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MR. HANNA'S DENIALS

Hon. W. J. Hanna denied the Proudfoot charges, and the investigation was squelched when it began to get too warm for the government. Mr. Proudfoot is still ready to prove them.

Hon. W. J. Hanna denied that the Imperial Oil company of Canada has any connection with the Standard Oil company of America, yet a suit is now pending in the state of Ohio to oust the Imperial Oil company from that state, as a subsidiary of the Standard Oil company.

Hon. W. J. Hanna denied the Bowman charge, and his government refused to allow an investigation. If the charges had been looked into and proven to be untrue, the result would have gone far to substantiate in the public mind the veracity of Mr. Hanna's denials in the other two cases. It would have gone far toward offsetting the effect of any future liberal charges.

The refusal of the government to permit an enquiry cannot be viewed in any other light than that Mr. Hanna dared not face the music.

THE CHURCH FOLKS.

Any observant person will agree that the church people, taking them together, are the ones who mean most and do most and help most in this community. They are the optimistic people. They are the ones we depend on to make this city a good place to live in. They are the people we count on for social progress. It is their children whom we wish our children to associate with. Their young men and young women are the ones we want our young men and young women to marry. Making liberal discounts for all the sham Christians, all the hypocrites, all the ones who are pious on Sunday and crooked on Monday, the churches, after all, do contain what Jesus told His disciples they were—the salt of the earth.

There is no agency for goodness that can compare with religion. Everybody believes this and it is a hopeful and singular truth that the church is criticised by outsiders as well as insiders more sharply and constantly than any other institution. That is because we expect the churches to be agencies for good and church members to be people who are being good themselves and doing good to others.

Admitting all this it follows as a matter of course, that the easiest and best way to help society to be better is by active participation in the best movement that civilization has ever found for improving itself. The church needs your strength, your hopefulness, your broadmindedness. You need the inspiration, the feeling of loyalty, the strength, the comfort, the consolation and the cheer which the church offers you. Try it.

NO CORRUPTION ON THE N.T.R.

In an article in the April issue of The Queen's Quarterly, O. D. Skelton, professor of economics at Queen's, makes pertinent comment upon the construction of the National Transcontinental railway and the criticisms upon the manner in which the work was undertaken and carried through. He supplies the answer of an impartial observer to the reckless partisan charges which have been made through the Guelph-Staunton report and in other ways by the present Ottawa ministry and its friends against the liberals in connection with the building of the Transcontinental. "The (liberal) government," writes Professor Skelton, "appears at the outset to have set up barriers against the expected designs of the grafter." Af-

ter specifying these barriers erected to protect the public interests, Prof. Skelton touches upon the criticisms which have been levelled against the methods of handling tenders and supervising contract work. As for the criticism that contracts were not sufficiently subdivided to permit small contractors to tender he says that it is "a criticism apparently weak in face of the size of the plant and magnitude of the organization needed in the remote wilderness."

Dealing with the charges of over-classification and other important measurement Professor Skelton writes: "So far, however, as may be gathered from study of the voluminous evidence upon these points, there were no differences among the engineering staff other than honest differences of opinion, opinion as to interpretation of clauses or as to what was actually feasible, and the total amounts involved make up no large share in cost over the original estimates. "It is encouraging in the midst of so much talk of corruption in Canada," he adds, "that repeated investigation has revealed no instance of corruption on the part either of the management or the staff, whatever errors of judgment may be charged."

SCIENCE OF THE SOUL.

The twentieth century has seen the decline of scientific skepticism on the subject of immortality. The soul is now, in the opinion of Sir Oliver Lodge, Sir William Crookes and Henri Bergson, an actuality. Haeckel's concept of consciousness as a function of the ganglionic cells of the cortex of the brain is really discarded by all who are not utter materialists.

As H. Addington Bruce remarks in his article entitled "The Soul's Winning Fight with Science" in the American Magazine, the facts showing the connection between brain "reveal the brain not as identical with the soul, but as merely the instrument by which the soul—the feeling, thinking, remembering ego—secures expression for its memories." The brain is a sort of telephone exchange whose function is to allow or to obstruct communication. Amnesia through inquiry to one of the brain centres is not real loss of memory but simply indicates that the medium for communication is out of order. Partial forgetfulness of a word or letter while all other words or letters are remembered shows that the elimination was the result of the damaged brain centre, and that probably the word or letter was retained in the memory although the faculty of expressing it was impaired.

