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PEOPLE ADMIRE HONESTY.

The enquiry into the Saskatchewan affairs is now understood, and therefore the evidence which has been offered in the Kelly case. Horwood, the Winnipeg architect, declares that while the parliament buildings in Winnipeg were under construction he was led astray by the politicians. They pointed to the manner in which public contracts were alleged to be manipulated in another province to the party's advantage, and at once it was decided that the Manitoba government should have its opportunities.

Horwood's evidence is to the effect that thereafter he was a mere figure-head and an official without aim or purpose, that he let things drift, with the result that when the scandal burst he saw nothing ahead but prison and confinement long enough to condone his offences. One of those who countenanced the graft, and on a colossal scale, made light of the matter, and scoffingly remarked that "the Lord would take care of them all."

Long continuance in political immorality dulls the conscience and makes it unimpressible to passing events. It is inconceivable that even reckless men could make themselves believe that they could escape the consequences of their work. But so it is, and in their defiance one sees the danger of keeping some men too long in public office.

A contemporary, commenting upon the result of the Nova Scotia elections, said Hon. Mr. Murray, the premier, was "giving the people the sort of government which they appreciated." The people want honest and capable government at all times. They like the leader who is, as the late Sir James Whitney put it, "bold enough to be honest and honest enough to be bold," and Sir James had the consciousness that he enjoyed public confidence to a remarkable extent.

A defiant disregard of the proprieties in Manitoba brought the Roblin government to ruin, and now, without the people's confidence or sympathy, the ex-ministers are waking up to the enormity of their offences.

Mr. Bryan is said to have wept as he spoke of the recent democratic convention in St. Louis. That must have been a sight for the gods.

VOLUNTEERS ON TRIAL

The National Guard of the United States was called out by the Wilson government, and for the purpose of assisting the regular troops in the war with Mexico. The Carranza government is reflecting the feelings of the natives, especially the Spaniards and Indians, and they want, nay, they demand, the withdrawal of the Americans from Mexican soil. Villa has not been taken dead or alive, which was the order, and the Mexicans are opposed to the invasion of their territory by others, even when engaged in a punitive expedition.

The position of the National Guard is a matter of deep concern. It is intended for home or state defence. It is not expected to leave the country. The proposal to endow the National Guard with new functions, and to enable it to follow the federal forces anywhere, has been abandoned, and for reasons that have not been made public. The guardsmen can imitate the Canadian volunteers, and enlist for the federal service, and by the change the United States is at once put in possession of some very good troops.

It is recalled that in the last war with Mexico the volunteers did not

win distinction. Ripley, in his history, tells how several regiments of volunteers had to be discharged and transported back to the United States from an army that was actually in contact with the enemy. Gen. Meade, in his letters dealing with the same subject, said: "Already have the volunteers commenced to excite the indignation and hatred in the bosom of the people by their outrages on land." In another place he said: "Eight thousand men were called out by Gen. Gaines for six months. We shall have to transport our eight men out of the country." Gen. Meade added: "They cannot take care of themselves. The hospitals are crowded with them. They die like sheep."

Experiences like these do not tally with the experiences of the Canadian soldiers in France. No better men, and fighters, have been found in the war. They became a part of the British army, which has been true to its traditions. The Canadians who have been credited with serving the nation can be depended upon to do their whole duty at any time; and the Americans, of the National Guard, have only to be tried today in order to redeem themselves and the great name of the nation which they serve.

There is some suspense in Ottawa with regard to the report of the Meredith-Duff Commission. It is not going to be a whitewash. That much is certain. Whether it will force a cabinet reconstruction is another question.

THE PUBLIC BE HANGED

An incident, before the Davidson Commission, shows the temperament and the temper of Sir Sam Hughes. He was called to give evidence with regard to the sale of ammunition. It was condemned in Canada and yet was found good enough to be used by the British Admiralty. The Canadian government got \$20 per thousand rounds of it, and Canada's popular middleman—the man who manipulated so many government contracts to his personal advantage—resold it for \$25 per thousand rounds. The profit on two or three million rounds can be easily figured. The examination proceeded thus:

"How many applications did you make to Council? Was it only the 2,000,000 for which you asked the order in Council at first?" asked Mr. Dewart. "I haven't figured it up," replied Sir Sam.

