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LETTERS To The Editor

Reformer and Modernist Will Win. Kingston, Jan. 21.—(To the Editor): What a long time it takes to bring about any reform, whether religious, social or political. Man is a tardy creature, and he will not change his systems until he is forced to do so by circumstances. The determining factor in social and political reforms is usually economic. Karl Marx called it "economic determinism." When certain economic stages are reached in the development of society, then changes have to be made in the rules and systems governing that society. The old systems are no longer adequate nor fit to meet the new conditions. A stage has been reached politically, as well as economically, in Great Britain at the present time, making a reform imperative. The two party system of government there has come to the parting of the ways; and this very night, as I write, one of the most momentous votes ever recorded in the "Mother of Parliaments," will be taken, and the fate of one of the old historical parties will be determined. Reform of the electoral system is essential in Great Britain, and in most other so called democratic governments, including our own country. The two party system never was a good one, but it was a necessary stage in the evolution of society, but he who can read the signs of the times can see that it has reached the limit of its usefulness, and should be scrapped as soon as possible. The question arises what kind of a system is to take the place of the old one? Here let me give you what that able writer, H. G. Wells, has to say: "In Great Britain, policies have become serious, urgent, and under existing conditions the overstrained, impoverished community can no longer suffer the elaborate fooleries of party government. The extent to which the Mother of Parliaments proves herself the recuperative phoenix, or the incurable old goose in this affair is a matter of vital importance, not only to the British Empire, but to the whole world.

"Nowadays we have fairly clear ideas of the nature of a supreme governing body that is needed for the great various modern state." A single body seems to be all that is required. "About that supreme assembly we are now able to stipulate a certain necessary condition. It must not be too large a body, because that means an excess of inert and distinguished members too numerous and obscure to be properly watched, such as we find at Washington and Westminster; members must be elected by proportional representation." "Only by this method can we kill that gag upon honest democracy, the party system, and replace the professional politician by various gatherings of typical well-known men and women. Such a body would change only slowly in its character from election to election; it would sustain a government, more real, steadfast, representative, assured and consistent than any the world has ever seen before.

"Throughout the world a great gathering body of opinion is moving steadily towards such a conception of modern government. And because of its present needs it is this Great Britain which is likely to be for a time the battleground between modern and eighteenth century conceptions of legislative assembly."

This reform will be fought desperately. Such changes are not easily brought about. "All political parties in Britain are at the present time trying to work out the probable effects of this or that fake cheap substitute for electoral honesty upon party prospects. Discussion of electoral legislation in the Imperial Parliament throughout the next session, though it may make the angels weep, is certain to afford much entertainment to every mundane observer of human disingenuousness.

There is the great principle of evolution at work always in all systems, and in time the electoral reformer and the modernist will win, and a new era in the history of man will obtain.

—S. A. AYKROYD.

Alberta Coal Freight Rate. Hamilton, Jan. 21.—(To the Editor): Sir Henry Thornton's after dinner speeches at Brockville, and sundry other places, seem to me to indicate quite a serious misunderstanding between the people, the C. N. Ry. administration and the government.

He seems to feel instructed to manage the C. N. Ry. so the annual deficits will disappear, and be replaced at an early date by a surplus, and while succeeding nicely, he feels unable to reduce rates and continue that success, but if his employer, the government, directs him to reduce rates in the face of his advice to the contrary, their wishes should be carried out. The people have the matter in their own hands, and the right to say.

I believe a great majority of the people of Canada want the rates on Alberta and Nova Scotia coal to Ontario reduced, and should make their wishes definitely known to the government at once, asking that instructions to do so be passed on to Sir Henry.

I differ with Sir Henry as to reduced rates in all cases resulting in a reduced net income.

I believe a rate of \$4 per ton on Alberta coal in train load lots during slack seasons would result in such an increased volume of business that the net receipts would be increased, as demonstrated by the Laurier-Mullock penny postage, and a more nearly parallel comparison is the Glasgow St. Ry., endeavoring to

eat up their surplus by reducing rates from 2c, 4c, and 5c to 2c, which induced such increased traffic that it greatly increased the surplus.

The rate on Nova Scotia coal from Montreal to Hamilton, 372 miles, is \$3 per ton, and the rate on U.S. coal from Detroit to Montreal, 563 miles, is only \$2.90 or 10c less for 190 miles (50 per cent.) greater distance, which is most illogical. Many other similar cases should be corrected.