It is not the brain that remembered. The old man of seventy vividly recalls incidents in his boyhood, although it is a test of physiology that the entire material of the human body is renewed every seven years. The material brain changes—the soul remains. The ego, the self, which uses the brain, is the real personality.

Science, however, may still assume a skeptical attitude on the problem whether this ego, this soul, which constitutes each individual's personality, survives the death of the body. We cannot expect alleged "spirit messages" to be accepted as evidence of such survival, by scientific inquirers, but we can challenge the materialistic scientist to deny the existence of entities which, though real, are not material. How could mental conditions and the state of the spirit be weighed, measured, or analyzed? It eludes the instruments of the physicist, and the chemist, but there is no proof of its non-existence. The soul is not amenable to the processes by which the nature and action of matter are investigated. We must have recourse to a higher psychology, to a science transcending matter, in order to perceive, grasp and appreciate the possibilities of the spiritual world. In its narrower sense, science has inevitable limitations, but unless it shuts out the light thrown on the problem by both philosophy and religion, it must recognize not only the existence but the eternal destiny of the soul.

LIBERAL ACTIVITY OF LABOR.

Whenever you find a liberal government in office you also find a splendid performance in the interests of labor, says the well-informed Beantford Expositor. This is true with regard to the measures passed by the Laurier government, to the legislation of the Asquith government, and to the proposals which are now being made by Mr. Rowell and his associates. On the other hand, with conservatives in power, there is usually sterility in the matter of labor legislation, and such measures of this nature as are produced are almost invariably due to the initiative and demands of the liberal party.

A summary of the social reform measures of the Campbell-Bannerman and Asquith governments most affecting labor is interesting, and it is doubtful if any government of modern times has been able to achieve so much.

1906—Workmen's Compensation Act: Provides compensation for accidents for the first time for six million workers (including workers in workshops and in transport service, seamen, postmen, clerks, shop assistants and domestic servants), and also makes compensation payable for injuries to health in certain dangerous trades. Merchant Shipping Act: Applies to foreign ships using British ports the regulations applicable to British

ships, amends the existing laws relating to passenger and emigrant ships and to deck loads; fixes a good provision scale for sailors; and provides for certified cooks, for increased minimum space per man, and for shipowners being responsible for expenses when a seaman is ill.

1907—Small Holdings and Allotment Act: Gives complete powers to local authorities to obtain land for small holdings and allotments in England and Wales (including power to take it compulsory), and provides a cheap and easy process of acquiring such land. By the end of its first five years of operation the act had resulted in the provision of no less than 155,000 acres for over 15,000 applicants.

1908—Old Age Pensions Act: Nearly a million old people are enjoying pensions, mainly of five shillings a week.

Eight Hours Act for miners. Children Act: Protecting lives and promoting well-being of children.

1909—Labor Exchanges Act: Helps to lessen unemployment by bringing employers and workmen together. Nearly 70,000 places are filled every month.

Trade Boards Act: Against sweating and evil.

1909-10—The great Lloyd-George Budget: By taxation levied on surplus wealth provides money for social reform. Rejected by the House of Lords, approved by the people in a general election, and became the law of the land.

1910—National Insurance Act: Insures fourteen million workers against sickness, and two and a half million workers against unemployment.

1911—Shops Act: Secures a week-half-holiday and proper meal times for workers.

1912—Coal Mines Minimum Act: Minimum wage for all underground workers.

Workingmen, whether in Great Britain or in Canada, are indebted to the various extensions of the franchise secured for them by the liberal party for the political power which they possess, as well as for labor legislation. And yet, they are very frequently found in alliance with the party to which they owe so little, in opposition to their natural allies, often because the latter have not been able to grant the very extremity of their demands.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It's gladsome news indeed that the paying differences between the Board of Works and the street railway company have been settled. There is no reason why the city and the company should not act in perfect harmony.

A Kentucky distillers' association has offered to sell its list of 50,000 names to a drink cure establishment, and adds to the proposal, "Our customers are your patients." Great stuff for the prohibitionists!

A pioneer grocer of a southern town has been looking over some old account books and finds that, aside from butter, poultry and meat, staple food articles in bulk are not higher in price than they were twenty-five years ago.

