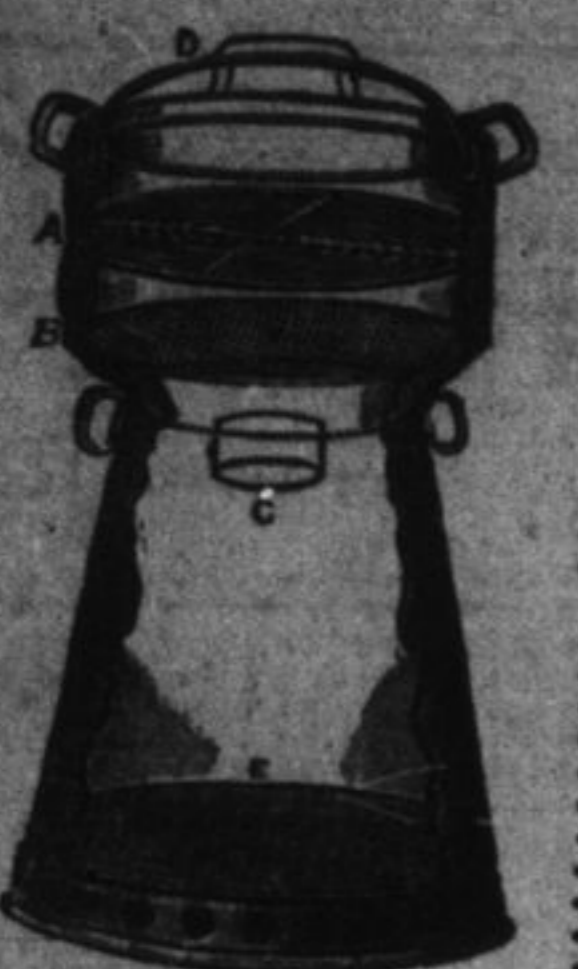


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THE WHIG—74th YEAR

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Daily Whig.

The Premier To Blame.

The attitude of the Whitney government on the license question is not satisfactory. The premier must see this. His wall in opposition was that the liberal administration was not correct; that there was an alliance between the liquor men and the government, and that there had to be an end of this. The people gave Mr. Whitney a chance to show what he could do. He chose his colleagues, and he knew whether they were likely to carry out his ideas. The license board, on which both parties were represented, were changed, and boards with conservative only put in their place. The license inspectors were changed. These were the nominees of the patronage committee. The result is apparent. The traffic in licenses is disgraceful. All through the enquiry the evidence has been damaging to the government. The crisis came when a minister was shown to be engaged in the patronage-peddling, and in the interest of a man who had been convicted of fourteen violations of the law. Mr. Whitney storms when the matter is referred to in the house. He threatens to counter on the liberals. Let him go ahead. The deposed commissioners and inspectors invite him to do his worst. Meanwhile the people have a grievance against him. He promised to give them a non-partisan administration of the license business. He has not kept his word. He cannot say he is not personally involved. He is involved, seriously. As premier he should control the situation, and he will be held to account for the most flagrant violation of a pledge of which there is a record.

The Fight in Manitoba.

The re-election of the Roblin government may give its admirers some comfort, but on reflection the victory is not much to its credit. It brought on the election during the most inopportune season. It did not give the people time to consider the situation. It did not give them the opportunity to register. It did what it could, on one hand, to prevent a free expression of public opinion, and on the other to corrupt and influence it. In addition there was a bitterness of spirit without a parallel, an abuse of the moral element in parts which was unprecedented.

The popular vote is said to be pretty even, though the majority is in favour of the government, and in consequence of it the Roblin-Rogers administration. The moral victory which is thus indicated is important; but it does not count for much. The Whitney party had an experience along this line for many a long day in Ontario.

The parties were alike favourable to public ownership and an extension of the boundary. The Tory papers, interpreted the election to mean that the federal government must give to Manitoba all it wants in the way of territory. The boundary question, however, cut very little ice in the campaign. It was a contest of dollars to doughnuts and the government had the goods. The defeat of greatest moment is that of Mr. Brown. A splendid man, of fine character and great promise, he was willing to serve the people at a great sacrifice, and they have not accepted him. Rather they failed to appreciate his offer, and he has been relieved of a great responsibility. They will sooner or later repent of their choice.