People! make your wants in these respects known to the government at once, and get results.

Yours truly,
—W. O. SEALEY.
61 Hunter street west.

SEEK RELIEF FROM BURDEN

(Continued from Page 1.) Sibbitt said he would refrain from expressing a definite opinion.

The Wolfe Island Sage. Councillor Spankie remarked that every member wanted to keep down the expenditure. Some Ontario county councils had a regular March session as they found it most convenient. If the Frontenac council had a March session it would have saved the holding of two special sessions in 1923 over road questions. Councillor Spankie was in favor of incorporating a six-dollar indemnity in the by-law of Councillor Halliday. He advocated the appointment of a committee to consider the matter and report at the next session, the committee to act without indemnity. The by-law of Councillor Halliday was given a first reading, and on motion of Councillors Storms and Hamilton a committee consisting of Councillors Halliday, Sibbitt and Spankie were appointed a committee to consider the question of reduced indemnity and report at the next session.

COUNTY COUNCIL PRAISE FOR THE CHILDREN'S AID

Delegation Asks Increased Grant and Request is Cordially Received.

A delegation from the Children's Aid Society, consisting of Dr. E. C. D. McCallum, president, Ald. T. Ashmore Kidd, treasurer, and William Black, inspector, waited upon the county council on Thursday afternoon to present the needs of this society to the Frontenac representatives, and to ask that the county grant of \$500 be increased to \$1,000. The delegation received such a hearty reception that they lingered while various members of the council sounded the praises of the admirable work being accomplished by the Children's Aid of Kingston and Frontenac. It is not often that a deputation asking for an increased grant is given the right hand of fellowship at the hands of a council, but in this case the Children's Aid men were practically told to come right in and hang up their hats.

The case of the society was clearly presented by the three officials and it was shown that at the close of the year ending September, 1923, the society showed an expense account of \$1,959.08 and had revenue of only \$1,381.35 to meet it. The deficit of \$577.73 was temporarily provided for through the generosity of Dr. McCallum. This year the overdraft must be wiped out, and it can only be done by increased grants from the city and the county.

Dr. McCallum and Ald. Kidd, in replying to councillors, said that the city council would be asked to do its share in providing the increased revenue required. The latter stated that it cost the city about double what the county paid for children's aid work and for the keep of wards. The city provided an office, light and heat for the inspector also.

Inspector Black asked the council members to help in getting foster homes for infants in the Kingston Home for Friendless Women and children. There were a lot of really little ones there, who should be in homes where there are no children. If they were prize bull terriers instead of human beings, he said, that homes would be open to them in a twinkling.

Councillors Drew, Hamilton, Storms, Halliday and Flake spoke in high terms of the work of the Children's Aid, and assured the delegation that the sympathy of the council was with it. On motion of Councillors Sibbitt and Barr, the matter of increased grant was referred to the finance committee.

Councillor Flake, reeve of Clarendon and Miller, brought to the attention of the council an unfortunate case that he had to deal with. There were two children in his township, a boy and a girl, brother and sister, aged thirteen and eleven, who were insane and liable to become a menace to the community. He had taken the matter up with Inspector Black, but so far efforts to have the

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"The Ghost Woman" with Dante, the Great Magician, coming to the Grand Opera House for three days, commencing Monday.

A lockout of 1,500 men's clothing workers in Montreal by the Clothing Contractors' Association, followed the refusal of the workers to accept a reduction in rates of pay.

Oxford county council was staggered by the receipt of bills from the Highways Department for \$249,979 for last year and another for \$45,658 for 1924.

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Directors Are Being Sued For Losses of Company

Montreal, Jan. 25.—Responsibility for the failure of the N. A. MacDonald Company, Limited, local bond dealers, a year ago, was laid at the door of the directors in charges brought by Gordon W. Scott, liquidator, in an action in the Superior Court here. The suit involves about \$245,000, which, the trustee claims, has been lost to the company by transactions of its directorate, which is composed of Sir George Burn, Gordon C. Edwards and W. H. Dwyer of Ottawa; Angus McLean, of Bathurst, N.B., and R. Thompson, of Carleton Place, Ont.

Watch Your Step and Dance. How dodging automobiles is adding to our agility and making us all dancers. Sunday's Detroit Free Press. All newsstands.—Adv.