It is surprising to note in the recently issued report on acreage returns for England and Wales that more than half the agricultural land of England is farmed by only 52,000 persons, or about twelve per cent. of the total.

The Boston Globe is struck by the fact that the peaceful presidents of the United States—Madison, Polk, Lincoln and McKinley—were all fated to lead the country during war and that Wilson may be in a similar position.

Last year the City Council took up the question of again oiling the limestone-macadam roadways, but nothing further has been heard about it. There are several of the main roads of the city that might well be oiled, in view of the great amount of traffic over them. King street west and Brock streets are samples.

The Industrial Banner, the recognized mouthpiece of the labor organizations of Ontario, in summing up the usefulness of the Ontario government, talks plainly of its manifest shortcomings so far as consideration for the advancement of the interests of the body of labor men in the province has been shown.

Sir Victor Horsley, speaking especially of alcohol in small doses, says "nervous debility is frequently caused and accentuated by the moderate use of alcohol." Professor Kraepelin, of Heidelberg, discovered, in a long series of experiments, that, even in very small doses, "alcohol lengthens the time taken to perform complex mental processes."

PUBLIC OPINION

Can We Stand It? Guelph Mercury. There is an immigrant entering Canada every minute of every working day in the year. Is our Canadian national spirit strong enough to stand that strain?

Want It to Go Round. St. Thomas Journal. Three years ago the Whitney government estimated the cost of the new government mansion at Toronto at \$100,000, the following year it went up to \$600,000; this year the expenditure has reached the \$800,000

mark, and there is every prospect that the cost will pass the million mark. How many Tories are there in Toronto, anyway?

Notoriety Recipe. Detroit Tribune. Any man who thinks he doesn't attract much attention in this world should get out a pair of old trousers and a blue flannel shirt and do a little work on his front lawn Sunday morning.

Avail Ourselves of Chance. Toronto Star. The land, the money, the labor which nourish Canadian railways all come from the Canadian people. The people of Canada have the right to control the railways. Now is our chance to begin with the Canadian Northern.

His Superintendent's Gramophone. London Advertiser. The education department is a unique section of the Ontario government. The nominal minister seems to have virtually less power than one of his own back-benchers. He has been described by an inspector as his superintendent's gramophone.

Current Loyalty. Montreal Mail. Current English illustrated papers show pictures of thousands of school children enthusiastically cheering King George and Queen Mary. The childish faith in the monarch is a great bulwark of the British empire because it grows into a love and respect for the institutions of government under which Britons live and over which the king presides.

Kingston Events 25 YEARS AGO. Cadets at Royal Military College are making arrangements for a trip to Port Hope, Toronto and Hamilton during July.

Owners of property on Johnson street claim that as it is the only street that stretches from the water's edge to the city limits, it should receive extensive improvements and be called an avenue.

A cow belonging to W. N. Bowen, Lansdowne, gave birth to a calf having two perfectly formed heads.

Birthdays Note

MONDAY, MAY FOURTH

Sir Louis Davies, the oldest judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, who is sixty-nine years of age to-day, is a native of Prince Edward Island and prior to entering the House of Commons in 1882, was premier of the island province.

He is a most amiable gentleman and possesses a wealth of interesting reminiscences about the public life of Canada during the past thirty years. One of his best stories has to do with a passage at arms between Sir John A. Mac-

donald and the then leader of the Opposition, Edward Blake, which occurred early in his Parliamentary career. Blake had spoken far into the night, attacking with bitter invective the premier and his administration. When he sat down after midnight, Sir Louis said, the House awaited with keen expectancy the reply of Sir John. Instead, however, of answering in kind the latter in his smoothest style congratulated Mr. Blake on his court and then turning to address the whole body of members said, "The honorable gentleman has told you his side of the case; it remains with you to decide whether you want old Sir John or Edward Blake to run the count."

He thereupon sat down amid immense applause, undying in two minutes the superb argument which his opponent had built up in several hours.

Also born to-day—Hon. Gordon Hunter, chief justice of British Columbia, born in Beausville, Ont., 1863.

Hon. Nicholas DuBois Domitile Beck, puisne judge of the Supreme Court of Alberta, born in Cobourg, Ont., 1857.

Hon. C. E. B. De Boucherville, former premier of Quebec, born at Boucherville, P.Q., 1822.



Not Half Enough. They say, you know, that love makes the world go round. Maybe, but it cannot make the eligible young men go round.

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