

The British Whig SEVEN YEARS



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PRINCIPLE IN POLITICS

Canadian politics are becoming very much mixed. The cry comes from the west, where the farmers are numerous, that agricultural implements must be made free, and the liberal party listens to it and acts. A resolution was proposed, discussed in an academic way, and defeated, the conservative members answering to the roll call, under the crack of the whip. There was a promise, however, and it was widely circulated in the press.

The promise was to the effect that the question was not disposed of, that it would come up again, in connection with the budget, and that probably something would be done. That was weeks ago. The government is between the devil and the deep sea upon this question. The west clamours for consideration, and the western conservative members are facing a grave contingency, surrender or defeat.

Some queer things are happening on the liberal side. Sir Melvin Jones, rich implement maker, announces his defection. He is in the middle of the road at present. If the conservatives stand pat on the tariff question he will join it. He is a politician for tariff purposes. Moreover, there is another spectacle at Brantford, where the liberals are declared to be against lowered duty on agricultural implements, or no duty, for purely local purposes. The Cock-shutt works are there.

One is getting another lesson in economics. Politics is not a matter of principle any more, and the building of great party platforms, and the fulmination of certain ethics, as marking the divisions among men, belong to the past. It is a discovery that will rob the political speakers of some of the material which they worked into their orations. Principle in politics! Hush, or tell it in whispers!

The Civil Service Commission has received a severe jolt from the Commons where its examination papers have been severely criticized. These examinations, it is claimed, should be made more practical. Correct. And they should be made in connection with the work upon which the clerk will be applied. That is the test that is applied in commercial life.

THE LAND AND WAGES

The unionist party of England seeks a reconciliation with labour, so far as the farm is concerned, by proposing a housing measure, which the government is prepared to give a second reading. This is by way of emphasizing the subject with which it deals. The housing problem needs attention, but, preceding the better housing of the people, and the basis of all social reforms, is the wage question, and the unionist bill does not touch it. There is a general feeling that the poor of England are deserving of homes which will ensure them reasonable comfort, but the tents they cannot pay until the income is improved.

The unionist plan is to supplement the earnings of the farm labourer by state aid to the present extent of a million pounds a year. To this exception is taken on the ground that it will not ensure the purpose aimed at. The housing will be made the better if the law means merely that the state will see that the man's rent is paid. His home and the wages may remain the same. Lloyd-George's plan is to tax the land and make it contribute, whether used or not used, in larger proportion to the revenues of the state. And the re-valuation of the land is supplying the basis for this taxation. He also proposes to make the landlords pay

a minimum wage, and this is energetically resisted. The imperial government does an unusual thing in countenancing a measure which originates with the opposition. The practice in Canada is to reject every proposition which is made by the opposition, regardless of its nature or quality. To admit that any good can come from a party out of power is contrary to practice, but it is not contrary to common sense and sound principles.

DEMANDING THEIR OWN

The federal government has to do something with regard to the natural resources of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. These natural resources belong to the provinces. That was the declaration of Mr. Borden when in opposition to the declaration that was applauded by the conservative party and press. It was the declaration of the premier in his famous Halifax platform. It was his declaration in Regina, in 1907, when he said: "Upon the very moment that we come into power, the question will be considered, and upon the terms of the absolute right to ownership of the public domain by the province."

The election occurred in 1911, and three years have since transpired, and without any result so far as this transfer is concerned. There have been petitions from the governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan. There has been voluminous correspondence. Lastly there has been a joint communication from the governments of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and the only expression of the premier is that a transfer on the basis proposed—the lands and the subsidies—is quite impossible. But he makes no proposal as a substitute.

The attorney-general of Saskatchewan suggests a solution upon which the federal government can act at once. "Let Mr. Borden," said he, "transfer to Saskatchewan the lands he has availed himself of. Let him do this at once. He has the power to do this, and the government of the province is willing to receive the lands. Let the grant continue as at present arranged, pending the report of an arbitration board, which I say should be appointed, and composed of representatives of both Saskatchewan and of the dominion." The province should be compensated for any of the lands which have been alienated by the federal government. Mr. Borden has said this himself, and he cannot repudiate his own contention. Moreover he cannot delay action upon the case any longer without creating, in connection with it, a grievance that, in addition to others, will forfeit him the confidence of the western provinces for many years to come.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The local government has killed the scheme of public ownership in telephones. Hanna is against most measures that aim at progress and relief.

Canada leads the world for the high cost of living. It was 51 per cent. greater a year ago than in 1909. Time that special commission, of government officials, was reporting.

The Provincial Board of Health is supplying an anti-diphtheric serum or toxin at a price that knocks out all competition. And not a minute too soon. The monopolists in the serum have had their way long enough.

Ten millions went in the militia expenses last year, a large part of it in playing soldier, including the party which went in special trains in Canada, on ocean trips, and in automobile trips in England. This year thirteen millions will be spent. Col. Sam Hughes comes high, but it seems the country must have him at any cost.

The liquor dealers in Kenota have turned over Dr. McQueen's order for whiskey, for medical uses, and as evidence that he is not a true temperance man. If the drug stores in this city turned over their orders to the temperance party there might be a commotion. All of them might not be as defensible as were those of Dr. McQueen.

Hon. Mr. McBride is said to be in Ottawa, not so much a supporter of a C.N.R. loan or guarantee, as of the transfer to the dominion of guarantees assumed by British Columbia and to the extent of \$35,000,000. A tidy sum for one province to assume, and one now affecting the credit of that province! Will the dominion let it out? Why should it?

