

THE WHIG, SEVENTY-EIGHTH YEAR

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THE FARMERS' STATE.

It is puerile in an agricultural country, like Canada, which cannot hope to export manufactures largely to talk of limiting the farmer to the home and English market. The English market takes in large quantities only, wheat and its products, meats, cattle, cheese and butter. But the farmers of Ontario cannot and do not grow wheat profitably under the present conditions of price and cost and the English market for meats, cattle and cheese and cheese is falling

off, for butter it has almost ceased. It is clear that while the American market is closed, the opportunities of the Ontario farmer for profitable production are steadily narrowing. That is a consideration which ought to awaken the interest of the towns and villages dependent on the farmers' prosperity. If he cannot grow wheat and cannot keep up his shipments of cattle, meats, butter and cheese to England, what is to become of him now that reciprocity has failed?

WHERE WE AGREE.

The two parties in this election may now shake hands and agree in British sentiment and Canadian sentiment. For upon these points, from first to last, there has been no difference of opinion between the two parties. The difference of opinion, adds the Toronto Star, has been as to the influence of trade upon political and national sentiment. It is a conservative tradition that the heart of a nation goes with its trade. When the British parliament abolished the corn laws, or as we should say the grain laws, and with them the British preference on colonial wheat, the strict Tories of that day cried out that the British colonies were lost. Lord Bessborough, the leader of the Tory revolt against Peel, said: "I hope we shall have an important deputation over

from Canada, representing that the inevitable result of these free trade measures in corn (wheat) and timber will be to alienate the feelings of our Canadian colonists."

Protests of that kind did come from Canada, and it is interesting to read the reply of Gladstone, then colonial secretary, a Tory by tradition, but a liberal in thought. The parliament of England, he said, was showing its equal regard for all the subjects of the queen by helping the poor. He hoped that the connection between England and Canada was not commercial. He hoped that it rested upon a firmer basis—upon resemblance in origin, laws, and manners, in what inwardly binds men and communities of men as well as by the enjoyment of commercial freedom.

THE DUTY OF CITIZENSHIP.

Justice Riddell, addressing a grand jury, is reported to have used these words:

"Any man who lives in a free country and takes no interest in an election for representatives to parliament, and lower houses, disdaining to mix up with the common herd and visiting is not fit to live in a free country."

He added that any man who would sell his vote was not fit to have a vote, and should be in the penitentiary; likewise anyone who would buy a vote.

It is a pity that such words as these are not more frequently heard from those who are in a position to speak to the public with weight and authority is the feeling of the Woodstock Sentinel-Review. If the politics of this country are not what they ought to be, the fault does not lie entirely at the door of those who disgrace their citizenship by the buying and selling of votes. A large measure of the responsibility rests on the shoulders of those who stand apart and criticize instead of turning in and helping to improve. The man who considers himself too superior to take an interest in the political affairs of his own country, whose

clothes are so clean that he is afraid of soiling them, by contact with the common crowd, contributes by his own conduct to the maintenance of the very conditions of which he complains.

The government of the country is supposed to be based upon the popular will. The supposition will become a certainty only when every citizen has learned to fully discharge the duties of his citizenship.

It is well to remember, too, that in a country like Canada, where manhood suffrage prevails, one vote counts for as much as another. The vote of the man who knows nothing about the issue of the day counts for quite as much as the vote of the man who knows all about it. Hence the necessity for campaigns of education. If popular government is to be a success it is necessary not only that every citizen should vote, who is qualified to vote, but that every vote should be polled with some degree of intelligence. This is the justification for the campaigns conducted by the newspapers. So long as there is a single voter who is looking for the light, there is work for the newspaper to do.

THE NEEDED STOLYPIN.

The work of the assassin is always exonerated, but somehow in the assassination of Premier Stolypin, of Russia, the crime seems to have been robbed of some of its heinousness by the belief that Stolypin was a tyrant, the slayer of the innocent, and had, by many acts of cruelty and injustice placed himself, in a measure, outside the range of human sympathy.