"The public are interested in it," remarked Mr. Dewart. "I don't care a hang about what the public thinks," retorted Sir Sam. "It's all piffing as compared with so many other things which I have had to do."

"Have you ever ascertained whether an order in Council was issued?" "I have not. I don't know anything about it. I never paid any attention to the details at all."

"Will you produce a copy of the application to Council?" asked Mr. Dewart. "I won't. I deny that anything has ever been done without authority," answered the major-general.

The language of a presumably great man, but one who is not the master of the people. Thank goodness there is a supreme court before which all public men have to appear, namely, the court of public opinion, and it sometimes hands out verdicts that cannot be challenged. The public be hanged! Thus speaks the master of the Borden government, the man who does as he likes, says what he likes, orders what he likes, and spends what he likes. All this may go on for a season, but it will not go on forever.

A great public offender, the New York political boss, was found out after many years of infamous work and exposed. When indicted, he asked, coolly, "What are you going to do about it? Another great man, the head of a railway corporation, when brought to book for some imposition to which he was committed, and warned that the public would not stand for it, replied, "The public be —" It is the arrogant language of all men who lose their heads. Sir Sam Hughes will have to face the people later on, and so will his colleagues, the men whom he treats as his serfs, and they will not dare to say, "The public be hanged!" They will then be deferential, conciliatory, and very humble, but insults will be remembered.

EDITORIAL NOTES. The city is inviting tenders from the financial houses for the sale of \$50,000 of Patriotic Fund debentures. It is well to get these into the market and into the hands of the people before another Canadian loan of \$50,000,000 has been launched.

The Montreal Gazette is credited with the opinion that the House of Commons has lost its vigor or usefulness. When a conservative paper of the Gazette's standing makes this remark there must be a serious perturbation of the editorial mind.

The property owners on University avenue have been asked to make all necessary street connections with their houses as there will be a reconstruction of the street surface beginning with July 1st. This must be a joke. Paving cannot be wisely un-

dertaken this year. The proper surface cannot be laid upon a street that has been torn up from end to end.

The British cabinet is said to be again in an unsettled condition. The Irish question may force resignations, to be followed by a reconstruction. Some ministers are opposed to the new form of government for Ireland. Can Lloyd-George handle them as he handled other strikers?

Sir George Foster has appealed to the business men to reflect, consult, and counsel as to what should be done after the war. Sir George will call a conference of representative men in the fall to deal with the questions of the hour. What have the business men of Kingston to say upon the subject?

Sir Robert Borden is in New York and for the purpose of consulting with the great railway men as to the commission his government will appoint. This commission will consider the value of the Canadian railways, the wisdom of absorbing them as a public enterprise. Public ownership is a great and doubtful issue.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

The Bicycle Club had a run around the down town streets to-day. The club has fifty-four members. Rev. Dr. Ryckman reached the city to-day. He was pastor of Sydenham Street Church nineteen years ago. Police Constable James Craig was appointed to assist W. S. Gordon in the inspection of yards.

PUBLIC OPINION Sees the End.

(London Advertiser). Von Moltke is dead. The Kaiser's tools are all being broken, and the directing hand is becoming palsied.

No Summer At All. (Brantford Courier). The statement is made that the summer of 1816 in Ontario was so summary that it wasn't any summer at all.

Hard Question. (Toronto Mail). It is said that 98 per cent. of the population of India is loyal. What about the percentage in Ireland and Canada?

Cutting Him Out. (Montreal Mail). France is cutting out the Colonel Allison type of dealer in purchasing war supplies. They have replaced a lot of generals over there.

Not a Success. (Toronto Globe). The alliance of Provincial Conservatism with the Borden Government has proven disastrous in every recent election. British Columbia and New Brunswick are not likely to prove exceptions.

Is That So? (New York Herald). The final reason why Mr. Hughes was nominated for President was that the Germans demanded his nomination, and the Republican party

Random Reels

"Of Shoes and Ships, and Sealing Wax, of Cabbages and Kings."

WIVES. Wives are useful and respected members of society who are allowed to do housework for a living. They are also allowed to bask in new clothes every spring and fall, at so much per bask. Some wives do more basking than baking, but the majority work harder than a second-hand cook stove. There her husband and if she ever gets those days, and the ancient Roman be less blue sky struck away in the could go down town any Saturday at-

ternoon and buy five or six wives with good teeth for \$2.49. How painful it must have been to become the bride of some alcoholic, red-toothed Roman to whom one had never been introduced! It is said that Rameses the Great had 9,400 wives, no two of whom were alike, which probably accounts for the sad, drawn expression which travellers have observed protruding from his mummy.

