

## FROM HOBBS TO LENIN.

## POLITICAL THEORY AND POLITICAL PRACTICE.

However unpleasant it may be to live under the rule of Bolsheviks, it is certain that Lenin will live in the political history of the world for his invention of a new theory of government. The "dictatorship of the proletariat" is, at least, a novel idea, even though, in practice, it may mean the dictatorship of more or less self-appointed commissars.

In a period of change and experiment, it is interesting and important to know something of the theories and ideals that have inspired the changes of the past, and the experiments that have already been made. Such a book as Mr. Hector Macpherson's "A Century of Political Development" certainly supplies topical reading relevant to the times.

## HOBBS'S IDEA.

Mr. Macpherson begins his story with the French Revolution, but he discusses the theories of government that preceded the revolution. The English philosopher, Hobbes, a devout believer in the doctrine of original sin, laid it down that selfish ferocious man found it necessary, in order that he should be protected from his fellows, to create some sort of authority that all should obey. Mr. Macpherson summarises the Hobbes doctrine as follows: "Primitive men made a covenant with one another to elect one of their number as sovereign with unlimited powers—so unlimited, indeed, that, no matter how despotic were his acts, the community having granted those powers, could not revoke them and had no alternative but abject submission."

It is not to be wondered at that Hobbes was very popular with the Stuarts, and he must surely have been one of the favourite authors in the Hohenzollern library.

## LOCKE AND THE KING.

Locke, on the other hand, contended that there was an implied contract between the Sovereign and his subjects which compelled him to pay for his privileges by respecting their rights. This view was expressed by a Scotch preacher (quoted by Mr. Macpherson), who said in his sermon at the coronation of Charles II.:—"It is good for our King to learn to be wise in time, and know that he receiveth this day a power to govern, but a power limited by contract, and those conditions he is bound to stand to."

Jean Jacques Rousseau went much farther than Locke. He began with the thesis that "man was born free and yet he is everywhere in chains." Rousseau was eager to lead man back again to his natural state of freedom. In his famous "Social Contract," the "Bible of the Revolution," he lays down the doctrine of the sovereignty of the people, and it is worthy of notice that (wishing the people to be sovereign) he had almost as deep a mistrust of Parliaments as Lenin himself.

## ROUSSEAU'S PUPILS.

Rousseau taught—Danton, Marat, and Robespierre practised—and Napoleon conquered. A rather tragic historic story in a sentence with an obvious moral!

Burke, the great antagonist of the revolution, had a simple faith. He regarded the British Constitution as the most effective protection against Jacobinism, and he regarded the smallest tampering with the Constitution (with its rotten boroughs and restricted franchise) as the unforgivable sin.

From Waterloo to the Reform Bill, reaction triumphed in England, and liberty hardly existed, but even in that dead time teachers arose with new versions of the old gospel.

## BENTHAM AND SIDNEY WEBB.

Jeremy Bentham, the Utilitarian, was as unsentimental as Mr. Sidney Webb. He despised fine phrases. "Rights of man," "sovereignty of the people," "natural conditions," were just "large words" to him, mere jargon and hodge-podge. He denounced the existing Government because it was a bad Government. He declared that it was inevitable that an absolute ruler should think first of his own interests, that the aim of Government should be the attainment of the "greatest happiness of the greatest number," and that this could only be approached by a democracy. Bentham advocated universal suffrage, and both he and the elder Mill believed that the politically free masses would be content to be guided and led by the middle class.

Bentham was not a Socialist, but John Stuart Mill pointed out that if there were no such things as natural rights, a complete democracy may be as extreme a despotism as an autocracy.

There are more than 1500 different tribes of American Indians.

## Children's Column.

## MATER'S LETTER BOX.

Dear Boys and Girls.—This week I am thanking you for the interest you have taken in the Children's Column and I hope you will continue to write to us and also get others to do so. We are going to give three prizes, details of which will be announced later. The proposal is that you write us an essay on: "Should Invercargill have Municipal Baths." Just fancy, girls and boys, a nice big building where you could go and have a swim in beautiful warm water. Why, mother's bath is not in it! I want you to talk to father and mother about it and just think it over in the meantime. Now dear Country Cousins, you can take part in this competition too. Don't you think it would be nice if your schoolmaster brought you into town and you could all go and have a good plunge in nice warm water? The essay is not to exceed half a column (about 400 words), and I want you to watch next week's "Digger" for full particulars. If you do not want to write on this subject, still send in your stories as usual. —Mater.

