in Canada. Dear friend if they find a grain of consolation in this fact it is a pity to disturb their temporary enjoyment, although those who have impartially watched the drift of public opinion on the other side of the Atlantic know full well that it is not the possibility of a continuance of Conserva-tive Government in Canada that has raised our foreign credit, but the unmis-takable evidence that it has nearly reached the end of its tether and that an honest government is soon to supplant it. We have a mixed combination in the political field just now, and if out of the aggregation an economical and honest form of government cannot be devised it is time we sold out to the United States or Hawaii or anyone else who will take us. We have Liberals and Conservatives, Patrons and "P. P. A's," McCarthyites and Prohibitionists, French and English, Catholic and Protestant, Purity and Corruption and where will they land us? What we are most interested in now is not in knowing whether we have a majority of Catholics or Protestants, French or English, but what form of government will insure us an honest administration of our affairs; reduced taxation and a steady and permanent development of our country. We want no fictitious values. We find in the Patron platform many of the traits that would bring us the desired result; so we do in the plat-form laid down by Dalton McCarthy, re-sults the Liberal party has for years been fighting to obtain. But here is where the difficulty comes in, for while many Liberals would join with either of these new elements in Canadian politics to overthrow the government, who, aided by high protective duties, have been robbing the country for years, by so doing they would split up the ranks of those who seek honest government and thus ensure the return to power of the very ones they hope to depose. It has been repeatedly pointed out that there are constituencies where Patron candidates should be left the field to themselves to fight out the question of high tariff or low tariff with their op-ponents, and the same will be said of the candidates McCarthy has placed in the field. On the other hand both the Patrons and McCarthyites should refrain from running candidates where the least doubt exists as to their being able to carry the constituency. Having made up your mind that you want a change of government; that you desire to have the money you are compelled to pay into the treasury cut down to the very lowest possible figures, and that the money shall be wisely and honestly expended, you should sink all other considerations and unite and work to that end. That is the one point upon which Liberals, Patrons and McCarthyites can unite, for all are looking to the one object. The danger lies in dividing the ranks of those who espouse these principles. It is in unity alone we find strength. Let those who want revenue for revenue (and not for corruption) purposes only; who want economical and honest government unite their forces, sink every other consid-eration to secure the administration of our public affairs on these lines.

You have every evidence before you that the government is going to make a desperate bid for another lease of power; for another five years the grip on the treasury and on the taxes they will be able to extort out of you to enrich them-selves and friends, and to leave you on the threshold of the poor-house. Never in the history of the country have there been so many public works in contempla-tion. Is it that it is only now that the government has discovered the necessity of these works, just at a time when the country is crying out against the burdens of taxation that have been imposed upon them? No, it is political expediency and not public necessity that demands the enormous expenditures these works must entail. There will be a shortage of at least three million dollars in the treasury this year, yet the Government instead of retrenching launch out more lavishly than ever before in their desperation to buy your confidence. It is certainly a serious commentary on your honesty

when you see the estimation in which the Government holds you.

The approaching election will cost the taxpayers of Canada many millions of dollars. When you for a moment con-sider that not only is the Liberal party arrayed against the Government but that the Patrons and McCarthyites are fight-ing on the same side in the hope of strik-ing the death blow at exorbitant taxation and corruption, it is clearly apparent that the Government's legitimate majority must be swept away, and that their only hope lies in riding back to power in the palace cars of the manufacturer and con-tractor, whose pockets they have been able to well line while they controlled the treasury.  
Ottawa, Nov. 3rd.

The third page of the Toronto *Daily Mail* is noted for "Want" advertisements. If you want a situation, a mechanic, a business, machinery, lodging, if you have lost or found anything, or if you want to find out where anyone is, advertise in the *Toronto Daily Mail*, and read the ad-vertisements on the third page of that paper. The charge is two cents a word each insertion, or ten cents a word for six insertions. Address *The Mail*, Toronto, Canada.

Patron Meeting

The meeting of the West York Patrons of Industry held in the Masonic Hall last evening was well attended. The chair was taken by Mr. E. H. Sisley, who, in introducing the speakers, made some pointed remarks on patronism and what it was doing in this country.

Mr. Holmes, a labor candidate from Toronto, was the first to address the meeting. He was followed by Mr. D. W. Clubine, organizer for Richmond Hill and vicinity.

The chairman invited any of Mr. N. C. Wallace's friends to take the platform in his behalf, but getting no response he called upon Mr. John Brown, the Patron candidate for West York, to give an address.

