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Daily Whig.

SEIZING A REPTILE FUND.

The police bill, in the passage of which Inspector Bingham, of New York was interested, has passed the Albany assembly. It was called the reform measure of the session. Its aim was to give the commissioner power to reduce in the ranks or dismiss the inspectors who failed to do their duty.

The bill was projected by Commissioner Bingham and backed by Jerome. The need of it was shown by the fact that the police captains, in the pay of the saloon-keepers and other violaters of the law, did what they could openly to defeat the measure. They sent deputations to Albany to lobby against it. They had collected a huge reptile fund for the purpose of swaying influence in their favour.

The magistrate of one of the courts, returning home at midnight from a friend's house, found the saloons in full blast, and entered two of them. He was served with liquor and told that the police captain was a good fellow, but owned by the saloon-keepers. Both places were raided and the evidence of law breaking secured.

Later Bingham and Jerome, the fearless exemplers of authority, heard about the reptile fund and went in search of it. At the patrolmen's headquarters and the house of an officer they found $82,000, which had been collected from the policemen by forced assessments and for bribery purposes. The money was raised in the name of a benevolent scheme, but it was bagged by Jerome, pending an investigation.

Now, the police bill has been carried and Bingham is master of the situation. He is going to enforce law and discipline, and for the first time he is in a position to do it. The world moves slowly—at the instance of the reformers.

REASON TO BE SKEPTICAL.

The defeat of Mayor Dunne, of Chicago, comes as a surprise. He shows, however, that the people are very unstable in their opinions. Two years ago they voted for the public ownership of railways by a large majority. So intolerable had the street car position become that they were willing there should be a change of management from the companies to the city at once.

Judge Dunne acted as soon as elected. He began the steps to take over the plants and operate them municipally. He called to his side, as adviser, Mr. Dalrymple, of Glasgow, and it will be remembered that this fearless gentleman, after a visit to Chicago, declared that the street cars could not be run there as "at home." Politics interfered.

Mr. Dalrymple was right. The reform element, early in its career, dickered with the companies. The mayor could make no progress with his scheme. Gradually public ownership faded away, and became less and less in favour. In the election which has just ended the democrats hold to municipal management and the republicans to the extension of the franchises, conditionally. The companies are to give five cent fares generally and transfers, they are to give the city fifty-five per cent. out of their profits over and above the running expenses and they will sell out at any time, on six months' notice, for fifty million of dollars and the cost of improvements meanwhile.

The republican policy carried. In the deal there is an implied distrust of municipal ownership. The people are sceptical of the power of the council to manage the street car business successfully, and with good reason. In the new arrangement there is a measure of relief to the people, and a share by them in the enormous receipts of the traffic. In other words the people appear to be better served, and they have not a white elephant on their hands.

DR. PYNE A FIGUREHEAD.

The minister of education is not fixed upon any policy. He admitted that in his conference with the representatives of seventy school boards, principally of rural districts, last week. Some weeks ago the school trustees of the Drayton district put their opinions on record and presently there was a movement which resulted in representations being laid before the government. The various matters referred to were introduced by a series of resolutions which were supported by very able speeches.

At the outset there was the complaint that the legislative and administrative departments were not in touch with each other, and it was recommended that the rural school sections have their organization, and that it be represented in the advisory council for the province. The minister said the advisory council was new, and had not time in which to define its usefulness. But he was willing that the trustees' proposal should be considered.

The deputation protested against the larger powers that were given to inspectors, and especially against the plan of letting them dictate what was wanted in the way of school building and equipment. It also objected to the county council being made responsible for the raising and spending of school moneys. These points the minister seems to have dodged. He discussed the one, that the county council should have control of the inspectors. He justified present legislation on the ground that the government paid some of the inspector's salary, and desired to protect him from unjust treatment. At the same time he said the government would approve of the removal from office of any inspector by the county council for good cause.

The trustees like the idea of all the teachers having a Normal school training, but they pointed out this meant that sons and daughters of the poor would be hampered if thus shut out of the profession of teaching. The federal government support the officers of the militia while they are attending the military schools and colleges in behalf of higher training, and it was submitted that the teachers had a better claim on the provincial government in respect to their training. The minister admitted that there was force in the contention and said that, with a buoyant treasury, the matter would be commended to the favourable consideration of the government.

There was a strong objection to the military training of the school boys. The farming element is unanimously against the military spirit in the schools. What this country wants, the rural trustees said, (and the minister agreed), is citizens and not soldiers. The minister said that drill was good for the physique of the boys, but that if there was anything beyond this drill and exercise it should be checked.

From all of which it is evident that Dr. Pyne is in a surrendering mood. It looks as if his department undertook things hastily, and that he is repenting of them at leisure. The rural school trustees have demonstrated that they have ideas and that they must be respected.

MINISTERS AND THEIR SALARIES

The Whitney government has provided for larger salaries. The premier will hereafter enjoy $10,000 a year, and his colleagues $6,000 each, in addition to the sessional allowance. The increase is for the government only. The members will not be affected in their indemnities, though it can hardly be said that they, any more than the ministers, have been adequately paid.