Which Is The Wise Policy?

The alderman who wants to divert the water revenues to the general revenue does not think that Montreal's experience is at all illustrative of what may happen here. No? Montreal has been using the earnings of the department for many years, making no provision for restoration and repairs, and the whole plant has become demoralized. A water famine has been on, the people have suffered, and the city is helpless. It is easy to say, issue bonds when you want new machinery! But a debenture debt cannot be contracted on the spur of the moment. The proceedings must be deliberately taken. Meantime the city should have a fund on which it can draw for emergency purposes, and Montreal has not a dollar which is thus available. Is that the kind of experience Kingston should court? Ald. Chouva says there are three ways in which the profits can be utilized: (1) By lowering the rates; (2) by turning them into the general revenue, and (3) by continuing the present method of putting them into extensions." The first is the only way which is open to the city—if it lives up to its pledges when the plant was

taken over. The city is bound, so long as it is true to its obligations, to administer the plant as a "trust," and to give the people the benefit of the cheapest water possible. The rate is lower than it was, but it can be lower yet. The time may come when water will be so cheap that the department can encourage bathing and lawn watering by allowing its free use for these purposes.

The department can go still further, reasonably, and get the water into every street in the city. At present extensions can only be made when the petition from any locality shows that the revenue from the consumers will be sufficient to pay eight per cent. upon the investment. Now there are streets where a petition showing this result cannot be obtained, and it is a question whether the department, in view of its backing from all parts of the city, should not, when a locality can only give assurance of five per cent. on the investment, contribute from the surplus of the year enough to raise the rate to eight per cent. It is a new proposition, but it is one which is more popular than any that has been advanced.

Three years ago there was talk about reducing the water rates. It was considered expedient not to make any change and for reasons which the Whig has already set forth. There was the prospect of an appeal to the people in connection with the electric light and gas plants. It was felt that the people might take fright with the proposed additions to the public debt, and that there was the alternative of having the earnings of the plant for four or five years and using them for the renewal of machinery. The alternative plan carried the day, and it would not now be questioned if the management of the public utilities were continuous. The difficulty is that with each year there is a certain change in the membership of the council and the policy of one year is repudiated or reversed the next.

This annual change of plan, following the annual change in the membership of the council, is not good, and sooner or later public ownership will suffer because of it. Continuity of policy is the salvation of the private enterprise. It should be the salvation of the public enterprise.

Kill This Bill.

From an editorial in the Toronto News it appears that renewed attempts are being put on foot by the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers of Montreal, to obtain in Ontario and other provinces the close corporation privileges it enjoys in Quebec.

By the Quebec act, after which it is modelled, the bills they are now introducing in New Brunswick and other provinces, an engineer is defined as follows: "The expression 'civil engineer' means any one who acts or practices as an engineer, in advising on, in making measurements for, or in laying out, designing or supervising construction of canals, aqueducts, drains, harbours, docks, highways, railways, improvements, dykes, dams, railroads, bridges, power plants, water works, sewage works, and all hydraulic, municipal, sanitary, electrical, mechanical or other engineering works, or in the study and practice of navigation by water, air, or in directing the great sources of power in nature for the use and convenience of man."

All but corporate members of this Montreal society are prohibited from directing such works as above enumerated under severe fines and penalties and are outlawed as well, not being entitled to recover before any court of justice for any professional services rendered. This society has repeatedly tried to get a bill passed in the Ontario legislature that would forbid, under severe penalties, anyone from working at engineering of any kind, civil, electrical, mechanical, mining, etc., who is not a member of their society. In order to become a member of this society a graduate in engineering at Queen's University or the School of Practical Science, Toronto, must fulfil the following conditions before he can practise his profession:

(1) After graduation he must serve as an apprentice for two years to a member of the C.S.C.E. No doubt if the bill became law the graduates would find it necessary to pay premiums, and considerable premiums, to the members of the C.S.C.E. in order to be admitted to do their work. (2) The bill provides that after a graduate in engineering has been two years' apprentice, he shall pass a new set of examinations in engineering before examiners appointed by the C.S.C.E. and pay their fees. (3) And if a graduate shall pass his new examinations, and has served his two years' apprenticeship, then his name may be added to that of a letter ballot before the members of the C.S.C.E. to be elected! And if there be a ten per cent. negative vote of the voters cast, he shall not be a member of the C.S.C.E. and shall therefore be barred from practising in engineering. In opposition to their bill as introduced into the Ontario legislature in 1902, Sir Sandford Fleming, C.E., and chancellor of Queen's University, wrote as follows to the then premier of Ontario: "This bill (the C.S.C.E.'s bill) is repugnant to the spirit of Canada, and ought not to become law." The legal adviser of the Ontario government, who reports on all bills to the government, wrote: "This bill is the most vicious example of class legislation that has ever come under my notice." The then honourable minister for public works of Ontario said:

"We kicked the bill out and will do it as often as it is introduced." Principal Grant protected the government against it. The Engineering Society of Queen's University and the Engineering Faculty of Queen's University unanimously passed resolutions protesting against the C.S.C.E. bill. The Canadian Mining Institute unanimously protested against it to the government. Principal Grant wrote as follows to the attorney-general: "It is too bad that these bills are allowed to be presented year after year and the burden put upon private individuals to oppose them."

A fact that should have great weight with provincial governments is, that both in Great Britain and in the United States, engineering is an open profession and in no sense enjoys monopoly powers. The Toronto News in a recent issue vigorously opposes this latest attempt to fasten close corporation conditions on the industry and enterprise of the dominion, and states its reasons:

"It is alleged that the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers will ask the Ontario legislature for an act to make all branches of engineering into a close corporation similar to those of the druggists, dentists, physicians and lawyers. This request has been made before, and very properly denied. Close corporations may be excused in the case of the practice of medicine or law, for they are supposed to act for the protection of the public. But the legislature would be ill-advised to grant such autocratic powers to the practising engineers. The Canadian Society of Civil Engineers is not a representative engineering body. It is in direct opposition to another society, the Dominion Institute of Amalgamated Engineering, which has a large membership, and which opposes the suggestion that engineering should be licensed about by a legislative body. Yet even if every engineer in the country favored this proposed legislation, it would require a great deal of explanation and argument to show the advantage either to the country at large, to the contractors for works demanding engineering skill, or to the mass of the engineers themselves. Every graduate of an applied science school should be at liberty to practise without further examination, and what is more important, without the further payment of fees. The legislature of Ontario is largely composed of new members, and it may be for this reason that the application for a special act is to be renewed. The private bills committee will do a good day's work when they throw out the bill."

Editorial Notes. The man of the hour is the one who advocates cheap water, cheap light and cheap power. Free water for lawns and baths is now in order. When can the department give promise of this? Mr. Fowler, M.P., denies that he threatened the liberals. He simply gave them notice that he would be ugly if attacked.

E. G. Stevenson has become the supreme chief ranger of the I.O.F. He is a careful and able man, and should serve the order successfully. Gas and electricity will be more and more in demand if the cost of them is reduced. All eyes are upon Ald. Toye and his committee these days. The alienists who are engaged in the Thaw trial will not care how long the case holds out at \$200 a day each. Wealth has its advantages sometimes. There is said to be something doing in the light department. An announcement is expected. On dit that there will be cheaper light and power. Good. People are invited to beautify the boulevards by growing grass and flowers upon them. They say the city should give them free water for the purpose. Is this a go?

All possible expenses, in the way of street lighting, should be awarded by the budget. How can a committee finance for expenses which it has not contemplated? If the city in the past had charged \$15,000 a year to collect the revenue of the water department and run the business the rates would not be so low as they are to-day. General Booth will take the money which any church declines because it is tainted. He does not say what he will do with it, but it is suspected that he has a plan of his own for purifying it.

Russell street wants water, and cannot get it unless the petitioners guarantee eight per cent. on the investment. What guarantee can they promise? What amount can the department give from its surplus to meet the deficiency? Anything? The Telegram regards it as a calamity that Mr. Whitney should flounder into the mud and mire of the license enquiry. It is a tribute to Mr. Whitney's innocence that he is not yet conscious of his fall! The county council should again with care go over the award of the Perth Road arbitrators and study the situation so that the tolled roads can be secured and Frontenac rank with the rest of the world as to free roads. The letter of Dr. Aykroyd, in Saturday's Whig, gave a possible solution to the problem. Read it carefully. Mr. Councillor, and all.

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