Mr. Brown on rising was well received. He showed what he thought to be im-portant differences between the Patron platform and that of the other political parties, and contended that Patronism had nothing to apologize for. He then took up the various planks of the platform as adopted by the Grand Asso-ciation, with the exception of a few of the planks that do not enter into Domini-on politics. He stated that during the past ten years fifty millions of acres had been given away by the Government, and thought it was time that bonusing rail-way corporations should stop. The speaker also severely criticized the French Treaty with Canada, and before closing, entered pretty fully into the waterways and cheap transportation question. Mr. Brown stated that at present it cost as much to carry wheat from Richmond Hill to Toronto as it did from Duluth to New York. He had no faith in the \$750,000 Government grant annually for a fast At-lantic service, and said he had been told that \$200,000 of that amount would go into the fund for bribing electors.

The following is the platform which the speaker said he was prepared to support in every particular:

1. Maintenance of British connection.
  2. The reservation of the public lands for the actual settler.
  3. Purity of administration and absolute independence of Parliament.
  4. Rigid economy in every department of the public service.
  5. Simplification of the laws and a general reduction in the machinery of Government.
  6. The abolition of the Canadian Sen-ate.
  7. A system of Civil Service Reform that will give each county power to ap-point or elect all county officials paid by them except County Judges.
  8. Tariff for revenue only, and so ad-justed as to fall as far as possible upon the luxuries and not upon the necessities of life.
  9. Reciprocal trade upon fair and equitable terms between Canada and the world.
  10. Effectual legislation that will pro-tect labor, and the results of labor, from those combinations and monopolies which unduly enhance the price of the articles produced by such combinations or mo-nopolies.
  11. Prohibition of bonusing railways by Government grants as contrary to the public interest.
  12. Preparation of the Dominion and Provincial voters' lists by the municipal officers.
  13. Conformity of electoral districts to county boundaries, as constituted for municipal purposes, as far as the princi-ple of representation by population will go.
- After a few remarks by Mr. Phillips Thompson, of The Farmers' San, the meeting closed with cheers for the Queen and the candidate, Mr. John Brown.

Poisons Generated in the System.

The Literary Digest for October gives a useful article showing that the presence of poison in the system cannot always be regarded as proof positive that poison has been administered. Investigations ex-tending over the last twenty years have made the analytical chemist acquainted with a number of poisons (ptomaines) the products of animal decomposition after death or generated in the system in sick-ness, which are hardly distinguishable from vegetable alkaloids, such as morphin, strychnin, etc. The ptomaines are among the waste products of disease-microbes and are the real cause of death in infec-tious diseases. Karl von Schul, who con-tributes an article on the subject to *Velhagen und Klafing's Menashaft*, October, has no hesitation in ascribing the skill of Italian poisoners in the Middle Ages to familiarity with the dead-ly nature of the products generated dur-ing the decomposition of animal sub-stance. The following is taken from the article referred to:

"In the year 1872 the Italian general, Gibbons, died under suspicious circum-stances. His servant was arrested, and the general's remains were submitted to chemical investigation. The chemists re-ported the presence delphinin, the name at that time given to the active principle of *stephanagra*, a species of larkspur. The presence of so rare a poison seemed to require confirmation, and the case was referred to Prof. Selmi. His examina-tion showed that a poison similar to delphinin could be separated from the body, but that it was not delphinin, but a product of decomposition."

Prof. Selmi was called in many similar cases, and is credited with having saved many suspected persons from unjust suspicion.

"The fact that ptomaines in a cadaver may well be taken for vegetable poisons is of interest to comparatively few people, but the fact that they can be generated in food substances and thus introduced into the system is of prime importance to the multitude. There is hardly an article of food, excepting sugar, which may not generate ptomaines, even at a stage of de-composition so early as not to betray it-self to the senses. It is true that the mi-crobes capable of generating these prod-ucts have never been found, and in ascribing these products to microbes we proceed simply on the ground that their generation without bacteria is inconceiv-able. The deaths from partaking of such poisoned food products are incalculable. In Wurtemberg the 'botulismus,' or sausage poisoning was at one time simply endemic. It was caused by partaking of sausages so thick that the heat in cooking never penetrated to their centres; smoked goose has similarly been the cause of wholesale deaths in Russia.

"But it is not only in composing dead bodies that ptomaines are generated. They are equally capable of being gener-ated in the system without the agency of inoculation. Infectious disease is simply poisoning by the waste products of patho-genic bacteria.

"In some cases the poison is due to eating diseased vegetable food. The scale so common on rye in some years, and which also attacks other grain, is a very powerful poison, producing an alkaloid called 'coniutin,' which must be a decom-position product of the 'clayiceps' which sets up the disease in the grain."

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