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The Passing Scene

By Observer

In a recent issue of a widely read magazine there appeared an interesting little write-up about a small town in Ohio. Few people outside its own borders had probably ever heard of the place until a roving reporter suddenly discovered that it was unable to find a town clerk. What is more only fourteen men could be persuaded to run for seats in the Town Council, and there were exactly fourteen to be filled. It would not take much searching to find towns in the same predicament here and there across Canada and, perhaps, even in our own little Province.

It is not a good sign in any democratic country, but there are plenty of reasons for it, the chief one, being a widespread feeling of scorn for political office holders generally.

The fact seems to be that the science of politics in our day has fallen on hard times and the word "politician" in disrepute, so much so that it is getting to be quite a problem to persuade the most capable and gifted men in a town or Province to take up public service as a vocation. For capable and gifted men are usually sensitive to abuse and calumny and they can expect plenty of both as soon as they renounce their privacy and assume public duties and, the smaller the unit of administration, the more pronounced adverse, carping, criticism seems to be.

A Place for Criticism

There is a place, of course, for public criticism of the politicians. No democracy could function without it. It acts as a check on arbitrary power which, otherwise, might very well get out of hand. But when criticism is permitted to run wild and becomes unreasonable, indiscriminate condemnation, it is a stumbling block to good and wise government. There is in all this the seed of political catastrophe for, if good and capable men are kept out of political life by fear of unjust criticism, the other kind of men are bound to get into it, since the adventurer who is simply out for what he can get is seldom afraid of abuse.

The same can be said of some really good men but not by any means in the same proportion. These will take well meant criticism and profit by it, but they simply will not stand for slander and abuse, and who can blame them?

This is the real story behind the printed report about the little town in Ohio. But it could just as well be Charlottetown, Summerside, Alberton, Montague, Souris, or Mount Stewart, for throwing stones at public officials, administrators and representatives, good or bad, honest or dishonest, capable or mediocre, is a common pastime on the part of the electorate. It hurts the victims, to be sure, but what is more serious, it does much harm to our free concept of government.

I have never been a politician and I do not hope to be one, but I believe an impartial and comprehensive survey, if one could be undertaken, would show that, on the whole, with some infamous exceptions, government officials (whether municipal, provincial, or federal) and politicians in general could hold their own with respect to probity, ability, and conscientious devotion to duty with any other professional or semi-professional group, and, mind you, they have a lot to contend with.

Temptation to wrong doing confronts them at every turn. Now and then, of course, you come across one who has betrayed the confidence entrusted to him by the people, but there is no department in human relations where that does not sometimes happen. It is certainly not peculiar to politicians.

Second Place To None

According to what one hears from time to time (e.g.):

(a) "So and so is the worst member we ever had".

(b) "The politicians are all alike. They are all in it for what they can get out of it".

(c) "Nothing is ever done for this district".

(d) "All they know is how to waste money".

(e) "Everything the farmer can make is taken in taxes".

The people on this Island, if I may say so, take second place to none when it comes to abusing their elected representatives and they seem to go at it with glee. This is a funny and harmless enough to a point. Beyond that point it becomes a matter of grave concern to those who want to see our political institutions live and grow.

On a recent afternoon when I had nothing more profitable to do I went over the names of those who now sit in the local Legislature on both sides of the House. Some of them I know well, and I am certain that against their honour not a word could be justly said. Others I do not know at all. They appear, however, to be fairly typical of the population generally. There are lawyers (some say too many), doctors, business men of one kind and another, and quite a lot of farmers of whom there could not be too many in a Province like this. Indeed, farmers, if they felt like it, could easily control the Legislature here, but I am not suggesting that would be a good thing.

So far as I know there is no professor in the list, which seems to be a pity. Among them all there

is probably no political genius and, certainly, no great prophet. In most cases, I would say, they appear to be very much like the people who elected them, anxious and able to do a day's work without much fanfare or grumbling. Among the ministers there may be (I do not say there are) one or two misfits, honest enough but just not suited to their responsibilities.