The government assumed the responsibility for the act. Mr. Whitney says he knows there was not a mandate for the change, but it was decided upon because it was right, and the party in power can do anything.

It was proposed that the leader of the opposition should receive a salary, and the government left the suggestion in that direction to the liberal members, and Mr. Graham made action unnecessary by at once taking exception. There would not be a salary so far as he was concerned. The leader of the liberals would not be in any different position from the rest of the party. In this he expresses, we presume, the mind of all his associates.

It would have been well had the leader of the opposition in Ottawa been similarly disposed. The acceptance of a salary of $7,000 a year by him has never been approved, even by his own party; on the contrary, it has been charged that he is not free to act as his position suggests, and that on the salary grab question his attitude was indefensible.

This is a day of advancing salaries, and a higher remuneration to the men who serve the people in public offices is among the expected things. At the same time it may be said that the government could have afforded to put in another session, with the understanding that after the elections the administrators of the people's business would receive the higher rewards. Then there would have been a mandate for the change.

A MAN WE CAN TRUST.

The Whig expresses the feelings of Canadians generally when it says that the addresses of Hon. James Bryce, the British ambassador, are welcomed and endorsed. The visit he is now making to this country is causing revelations.

At Ottawa, at the banquet given by the Canadian Club, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, presented the Canadian sentiment (and in no uncertain tones), that in the treaties that had been conducted by the mother country, Canada had not fared very well.

At Toronto, and another banquet, Goldwin Smith revived the idea, but in referring to it said that he was sure the British government had done its best for Canada. The lieutenant-governor had preceded Mr. Smith, in moving a vote of thanks, and dropped the note, so dominant in all Canadian gatherings, that there was a limit to concessions, and Canada was determined to hold all it had.

Mr. Bryce felt that it was necessary for him to say a reassuring word, and he confirmed what Mr. Smith had asserted, that Britain, in all her diplomatic relations with the United States, had not been indifferent to Canada and her best interests.

"Having said that," the ambassador continued, "let me say for the future, as I can prove for the past, that there is in every section of the British people the warmest sympathy for Canada and every desire that all we can do shall be done to secure justice for Canada in every respect. And I may venture to say for myself that I do not think anyone will come here as ambassador—certainly I would not—if I were not persuaded that that is the feeling of the British people, and that it is my duty, in a representative capacity, a duty of paramount importance, to secure justice for Canada."

Public opinion will be somewhat corrected by that statement, on the American as well as Canadian side. It reveals an important fact—that Mr. Bryce has come to American unprejudiced, with regard to the issues unsettled, between the two countries, and that he is no mere registering machine upon which Mr. Root and his associates in the American government can presume to play.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

There is a serious difference at Ottawa, among the opposition members, as to what constitutes "adequate protection." The attempt of Mr. Schaffner to define it led to an awful mess.

The teachers of the province are organizing. They have been learning from the labour unions the advantages of combination, and presently the school boards, will hear something drop.

Conservative members voting with the government on the tariff question, and on the division on the Bourassa motion, have astonished R. L. Borden. What is he leading if not the opposition?

The scraps in our parliament are of small account when compared with that in which President Roosevelt and Harriman have engaged. Isn't there any way of proving who is the champion prevaricator?

Russia is a long way from parliamentary government. The douma is not free to act. Its advice the czar and his friends will accept only as they feel like it. That kind of rule cannot long continue.

The conservative papers are free—some of them—to say that Hon. Mr. Emmerson was a good administrator of a public department. Time and circumstance will show whether he was not also a good citizen.

The Globe asks, Should Mr. Borden resign? His party has gone back on him twice during the last two weeks, and has voted want of confidence in him. The Montreal Star will see another sign in this that the opposition at Ottawa is but a name.

The Montreal Star is distressed because Mr. Emmerson intimated that there were members of the opposition whose private life will not stand inspection. The Star wants a general purification of parliament. Why not again resort to the detectives?

The model school teachers of Ontario are demanding attention from the education department. Those with over ten years' experience want inspectors' certificates, money compensation, and appointment to the Normal schools when possible. Dr. Pyne is meditating on the issue.

The douma demands an end of the private trial and punishment by which the Russian government has aimed to put an end to anarchy. The assassination of nearly 2,000 officials has satisfied even Stolypin that he cannot terrorize the people, and he consents to a modification of his plan.

A Canadian Product.

It is pleasant to note the number of Canadian firms who are now proud to own up to the fact that they are Canadian and to brand their product clearly as being made in Canada. The latest addition to the list of notable manufacturers who are adopting this course is the Dominion Cartridge Co., of Montreal, who are beginning an extensive advertising campaign to acquaint sportsmen and users of ammunition generally with the merits of their cartridges and ammunition. The fact that this firm through its correspondents in Great Britain, is afforded the use of the trade secrets of the largest manufacturers of smokeless powders in the world, does not detract from the fact that it is a thoroughly Canadian organization, and Canadians can well feel proud of its success. Not only has it been able to hold the Canadian market against all competitors, but it has also succeeded in creating quite a demand for its output in the United States and other countries.

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New Hats.
Your particular style is at Campbell Bros., the store of quality.

NON-PUNISHMENT OF CRIME.