Such conceptions of the work of Stolypin, are, we feel sure, says the Buffalo Times, due in a large measure to the work of a certain class of writers who have found their profit in depicting Russia as a barbarous country, with side-notes on Siberia and the conditions of the serfs. But there is and always has been another side to the picture, a side which would show the Russian people struggling from chaos toward freedom, slowly and at the cost of infinite pain, but surely progressing. Master of this chaotic struggle stood Stolypin, almost alone. Held to be a hated reactionary by the progressive and radical parties, he has, at the same time, been looked upon as a dangerous progressive by the autocracy and bureaucracy. Both parties feared him, both admired his courage and indomitable will and, fearing neither of them, he stood steadily for constitutionalism and for Russian patriotism.

He himself described best the solitary position that he held. He said once:

"You can destroy the foundations of constitutionalism equally well by blowing them up with reactionary dynamite or by building on them too quickly and too liberally and on a bad plan. Neither of these forms of destruction will I allow, and I am as much the true friend of freedom when I resist those who are destroying with a good object, as when I crush those

who are destroying with a bad." That was his creed, and he followed the lines along which it led unswervingly and perhaps, cruelly. But who shall say, thus far from the scene of action and judging the man as working with all his power for the good of his country, when, or by how much, he erred. Five years of absolute power he had and we are told that in that period he had hanged over three thousand people, exiled twenty-five thousand, and punished thirty-five thousand in other ways, all for political offences. In working out his plans for the regeneration of Russia he chose at times to close the universities, he suspended popular government and shut down on the newspapers.

These things, if they can be called crimes, may be charged against him; but it is through his efforts alone, but it is remembered, that the Russian drama has been established so that it shall always remain an integral part of the Russian government; he made it possible for foreign capital to take part in Russian enterprise; he turned Siberia from a place of lost souls to a land of promise; he restored Russian credit, sadly shaken by the war; he stood for liberality in religion and for the better treatment of the Jews and by his unaided efforts he succeeded in closing the breach between the old Russia and the new.

That is the man, compact of good and ill, who has just died. Who is there in Russia to take his place? His assassination will prove a sad blow to constitutionalism in Russia. It seems a cruel thing that by his death much of the progress that Russia has won in the last five years will, almost certainly, be undone.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

"Posterity gives to each man his true honor," says a Chicago paper, solemnly. And a lot of good it is to him then.

A western scientist says the human brain is fixed at thirty-five and after that can evolve no new ideas. To be sure, Edison is a good example of this, so is J. P. Morgan, so was Harriman.

The Syracuse, E.Y., Post-Standard says: "That there will be any immediate attempt at a new agreement for reciprocal trade relations is not to be expected. The Canadians want the wall built up, not lowered."

The liberal press of Ontario made a great fight for reciprocity, even as it has been shown, against great odds. The silent vote did the work; they were unaffected by argument. The city dailies were vigorous and keen, forceful and good-natured.

Now that the elections are over, perhaps Hon. Adam Beck will give Kingston a price for water power. It is just one year since the Hydro-Electric Commission chairman was asked to state what could be done for Kingston. Let the commission get down to business and end its dilly-dallying policy.

The Irish railway strike is likely to be quite as serious in its way as was that in England a few weeks ago. The issue is not one on which there can be any compromise. The men who have gone out demand that they shall have the right to say what freight the roads shall handle. The roads could not give way on that, even if they so desired. Their business and the law would forbid it.

The Toronto Globe still stands against high protection. It believes that reciprocity in natural products

A SEPTEMBER SUNDAY.

The tumult and shouting ceased with the toll of twelve on Saturday night, is the way the Toronto Weekly Sun opens its pen picture. A few hours of slumber and then the world slowly awakens as purple and gold and grey mingled in ever changing combinations on the eastern horizon. But the clamour is not renewed. All is peace and quiet. Even the cows, as they come up the lane to the place of milking, move with more leisurely tread than usual. The breeze which stirs the leaves of the road-side maple tells, not of storm and tempest, but of rest and peace. Over field and orchard, and timber lot, the sound of far-off church bells softened to the tones of the harp, fall

upon the listening ears. Ribbons of white, bordered by green and gold, show where "the gravel" stretches between maples and spruce to the far distant city. In a thousand fields wide-spreading fields of corn sway gently with the wind; the brown and black of cultivated soil is rich with promise for the season that is to come; to the east, west, north and south, homes bowered in trees and bathed in the warm sunlight of a September afternoon did the landscape. Of all the joys which the changing seasons bring to this garden-spot of the universe can any joy surpass that of a Sunday among the orchard and tree shaded lanes of rural Ontario?

