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Passenger—Well, not exactly; I went into the dining car and had them pulled.—Brooklyn Life.

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PEOPLE PAY THE WAY.

That's right—let us have an appeal to the courts on the ne temere decree, as it has been applied to the Hebert case. And let the people supply the money on which the appeals can be made, at considerable cost, from one tribunal to another, until, if need be, the privy council has been reached.

The opening of the case in Montreal begets strange emotions. Marriage must be regarded as a solemn engagement, one which cannot be annulled on technical grounds. The law should protect a man or a woman who has entered the marriage state in all sincerity, and when the sanctity or legality of it is attacked the state should interfere.

Mrs. Hebert is the plaintiff in the case before the courts. She is not asking for financial relief, but her husband is. Whether she had applied or not the same consideration should be shown to her as to her husband—indeed she should be shown more consideration—for the exemplification of the ne temere decree has brought upon her a greater humiliation.

Thousands of people are interested in the case and in its outlook. The crown supplies the money and a test case in order to ascertain a ruling of the court upon a personal act, and for the benefit of the few. How much more anxious it should be to have a finding upon points which so largely affect the happiness and well-being of the masses?

TOO MANY OFFICE SEEKERS.

The federal government is having no mercy on the grits. Where possible in the public services they are being pushed aside so that their places may be taken by others. And yet the public appointments fall far short of the demands. How could it be otherwise? The men who succeeded in the election invited applications for public positions. In Ottawa an office was opened at which the members met the men in search of places and registered their names, until there were hundreds of them, a dozen or more applicants for every possible vacancy.

It was at this juncture that Hon. Mr. Monk, addressing a meeting of friends at Hull, is said by a friendly print to have "deprecated the desire of so many young, active and ambitious men to join the civil service when this country in every field affords such excellent opportunities in other lines of activity." The advice is sound, though it would have come with better grace from some one else, for Mr. Monk has been a believer, and is yet, in the doctrine that to the victors belong the spoils. The idea has been ultivated that Canada is a big country, that it has employment for many men, and that these must be supporters of the government in order to get or to hold public positions.

As a matter of fact the civil service is not so enticing as it seems. The verage clerk must be a wire-puller or he will not get promotion. The commission may have some check on the situation, and may debar some people from office, but the government will find some way of taking care of its own—to a limited extent. It is very kind of Mr. Monk to tell the young men that they should seek an expansion of their usefulness in commercial and industrial life, but Mr. Monk and his friends have been teaching the young electors some lessons which are bearing fruit, and they must meet the conditions they have helped to make.

REFORMS AT THE CITY HALL.

With regard to the city's finance department. Would it not be a common sense act to ask for the report which was presented to that committee some years ago by L. W. Shannon, the city clerk, and F. Ireland, the city treasurer. These gentlemen were anxious to introduce into their respective departments the best ways of keeping the public records, the best methods of doing the public business, and they were sent away with an open commission, namely, to go in Ontario where they could get information which would be the most serviceable to them.

They visited several cities, examined their records and system, brought back many sample sheets and forms, and, with the consent of the council, made several important changes in their offices. There had been previously a complete reform in the department of light and power. Under Mr. Campbell, who had made a special study of the business, and who had opportunities of seeing the best in other places, the account's branch and the statistical department had been overhauled, and it would be nothing short of a calamity to disturb the records now without seriously considering the effects of the same.

The special committee should resurrect the report which Messrs. Shannon and Ireland presented some years ago. With this in hands the committee will be guided as to the next step its members ought to take.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Bonar Law expects something to show his regard for Canadian preference. He can do it by proposing to tax the British subjects, and when he gets that far he will hear something drop.

Sir James Whitney demands, in his own pompous way, that Mr. Rowell shall define his policy with regard to bi-lingual schools. Would it not be well for the premier to become a little more explicit himself?