There has been a great and melancholy change since Rameses' time. Nowadays a man who has one wife full means of quelling the turbulent and as they are. All about us, in the busy mart of life, we hear men clamoring for this or that for more and then begins to compare them out loud with what she got. This is more shortening in the biscuits, but never for more wives. This is a beautiful lesson in self-denial which husband to droop and wither like a vancing to a nobler and loftier plane.

Wives have been the making of thousands of men who otherwise would be dodging their poll tax. The Christian era wives were counted as household gods and could be mort-gaged for about the same sum as a second-hand cook stove. There her husband and if she ever gets those days, and the ancient Roman be less blue sky struck away in the could go down town any Saturday at-

Rippling Rhymes

PREPAREDNESS "Some night," I said, "I'll bet a leg, a yeggman will come here to yegg. The papers daily spring a tale of burglars who have swiped men's kale. I don't propose to be despoiled of coin for which I've slaved and toiled, and I shall buy myself a gun, and ammunition, while I was sleeping snug and tight, it beneath my pillow slip, in easy reach for instant grip. One night I heard a cautious tread somewhere adjacent to my bed. "At last," I thought, "a burglar's come, and he will find his luck is bum." Then dimly I beheld a shape. "My friend," I mused, "there's no escape." That shape I drew a bead upon, and fired, and then my Uncle John sent up a yell that shook the shack, for I had plugged him in the back. Around his bed the nurses sit, and say he's better now, a bit; the doctor's exercised his skill—and I will have to foot the bill. Now I appeal to everyone, "Say, don't you want a first rate gun?"

gave the Germans what they wanted. That is why the Chicago Convention adopted a platform that meets the unqualified approval of the German leaders.

CONSERVATIVE PRESS.

Trouble in Sight. Montreal Gazette. It is a short-lived Conservative administration went out of power. Since that year three premiers, W. T. Pipes, W. S. Fielding, and George H. Murray, have held office as Liberals. By July 20th next Mr. Murray will have been head of the administration for twenty years. He is evidently giving the people the sort of government they appreciate. If it is borrowing more than is well and increasing the expenditure and the taxes more than may yet be found comfortable, it is doing what most of the provincial ministers are doing, and will have lots of company in distress when the public finally appreciates that big expenditures have to be met by big taxes and that the people and not the spenders must pay them.

The General Discontent.

Toronto World. The discontent in the country is even more pronounced in the rank and file of the members of the House of Commons; but so far, his parliamentary supporters have not shown either appreciation of the actual conditions, or been possessed of force sufficient to compel a change in them. Indecision and inaction where there ought to be both outspoken policy and power behind it, seem to be the prevailing weakness all round. To get by the day should not be the chief end of an administration in times like these.

As for Sir Robert's colleagues, they are equally at sea, says Sir Sam Hughes, who gets credit for treating his leader and his colleagues as he treated Sir Charles Davidson and Hartley Dewart, one of the counsel in the small arms munition investigation. Sir Sam seems to be the one dominating factor in the cabinet. The country might even prefer Sir Sam Hughes and his swashbuckling to weakness prevalent in other quarters.

AMERICAN PRESS.

More Daylight in Life. New York Herald. Beginning with this week, the beligerent nations of Europe are now agreed in turning their clocks ahead one hour and beginning the day by that much earlier. The movement is said to be one of economy in the saving of artificial light, economy being necessarily the watchword of the hour in the countries at war; but there are other ideas connected with this daylight saving which deserve the attention of people all over the world.

Human nature is like the plants to a certain degree, inasmuch as light stimulates to wakefulness and activity. There is a physiological cycle in the daily life of man which has its lowest ebb of vitality in the early morning hours just before the dawn. Temperature is then lowest, pulse rate is slowest, and function is least efficient. There is a gradual rise in functional activity corresponding to the increase of light until the late afternoon hours, when it begins to decline again. Modern habits of getting up late and then staying awake until well on into the hours of darkness require not a little of human work to be done at moments that are unsuitable so far as the daily variation of vitality is concerned.

A girl likes a young man who is different from the one who is indifferent.

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