But, even if that be so, it must be remembered that the head of a government is not in the same position as the head of a large business concern, free to pick and choose as he will. Sometimes really first rate men are defeated at the polls and the Premier can only select from the best prospects at hand. He cannot even do that and at the same time pay heed to the clamour from all sections of the Province for representation in the executive branch of government.

A Good Record

So far as this Province is concerned (and this, of course, is where our chief interest lies) during its history it has had many ups and downs. Quiet and peaceful in the main, *Laus Deo*, it has nevertheless had its share of social and economic stress. But its record of government has been, on the whole, good and honourable with few, if any, serious acts of delinquency. There has been some unimportant legislation but where this has happened it has been demanded by the electorate.

Politically, we are very far from maturity, and we have much to learn before we can hope to make our form of government in practice what it has always been ideally, the safest, most satisfying method of cementing a community together in freedom under law.

Most of the things for which governments and professional politicians are blamed are not found to merit justification when they are subjected to the light of scrutiny. Take, for example, the matter of taxation. These have been imposed in one way or another ever since

Continued on page 11



BUYS AND WHYS

A WEEKLY INFORMATION SERVICE

Barbara Brent's
MONTREAL, Dec. 20th—Merry Christmas everybody! I've been thinking about things to make you and your family specially happy at this merriest time of the year. And high on the list is something wonderful to eat! Live a little, eat a little, mouth Swans Down cake! There's just something about a cake made with SWANS DOWN CAKE FLOUR that spreads good cheer all round—from you who make it (it's such a pleasure to bake with Swans Down!) to the lucky folks who eat it! Every last morsel is gobbled up—and that's no wonder—for Swans Down Cake Flour makes such beautiful cakes! You see—Swans Down is sifted and re-sifted until it's 27 times as fine as ordinary flour.

I Like To Begin a crisp, winter morning with a breakfast treat of "Cream of Wheat". So smooth—so appetizing—so "just right" in flavour. Not only good to eat—but good for you, too. For 5 Minute "CREAM OF WHEAT" provides Iron for good red blood, and Calcium and Phosphorus for diet deficient in these elements. Treat yourself and your family to 5 Minute "Cream of Wheat" tomorrow morning... it's a delight to eat—a delight to prepare—cooks to delicious smooth-things in just five minutes of boiling. M-mmm! That rich, wide-awake flavour... no wonder so many folks like to start the day right with a "Cream of Wheat" breakfast!

Your Husband's Been Christmas Shopping, too. So be sure to satisfy his extra-hearty appetite with something specially good for dinner. The ideal meal for busy you and hungry hubby is HEINZ COOKED SPAGHETTI or HEINZ OVEN-BAKED BEANS. So quick to cook—so good to eat! Serve Heinz Oven-Baked Beans in a variety of delicious ways... with Heinz Chili Sauce—with bacon—with cheese. And Heinz Cooked Spaghetti with side dishes of crisp, green salad. Another thing you'll like about these wink-quick Heinz meals is that they're truly easy on your budget. Ask for Heinz Cooked Spaghetti and Heinz Oven-Baked Beans next time you're grocery-shopping. You know they're good because they're Heinz!

Gesundheit!... Catching a nasty chest cold? Feel so awful you don't want to go to that Christmas party? Cheer up! I know just the thing to chase away nagging chest-cold pain! Rub BEN-GAY (Baume Benguë) on chest, neck and throat... mmm, how it soothes, warms... how quickly it gives relief. It breaks up the congestion—makes breathing easier. First thing you know you're ready to be the life of the Christmas party. "Peter Pan" strikes often at this time of year... that's why-it's wise to keep a generous tube of BEN-GAY always on hand.

Isn't It Fun to add a spot of glamour to a basic dress—a pin, or scarf, or necklace? I've been discovering that it's fun to add glamour in cooking—a plain pudding prettied up with a luxurious sauce—a simple butter cake with a rich frosting. Chocolate seems to be our favourite for these "special touches." And why I say "chocolate" of course I mean BAKER'S UNSWEETENED CHOCOLATE. There's a chocolate that can't help but make dishes more sumptuous and exciting. Baker's has true chocolate flavour because it's all pure chocolate... nothing added, nothing taken away. It has certainly opened a whole new vista of delicious and interesting cakes, sauces and desserts. I'm never without my trusty package of Baker's Unsweetened Chocolate.