Winnipeg's board of trade demands lower freight rates and a western council of the railway commission, one always on duty. Must the railway and express companies constantly be watched? Why can't they, as Judge Mabee remarks, act as white men?

The Niobe disaster was the result of a trip to Yarmouth to participate in a local event. A war ship as a curiosity is a public attraction. It should not be. Perhaps the one experience of the kind will fill the bill in Canada for all time.

The Stratford Herald argued the other day that Sir Wilfrid Laurier had been unfair to Western Canada in appointing too many senators from the country east of Toronto. And next day Mr. Borden appointed George Taylor, of Leeds, to succeed the late Sir John Carling, of London.

The man who carries the big stick in the Ontario government must be shocked to see the Toronto candidates for the legislature pledging themselves to vote for certain things, even though they have to vote against the leaders. Is there mutiny in the camp?

Have you noticed that the conservative conventions have been turning down some of the men who served in the last legislature. Is this not an evidence that the party is not satisfied with their performance. Perhaps their successors will see the wisdom of becoming more independent and of voting occasionally against the government.

The tariff commission in any case will be an experiment. The most it will amount to will be a board of advisers, men who will collect all manner of information and have it on tap. Even then the C.M.A. will regard the innovation as unnecessary as their tariff committee can tender all the advice the government may desire to take.

The military officers, called into conference with the minister of militia, favour the re-opening of the canteen in connection with the summer camps. Why? It has taken some time to educate the forces that liquor is not a necessity of camp life. Is there to be a turning back under the new dispensation?

Mr. Rowell has answered the women that he is very favourable to granting them the franchise, that he will consult the liberal members of the legislature as soon as he can, and that he hopes the result will be satisfactory to all concerned. Personally he is O.K.

INJURY TO THE MEN

MACKENZIE KING SAYS THEY WANT JUSTICE.

Too Much Law of a Kind—What the Liberals Were Pledged to—The Labor Department is in Poor Hands.

Hon. Mackenzie King, formerly minister of labor, in an address in Toronto, shows the general laxity of the present government towards labor interests. After calling attention to the appalling statistics which show that 20,000 men industrially engaged were killed in Canada every ten years, Mr. King pointed out the economic loss not only to labor, but in the homes of those cut off.

He said these deaths are not voluntary, they are inevitable, they are incidental to the industrial processes of of to-day. The question naturally arises if they are incidental and inevitable to any industry, why should the industry not bear the cost? Railway companies set aside a sum for loss and damage to rolling stock; manufacturers put aside something in addition to interest to provide for accidents and wear and tear to machinery. The industry carries this. Why should human life be differently estimated? Why should the victim if his life is spared be forced to an action, at law with all the harassments and hazards of litigation to get compensation for a life-long injury, or a fatherless family be forced into court to gain some monetary redress for the loss of a life to which they have looked for support, and which has been claimed by the money-making processes of the day?

This is the question which hundreds of thousands of workingmen on the mines, factories, the buildings, the metal trades, the several branches of transportation have been asking themselves for years, and this is the question which they look to those who are seeking their support to answer. What answer has Mr. Whitney given? None. He has shelved the whole question. He has appointed a chief justice of one of the courts to report upon it, and the chief justice has been a year upon the job, and has not reported yet.

Now the new minister of labor at Ottawa, ostentatiously informs him through the press that he will be glad to place the library of the federal department of labor at his disposal. If a library is necessary for this purpose, why has the bureau of labor in the provincial buildings not such a library? Because Sir James Whitney, true to Tory tradition, has abolished the bureau, except in name. What the workingmen of Ontario want is not reports by any chief justice. They have had enough to do with judges and law courts. They want to get away from law and all its associations. They want justice, but not justice obtained through litigation. Now this is what Mr. Rowell and the liberal party are pledged to give them. Nothing could be more complicated or in some respects unfair than the law on workmen's compensation, as it is in Ontario to-day. It is as respects similar legislation in other provinces, far behind the legislation of Alberta, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, and British Columbia. The liberal government promises a law modelled after recent legislation in Britain. Wherein is that legislation different from our own? In Ontario under the law as it stands, the onus is on the workingman or his representative to prove that the employer was guilty of negligence. In the English law the onus is on the employer to prove that the fault was the workman's. Moreover, instead of leaving it to a jury to fix the amount of damages, the statute fixes specific sums for specific injuries with the result that employers have found it profitable to insure their workmen against accident and settle in the majority of cases on the basis fixed in the schedule, instead of going into court.