Ald. Littlewood, of Hamilton, suggests that dive laborers who have used a pick and shovel for twenty years be granted a pension of \$200 a year by the city. How much taxes does the alderman pay? It is a timely enquiry, because some of the civic lords who are the readiest to spend the public money do not appear to personally contribute very much.

Gordon Smith, Easton's Corners, who had been a patient at the general hospital, Brockville, for the past sixteen days, died Friday night of peritonitis. The lad was only nine years of age.

PUBLIC OPINION

For Whom? Toronto Globe. The Ontario government's greatest need is a mausoleum. Whiskey's Pure. Hamilton Spectator. Ottawa folks are terribly afraid of getting doped water, but doped whiskey goes down their gullet with a joyous gurgle.

New Form Decided. Exchange. England seems to be moving for a commission form of government—that of commissioned army officers.

The Sporting Chance. Montreal Star. A party which had a gambler's throw on Lloyd-George's famous budget would be foolish to miss the sporting chance now presented to it.

Changing Our Quarters. Quebec Telegraph. "There are 815 ways of changing a quarter of a dollar," says the change. The average hotel waiter knows them all.

God Save the King. St. Thomas Journal. Ulster agitators end their proclamation with "God Save the King" which, in the light of events, seems to be a needed invocation.

Man of the Hour. Hamilton Herald. So far, there is no political emergency to which Premier Asquith has not proved to be equal. He is the most resourceful of British statesmen and knows how to combine suppleness with firmness.

Liberals Run Easily. Bobcaygeon Independent. The liberals of England are having rather a bad time, but liberals are no earthly use unless they are having a bad time. When liberals are running easy and smooth, they are degenerating, or ossifying into torporism.

Ontario Overlooked. Windsor Record. The reason is not apparent why the government should choose one man from Winnipeg and two from Montreal to make up the commission that is to investigate the commercial advantages, if any, of the Georgian Bay canal scheme. The province of Ontario deserved better treatment than that.

Kingston Events 25 YEARS AGO.

The work of improving the waterworks system has commenced. At the auction sale of Chalmers church property Mr. Brock offered \$2,100 for the building. His bid was refused, as it did not reach the reserved price.

Capt. C. Martin left for Montreal today to take charge of the tug Clyde. The Ladies Aid society of Chalmers church cleared \$625 by means of the Carnival of Nations.

A Lifetime in One Employ. Winnipeg Tribune. It is hard for Canadians, born and bred in a country where opportunity and incentive to change are almost ever present, to realize completely the conditions that obtain in older countries where employment is not so plentiful that a man can afford to leave a firm with which he has secured a position. Some knowledge of the situation may be gained, however, from the facts contained in a letter sent to the London Mail by the manager of a famous biscuit firm. The letter dealing with various periods of employment of the

"We have on our books fifty work-people who have each completed more than fifty years of continuous employment with us, as follows: "One over 60 years; 8 over 57 years; 2 over 55 years; 13 over 54 years; 15 over 51 years; 2 over 50 years. Total 50. "Of our clerical staff: "One man has completed 56 years with us. "One man has completed 54 years with us. "One man has completed 53 years with us. "Among our factory workpeople and our clerical staff combined we have exactly one thousand men who have each completed at least thirty years' continuous service with us. They range from thirty to nearly fifty years of service."

Warmer or Colder. "You love me, darling," he asked. "A little," she replied. "Ah, but do you not think your love will grow?" "Yes, but I'm not sure which way."

Wise and : Otherwise

A kissable girl—always pretends that she doesn't want to. Often a woman's silence is more significant than a man's words. The open season for office hunting is twelve months long. Some people seem to think a philanthropist merely an easy mark. When a woman considers her husband a necessary evil marriage is a failure. What the wisest of us say is of far less importance than what we leave unsaid.

What's the Use. Do you think it unlucky to postpone a wedding day? It may be, but if you don't postpone it you will be married, so what are you to do?

Edible. She was a dainty, winsome thing. With laughing, dark-brown eyes. Her hair, her cheeks, her pouting lips. We're also brown, likewise. She looked—I'm sure you'd say so, too. Just good enough to eat. For she gas but a candy doll. And oh! but she was sweet! —Judge.

Realism. "What has become of the emotional actress who wept real tears?" "Out of date," replied the busy producer. "What we are giving the public now is a leading man who swears real swear words."—Washington Star.

Dividing the Effects. "Well, wife, we are divorced." "Yes." "Let us divide our valuables equally." "Would you rather have the grand piano or the porthouse steak?"—Kansas City Journal.

A Leading Question. He—I could tango forever. She—How long could you bring up coal and sift ashes?

The Right Chop. "John, we must have baby's photograph taken right away." "All right, I'll speak to a moving-picture man."

He Wanted to Know. "Ma, what's that big round thing on wheels?" "The water wagon, my dear." "Is that the one Uncle Tom said pa fell off of?"

Cruel Agreement. Miss Underleigh—Isn't this keen spring air exhilarating? I feel like a two-year-old this morning.

Birthdays Note. MONDAY, APRIL SIXTH. HON. F. D. MONK, the eminent French-Canadian statesman, who recently resigned his seat in the House of Commons on account of ill-health, reaches his fifty-eighth birthday to-day. The son of an English father and a French mother, he is singularly gifted as a speaker in both languages and enjoyed the reputation of being the best bilingual speaker in Canadian public life. Coupled with this, he possessed a rare personal charm that has won him the esteem of men of both political opinions. He was in Parliament for eighteen years, and on the accession of Premier Borden acted for some time as Minister of Public Works.

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