There's Real Flavour Excitement in this wonderful soup! In fact, my family are so fond of HEINZ CREAM OF MUSHROOM SOUP, I can't get away with just serving it at dinner-time. It stars at lunch and Sunday supper, too. Yes, "Heinz Cream of Mushroom Soup" is our "Soup of the Month" for December. Forgotten how good real mushrooms can taste? Then just try this soup with the previous beauty-cream ingredient... meat and vegetable dishes, too. (Incidentally, in this month of Christmas spending, it's one of the nicest things you can do for your budget!) Ask your grocer for "Heinz Cream of Mushroom Soup" today—you know it's good because it's Heinz!

No Lovely Red-Head ever went into action faster than Joyce Edwards. When Russell Otis Washburn gave his fraternity pin to another girl Joyce was furious! Now Joyce and Russell are very happily married. Joyce's secret? Not just her glorious red hair or her glowing personality—but her silken-smooth, wonderfully natural Woodbury complexion! Joyce makes a regular beauty habit of WOODBURY FACIAL SOAP—the soap with the precious beauty-cream ingredient... tended to help replace natural oils you wash away. Discover what it means to have this extra gentleness in a beauty soap. Treat your skin to Woodbury's creamy lather regularly. And get the Big Beauty Bath Size for all-over loveliness.

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Card Of Thanks

We wish to extend our thanks and appreciation to all our kind friends and neighbours who sent personal letters, sympathy cards and flowers in our recent sad bereavement; also to the untiring efforts and kindness of our family Physician.

F. D. Webster and Family.

CRASWELL for Better Photographs.

PALMER ELECTRIC for Tree Lights, Santas and Candeliers.

KENWOOD, Canada's National Overcoat at Jack Cameron's.

KROY WOOL hose for men, the ideal Christmas gift at Jack Cameron's.

FRAM AND STROLLER, snow runners, available at Holmans.

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SEE THE WEB COR TYPE RECORDER at Holmans Charlotte-town Store. Music Dept.

REFRIGERATORS, Ranges, Motors and Washer repairs, Storey Electric. Phone 3007.

RANGE AND OIL BURNERS serviced by Vickerson Engineering Co. Telephone 2480.

PALMER ELECTRIC will be open Thursday, Friday and Saturday night for last minute shoppers.

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of John J. Campbell, Poplar Point, who departed this life December 20th, 1949.

"Gone from us but leaving memories, Death can never take away, Memories that will always linger, While upon this earth we stay."

Lovingly Remembered by His Wife and Family.

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of my husband, J. Walter MacEwen, who passed away December 20th, 1945.

There's still a heartache for you today, That countless years won't take away, A place in my heart that nothing can fill, I miss you dear Walter, and always will.

Remembered by His Wife Annie.

CHRISTMAS CANDY SALE

200 LBS.
Hard Mix — Gum Drops — Barley Toy Shapes — Ribbon Candy — Satin Mix.

29c lb. 4 lbs. 1.00

YOUR CHANCE TO SAVE

BLEND or GRAPEFRUIT JUICE, 1ge. 48 oz. tin 35c; 3 for \$1.00

DELICIOUS APPLES, 19c doz., 6 doz. \$1.00

CHRISTMAS JUICY ORANGES, 4 doz. \$1.00

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Ducks, Geese, Turkeys, Chickens
All Weights

EXTRA FANCY BEMA MOLASSES, 1 gal. ... \$1.09

MIXED NUTS, fresh stock, 2 lbs. 79c

Green Peas, 5 tins ... 95c	Sultana Raisins, 4 lbs. \$1
Pork & Beans, 6 tins ... \$1	Sticky Seeded Raisins, 3 pkgs. 95c
Golden Corn, 5 tins ... 95c	Cut Mixed Peel, pkg. ... 23c
Tomato Soup, Campbell's, 8 tins ... \$1	Magic Baking Powder, 6 lbs ... \$1
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