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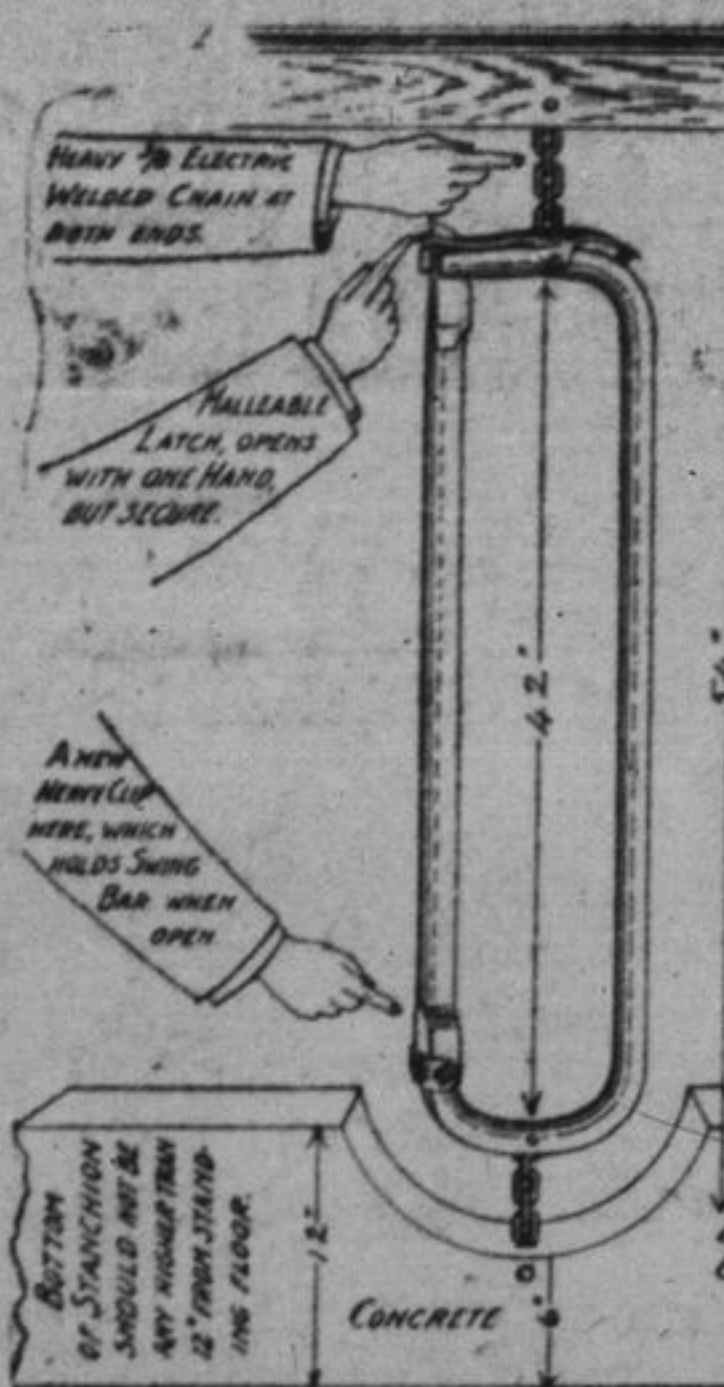
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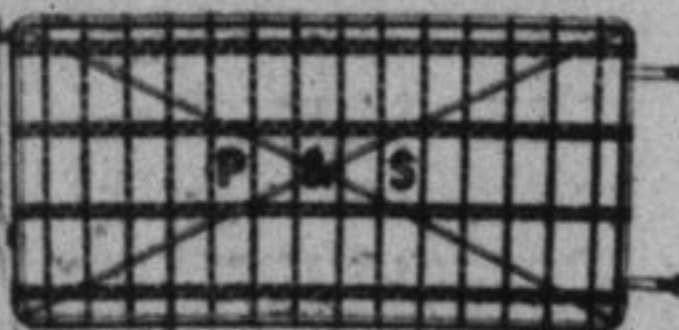
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