

POLITICAL AGITATORS

POLITICIANS WHO CAPITALIZE
STRIKE A MENACE TO
GOVERNMENT.

Neglect of Agricultural and Industrial
Opportunities a National Crime.

By Peter Radford.

There never was a time in the history of this nation when we needed statesmen more or agitators less than at the present moment. The opportunities now afforded us on land and sea demand the best there is in statecraft and the possibilities that are confronting us call for national issues that unite the people, build industry and expand trade. The agricultural and industrial development of this nation has suffered severely at the hands of agitators who have sent torpedoes crashing into the port side of business and whose neglect of the interests of the farmer makes them little less than political criminals. We want no more of these evil spirits to predominate in government. Too long their hysterical cry has sent a shiver down the spinal column of industry. Too long have the political agitators capitalized strife, pillaged progress and murdered opportunity. An industrial corpse is not a desirable thing, a crippled business an achievement or neglect an accomplishment about which any representative of the government has a right to boast.

Issues that Breed Agitators Should be
Eliminated.

The political agitator must be eliminated from public life before thoughtful consideration can be given to a constructive program in government. The liquor question is the most prolific breeding ground for agitators and whether pro or anti, the hatch is equally as undesirable. This article is in no sense a discussion of the liquor question but deals solely and by way of illustration with the political products of that issue. Other subjects will be dealt with in the order of their importance.

In the history of our government the liquor issue has never produced a constructive statesman worth mentioning and it never will. It has sent more freaks to Congress, Lilliputians to the Senate and incompetents to office than any other political issue under the sun.

The recent experience of the English Parliament which lashed itself into a fury over the liquor question has a lesson that it is well for the farmers of this nation to observe; for the subject in some form or other is constantly before the public for solution and oftentimes to the exclusion of more important problems to the American plowman.

Too Many Political Drunkards.

Lloyd George, the Prohibition leader of Europe who led the prohibition fight in England, has declared that he will never again take a drink politically and there are many American politicians—pro and anti—who would render their country a service by climbing on the water wagon or signing a pledge of political temperance. Too often our legislative halls are turned into political bar-rooms and many of the members become intoxicated on liquor discussions. We have too many political drunkards—pro and anti—in our public affairs. No one who is a slave to the political liquor habit is quite so capable of dealing with the business affairs of government as the sober and industrious. We have few public men in this day who are strong enough to resist the temptation of strong drink politically and when the Semon Rum once becomes firmly entrenched in the mind of a politician, he is less capable of meeting the demands for constructive statesmanship now confronting this nation.

We have in this country too many red-nosed politicians—both pro and anti. A candidate with political delirium tremens, a preacher with political snakes in his boots and an agitator drunk on the liquor question are the saddest sights in civilization and they should all be forced to take the political Keeley Cure.

It is far more important in government to make it easier for those who toil to eat than to make it more difficult for a few toppers to drink. There is not one person in one hundred of our rural population that ever touches liquor but we all eat three times a day.

THE LAYMAN'S DUTY

There never was a time when

preachers and politicians formed an unholy alliance that civilization did not shrink out and Christianity cry aloud. Since the beginning of government, politicians have sought to decoy the ministry into the meshes of politics and make them carry banners in political processions. They have taken the ministry to the mountaintop of power and offered to make them monarch of all they surveyed, and while most of them have said, "Get thee behind me Satan," a few have fallen with a crash that has shaken every pulpit in Christendom.

SAVED BY THE KING.

An Incident in the Career of Holbein,
the Famous Painter.

There happened an affair in England which might have been fatal to Holbein if the king had not protected him. On the report of his character a nobleman of the first quality wanted one day to see him when he was drawing a figure after the life. Holbein in answer begged his lordship to defer the honor of his visit to another day, which the nobleman took for an affront. He broke open the door and very rudely went upstairs. Holbein, hearing the noise, left his chamber and, meeting the lord at his door, fell into a violent passion and pushed him backward from the top of the stairs to the bottom.

Considering, however, immediately what he had done, he escaped from the fustell he had raised and made the best of his way to the king. The nobleman, much hurt, though not so much as he pretended, was there soon after him, and upon opening his grievance the king ordered Holbein to ask pardon for his offense. But this only irritated the nobleman the more, who would not be satisfied with less than his life, upon which the king sternly replied:

"My lord, you have not now to do with Holbein, but with me. Whatever punishment you may contrive by way of revenge against him shall assuredly be inflicted upon yourself. Remember, pray, my lord, that I can whenever I please make seven lords of seven plowmen, but I cannot make one Holbein even of seven lords."—"Life of Holbein."

Wind and Temper.

There is a closer connection between wind and temper than at first sight appears. A coldish wind has a bracing effect and, on the whole, is beneficial. In countries where hot winds occur periodically, on the other hand, these are regarded as a nuisance, if not a curse. Every one almost gets cross, weary and done up and has a headache daily. In Egypt the season when crimes are commonest is when the hot khamsin blows. Nearly always during a severe stroke the Arabs in Algeria were restless, if they did not attempt an actual rising. The solano, which now and then rushes across the Mediterranean in fiery blasts from Africa, upsets every one in Spain and is the worst wind in that country.

Cutting the Gordian Knot.

The phrase "cutting the Gordian knot" alludes to an ancient tradition. The story was that Gordius, a certain king, made a knot in the harness of his chariot so hard and intricate as to baffle every attempt to undo it. The oracle of the day having declared that he who succeeded in solving the complication would become the conqueror of the world, Alexander the Great determined to attempt it. His first efforts failing, he determined to make short work of it, and, drawing his sword, with one stroke he cut the knot which nobody could untie; hence the expression "cutting the Gordian knot" came to represent the solution of any difficult situation by heroic means.

Presenting Arms to a Cat.

About the middle of the last century a very high English official died in a fortress at a place that is one of the centers of Brahmanic orthodoxy, and at the moment when the news of his death reached the spy guard at the main gate a black cat rushed out of it. The guard presented arms to the cat as a salute to the dying spirit of the powerful Englishman, and the coincidence took so firm a hold of the locality that up to a few years ago neither exhortation or orders could prevent a Hindu sentry at that gate from presenting arms to any cat that passed out at night.—Bombay Times.

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