## AS BUSY AS A BEE.

(by Vera).

"Always busy," was Aunt Olivia's motto, and a good one, too. She bustled upstairs and downstairs; now she was in the garden, now in the kitchen, now feeding the chickens, now whisking away a cobweb begun by a spider who did not know Aunt Olivia's active ways.

When Heather came to stay at the farm, "always busy," became her motto too. She trotted upstairs and downstairs, and in Aunt Olivia's chamber: she brushed the dog and petted the cat. The petting took a long time, because, of course it had to be done thoroughly.

"Heather," called her aunt one morning, "I want some apples peeled."

"Very well, Aunt," the little girl called back. She took the basket, a basin, and a knife, out-of-doors, and sat down under a tree. Close by were neat little straw hives of a colony of bees who were all busy too, just like Aunt Olivia and Heather. The younger ones were disturbed at seeing a stranger so near.

"Buzz!" they cried, "Shall we drive her away? Shall we give her a little sting or two?"

"Nonsense!" scolded the older ones. "Don't you see she is as busy as we are?"

But Aunt Olivia saw Heather and came very quietly and pulled her round to the other side of the tree, saying: "You shouldn't go so near the hives child! It's a mercy you haven't been stung!"

Heather opened her eyes. "Aunt, they are such friendly bees!" she cried. But she had to push the apples in the kitchen.

## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT.

## "THE MAN IN THE MOON."

Who hasn't heard of the Man in the Moon. Everyone knows how he came down too soon. Norwich he tried hard to get to, but, oh, there is much more of his story, you know.

This is the tale of that Man to the end—listen, I'll tell you; he hadn't a friend; lived in the Moon, to be lonely, did he! Always was saying, "I hate companions!"

Up in the Moon, yes, he lived alone; happily, quite on his own. Cleaned up? No, never! And washed up? Not he! Oh, dear, his home was indeed spidery!

One summer morning when dressing-bells rang down on the Earth, and the children all sprang out of their beds to get washed, brushed and dressed, little Miss Muffet did so, like the rest!

Oh, and how lovely and fresh she did feel when she was tubbed—yes, quite keen for a meal! "Here," said her mother, "is nice curds and whey. Eat it outside, for it's such a fine day!"

Off went Miss Muffet, contented of course; not in the least bit inclined to be cross; took her nice breakfast and sat down the dear, never once feeling the least scrap of fear!

"Oh, this is lovely!" she said as she sipped. "Oh, I am hungry!" and in her spoon dipped. "Oh—" but that moment she stopped with a cry, for a huge spider dropped down from the sky!

Oh, such a monster! Of terrible size! Little Miss Muffet broke out into cries. Up ran her mother to ask what was wrong, up came a witch, too, a-limping along!

"What!" cried that witch-wife and opened her eyes; "I've never seen such a spider for size! Dropped from the sky, eh? The Moon, I'll be bound! I'll take my broom-stick and sweep that Moon round!"

Off on her broom-stick, still speaking, she flew; "Mother!" said Muffet, "oh, what will she do!" "Sweep up the Moon, child; it needs it; that's plain, if we're to have spiders falling like rain!"

Sweep up the Moon! That indeed did she do! Just as the Man was a-dishing his

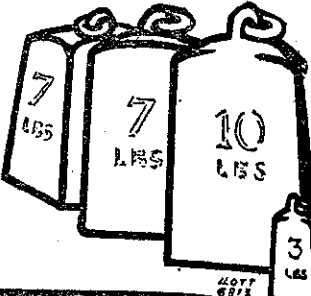


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stew, on the same plate that he'd used all his life!—up on the broom-stick there rode that witch-wife!

"Well," said the witch-wife; "I never have seen such a black-land, sir; it needs a good clean! 'Don't you say; 'Never!' Please leave that to me! 'Won't!' 'Shan't!' and 'Can't!' Dearie me! Dearie me!"