Judge's Instructions to Jury in Regard to a Child Murder.

Judge Meagher, of the supreme court, addressed the Halifax grand jury in terms that deeply interested them and the crowd in the court room at the time. The judge told in clear-cut language of an incident of some years ago, which, he said, ended in a gross miscarriage of justice. But, said the judge, such things continue. Recently I received an anonymous letter, he went on to say, stating that a young woman employed in a city establishment had given birth to a child and that criminal circumstances followed. The letter also said that the young woman had been arrested charged with a serious crime, and that notwithstanding such a serious charge of felony could be preferred against her, she walked out of the detention at her own sweet will and never came before even a magistrate for a preliminary hearing. It was also suggested in the anonymous epistle that somebody had been "fixed," and the writer admonished me to interview Detective Hanrahan, said Judge Meagher, and that he would hear out that the girl had been arrested. I sent for the detective a few days ago. He came to judges robing room. I said: "Mr. Hanrahan, what became of the girl you had arrested recently in connection with the death of a child?" He said: "I don't know." I said to Mr. Hanrahan: "What do you think of the charge against the person—what does it amount to?" Said Hanrahan, without a moment's hesitation, "It is clear case of murder."

Now, said the judge, gentlemen, you can see for yourselves. This young woman has never been called to the bar of justice to answer a charge, the enormity of which must be perfectly obvious to you.

Detective Hanrahan said he placed her under arrest and left her at a city institution. It appears, said Judge Meagher, that nothing has been done about this matter; but I consider it my duty to have the matter investigated and thoroughly probed. Now then you can send for any witness you like. The chief of police, detective, matron of the home, or anybody, and if circumstances are sworn to, then you can indict this young woman for either murder or concealment of birth. Now then you can go further. If you find that any official, either wilfully, or through negligence, suffered or allowed the defendant to escape, you should indict that person or persons, no matter whom, as apparently there has been a miscarriage somewhere. Judge Meagher proceeded to give other illustrations of wrongdoing in the non-punishment of crime.

An Unusual Proceeding.

The action of the Saskatchewan legislature in seating Samuel J. Donaldson as member for the Prince Albert district gives honor and dignity to that assembly. It will be remembered that Mr. Donaldson was robbed of his right to sit in the legislature by bold and systematic ballot manipulation. For these scoundrelly actions, by the way, no one has been adequately punished, and the courts revealed a singular inability to remedy the gross injustice to which Mr. Donaldson was subjected. Now, however, the legislature has intervened, and has declared Mr. Donaldson's right to sit for the constituency for which he was elected. It is not necessary to inquire too closely into the motives which actuated the legislature nor to consider how certain was Mr. Donaldson's re-election for Prince Albert. It is enough to recognize that that body has performed a fine and honorable action which stands in remarkable contrast to the precedents which other Canadian legislative bodies have set in similar circumstances for at least a generation.

Plucky Girl's Success.

If you think that life holds for you problems entirely too hard to solve, or that you are confronted by obstacles you can not surmount, read this little story, of plain fact, about a young girl. Her name is Susie Davis, Virginia City, Nev. She is under twenty years of age, but for some time has been employed at the Virginia city telephone exchange. She applied for a position and met discouragement. She was told that it it was altogether too difficult, and was useless to try to do the work as there were too many obstacles to overcome. She was persistent, however, and was allowed to try. She surprised those who had tried to dissuade her, and soon became an expert. At a recent competition in Virginia City she showed herself to be the best operator in the exchange, and easily surpassed all competitors. What of that, did you ask? Only this: Susie Davis is blind and has been blind all her life. She has never seen a ray of light. Think of what she has done in spite of this in a calling where almost everything is supposed to depend on the sight. Now don't sit down and say "I can't." Go right ahead and do whatever there is to be done. Obstacles are made to be surmounted.

Hard On The New Wife.

"The sexton of a quaint old English church," said the traveller, "showed me through the building one afternoon and as we were departing, pointed to the Bible on the lectern and smiled.

"'A queer thing happened last Sunday in connection with that Bible,' he said. 'We had a strange minister preaching here, and when he opened the book he came upon a notice and read it out with all due solemnity. It was a request for the congregation's sympathy and prayers for John Q. Griggs, who had been deeply afflicted by the loss of his wife.'

"The sexton paused and chuckled softly.

"'You see, sir,' he said, 'our regular minister had been using that paper as a book-marker more than a year, and John Q. Griggs, in a natty grey suit, sat in a front pew with the new wife he had taken just a week before.'"

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OUR BIG SALE

Only lasts a few days longer, as we intend beginning building operations. What goods remain on the floors we are closing out at less than cost to save expense of moving.

JAMES REID
'Phone 147.

Bank Clerk To M.P.

Halley Stewart, M.P. for Greenock in the British house of commons, has had as strangely varied a career as any man in it. To begin with, he was a bank clerk, after which he became a Congregational minister. Subsequently he devoted his energies to the manufacture of seed cakes, and amongst his other achievements was that of founding and editing a newspaper published at Hastings.

Three new shapes of stiff hats arrived to-day. $2, $2.25 and $2.50. Bibby's.