The English act further extends the provisions of the act to injury occasioned through certain occupational diseases. To my mind it should be possible to have all cases of death and injury and industrial disease adjusted without litigation at all, either by a state board appointed for the purpose or in some other was, and this I take is what Mr. Rowell has in mind when he speaks of insuring in all cases payment of such compensation. What chance has an injured workman against a corporation? And how much less chance the dependent of a deceased workman? These industrial accidents are inevitable to certain industrial processes, humanity demands that pain and injury be not aggravated through litigation, and justice demands a known compensation for a known loss. This certainly would lead to a more effective prevention of accidents. If this is what the workingman of Ontario wants, let them support the party that is pledged to give them this long-needed redress.

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PUBLIC OPINION

All Fun Just Now.

Ottawa Free Press.

It's all fun being an M.P. these days but wait till the M.P. has to take a microscope to find something he's done to tell the electors.

Not Wanting Fires.

Toronto Star.

The News says that Mr. Rowell's speech is not likely to set the country on fire. Quite true. Mr. Rowell intends to build up Ontario, not to burn it down.

All Fuss in Toronto.

Ottawa Free Press.

It was good to read of the great reception accorded Newton W. Rowell in Toronto upon the occasion of his debut as a leader, but then there's Toronto again—a city crammed full of enthusiasm, but as gritless on election day as an Orange lodge.

Co-operation the Want.

Galt Reformer.

The increased cost of living will continue so long as the people are willing to submit to it. Co-operation will eventually be the instrument that will break the strength of the middlemen, who are responsible mainly for the high cost of living.

Exhibit in Chicago.

Oswego, N.Y., Times.

Only three out of every hundred Chicago school children examined by the health department have their teeth properly cared for. Of the rest, half are found to have cavities in their first permanent molars, and a fourth of these are beyond saving.

It Didn't Work.

A colored woman went to the pastor of her church the other day to complain of the conduct of her husband, who she said, was a low-down, worthless, trifling nigger. After listening to a long recital of the delinquencies of her neglected spouse and her efforts to correct them, the minister said: "Have you ever tried heaping coals of fire upon his head?"

"No," she said, "but I done tried hot water."

The Canadian Northern railway has finally decided to invade the Niagara fruit belt, with the object of getting hold of some of the rich carrying fruit trade.

THE WHIG'S PUZZLE.

Can You Guess What the Picture Represents?

What kind of a horse?

Answer to Saturday's puzzle: Cupola.

Expert Japanese Dentists.

Pearson's Weekly.

Japanese native dentists conduct their business in a manner which would undoubtedly cause any European practitioner to open his eyes in amazement. The victim is seated on the ground. The dentist bends over him and forces his left hand between the patient's jaws in such a manner that the mouth cannot possibly be closed. Then he grasps the doomed tooth between the thumb and forefinger of the right hand, and with one deft wrench removes it and throws it upon the ground.

So great is the skill of these native dentists that many of them are able to remove six or seven teeth per minute. Indeed, their skill is hardly to be wondered at when one considers the course of preparatory training they are obliged to undergo.

A number of holes are bored in a stout plank, and thic is firmly fixed in the ground. In the holes are driven wooden pegs, and the would-be dentist has to extract them with his fingers without dislodging the board. This process is repeated with a board of pine wood, and finally with one of oak, and it is only when he has succeeded in extracting the pegs from the oak plank that the Japanese considers himself qualified to practice upon his fellow-men.

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