Then with her broom, how she swilled and she swept till out all the spiders and black-beetles crept. "Off to the stars, are they going? Well, soon I shall go, too!" quoth the man in the Moon.

"Yes, you're a nuisance, old witch-wife," moped he; "I never asked you for your company!"

"No, but I've come, and I mean to stay here," shouted the witch, "till the whole great Moon's clear!"

What was the Man in the Moon to do now? Stormy and stormier grew his round brow. "I'll go to Norwich," thought he, "yes, I will; while the old witch-wife is dusting her fill!"

But, oh dear me, in his fluster and fret, there was one thing that he'd chanced to forget; he'd an engagement for that afternoon, and for that evening—the Man in the Moon.

For all the girls and the boys, you must hear, used to hold parties when moonlight was clear; out in the street would the boys and girls play when the Moon promised to shine as bright as day!

And he had promised for this very night, but—he forgot in his fluster and fright; packed up his bag and to Norwich went he, and out went moonlight, of course, instantly!

Oh, there were terrible cries! Hark, oh hark! All of the children were lost in the dark. They had been dancing so blithe and so gay; now ev'ry one had lost his of her way.

Never, no never, was such a night spent, up street and down street the lost children went! Mothers and fathers they searched through the night; no one was found till the morning brought light!

Well, that's the reason, of course, nowadays, why there is no good child who ever plays out in the streets after evening has come, even at full Moon they're safer at home!

But he's been tidy since then, oh dear, yes; no more big spiders have fallen, I guess. And the Moon's white now—as white as the snow; looks up and tell me if that isn't so!

## The Home.

## HOW TO PRESS A SUIT.

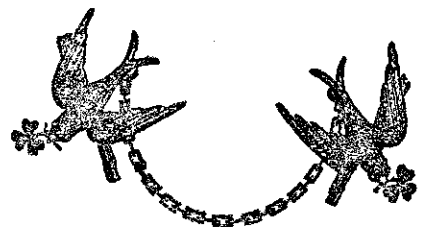
You may do more harm than good if, when about to press a costume, you do not know how to set about it. For instance, if there are pleats, each one must be carefully tacked, perfectly straight and flat. A thin cloth wrung out of cold water should then be placed between iron and material. The iron must be hot enough to cause a thick steam to rise, then iron straight up and down; and when the fabric is dry, it should present a smooth surface free from crease or blemish. Grease spots, if any, should be removed beforehand. It is difficult to press coats belonging to suits, and when possible professional assistance should be obtained; but if, after wear, a coat be carefully placed on a hanger, it will keep its shape well, and need not be ironed. A costume returned by a tailor after it has been nicely pressed, looks almost equal to new; and skirts show a marked improvement—the ironing be done properly at home.

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DEE STREET, INVERCARGILL.

considerably, and as they do fall into holes, to avoid the necessity of buying new ones, I suggest a means of repair that will prolong their usefulness. There are sure to be old lace curtains, altogether past mending, from which may be cut a piece corresponding to the size of the hole to be filled in; be careful to choose a patch the pattern of which is not so dissimilar as to betray its presence. Spread the curtain to be repaired on a table, have ready some hot boiled starch, or even flour paste; moisten the edges of the hole with it, press the edges firmly down, and iron till dry. If neatly done, the repair should be hardly noticeable. After washing, of course, the curtains will have to be mended in the same way.

## MARMALADE.

One pound of Seville oranges, two quarts of water. Boil the fruit for two hours, or until soft. Then slice it very thin and remove all pips. Put it into a preserving pan with two pounds of loaf sugar and half a pint of the water the oranges were boiled in, to every pound of oranges. Boil quickly for twenty minutes, then put in pots. This marmalade is not so sweet as that made according to my first recipe, and some persons like it better for that reason. I have recipes for Irish and Scottish marmalade, but, seeing the difficulty of getting sugar, it seems useless to print them. Marmalade is the most wholesome of all preserves, and so long have we been accustomed to see it on the breakfast table that its absence is more felt than that of most other table delicacies of the kind. If saccharine is used to sweeten, gelatine must be introduced, otherwise the preserve will not jelly—i.e., thicken.

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