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Daily Whig.

THE SPECTACLE AT OTTAWA. The obstruction at Ottawa is having its effects in many ways, but principally because it is demoralizing to the civic service. The inland revenue officials have received part of their pay for the last month's service, but the customs' officials have not received any money. Mark the cause of friction. The opposition is not willing that the Election Bill shall be passed as it is, or even as it may be amended. The premier, on behalf of the government, has given the assurance that the adjustment of the voters' lists in Manitoba shall be done by the county judges, and in the fairest and most rational way. But the opposition will have no arrangement or concession short of a withdrawal of the debatable clauses. It is a case of the minority assuming to dictate to the majority, and the majority ought to rule, but, of course, reasonably and righteously.

That there is nothing wrong with the estimates has been confessed by the opposition or by its whip, speaking on its name and behalf. Withdrawing the clauses of the Election Bill dealing with voters' lists, said he at a recent all-night session, and in two minutes the supplies will be passed! Believed of the stress, or given the opportunity to say that the government had been defeated, and the opposition would permit of almost anything. The estimates of the customs, public works, railway and other departments, involving an expenditure of many millions of dollars, would be taken at a gulp.

Meanwhile public enterprise suffers. Orders for street rails, keeping open the shops at Saint Ste. Marie during its duller period, cannot be given, no matter how needy the Intercolonial railway is. The public contracts everywhere must be suspended. The military camps, and even the temporary exhibition at Quebec, must be cancelled. The civil servants can go hungry, or beg or borrow for their needs. And all this to gratify the spirit of obstruction as it is exemplified by Foster, Fowler, Taylor, Bennett, et al. It is a great spectacle, but not an edifying one.

The Toronto News is pleading with the people to re-elect the Whitney government. It may have made mistakes, but it deserves another chance, says the News. A scare is on. That is certain.

SLANDERER OF "KING BEN."

The organ of Mr. Nickle—the paper which he helped to establish so that it might advance his personal and political interests—has charged that injury has been done the business and good name of the Folgers and the Brecks. These were enterprising men, and if some of their critics had put, as they did, all their money into businesses that meant so much for the city, they would not to-day be bemoaning or lamenting its dullness.

It is a remarkable circumstance, however, that at the time a false friend was expressing his sympathy for the Folgers, one of them, Benjamin W. (or "King Ben," as he is familiarly called), was being libelled by the literature of the conservative party. This literature has been freely circulated among the people. It is supposed to have the imprimatur of the government itself. In it there is a chapter on the Temiscaming railway (which the conservative party originally tried to kill), and the commissioners are boldly accused of grafting. It is intimated—insidiously yet viciously—that the men who were entrusted by the Ross government with the construction of the railway, serving the province, honorably and faithfully, for a nominal stipend, played the part of adventurers!

One of the commissioners, E. Gurney, of Toronto, a conservative, as soon as the statement appeared, pronounced it a wicked fabrication. Was it withdrawn? No. Having been written for a purpose, namely, to discredit the liberal, and especially the friends of the late liberal government, it had to remain. But its reputation should be expected from Mr. Folger's friends. The fault is that the Standard, which has affected a touching sympathy for the Folgers and the Brecks, has offered no word of regret for the slanderous attack on Benjamin W. Folger by the conservative party. Some political assassin has undertaken to knife him, and bring reproach upon the family escutcheon, and the personal organ of Mr. Nickle has not a word to say in the way of protest or explanation!

The opposition at Ottawa has surrendered sufficiently to let the customs officials, outside of Ottawa, get their pay. Why should the Ottawa staff not be paid? What particular sin are they guilty of?

THE CANDIDATES MEET.

The nomination speeches in the City Hall, last evening, were attentively listened to by a very large audience. There were no exciting scenes, and the three speakers were given an excellent hearing, until the closing reply of the liberal candidate, who, as usual, at that stage, was freely interrupted.

Mr. Pense arraigned the Whitney government for the non-fulfillment of its many promises of 1905, and its extravagance in spending large sums of money needlessly. He criticized it for its unfair liquor license policy, and advocated an independent board of license commissioners, removing the liquor question from politics. He explained fully his attitude on the Canadian Northern railway matter, and set at rest the ridiculous statements made concerning his action on the question. After Mr. Nickle had essayed to tear to pieces some of Mr. Pense's statements, the member for Kingston scored. Mr. Nickle had intimated that the figures Mr. Pense had quoted had all passed from his mind, and he had no doubt the audience had forgotten all about them too. Referring to this, Mr. Pense retorted that Mr. Nickle was scarcely qualified to represent Kingston in the legislature, and certainly he could not be a brilliant lawyer, when his memory was so short as that. He also "outpointed" Mr. Nickle in the argument upon the Petypiece bill and the unnumbered ballot. The latter was hastened by Mr. Pense's protest after the numbered ballot had been used by the Whitney government in the Kingston by-election, in January 1906.

Mr. Nickle admitted that he was opposed to the action of the Whitney government in rushing through the Canadian Northern Railway bill and any other important bill during the dying moments of the legislature. He also declared his opposition to the spoils system, but tried to show that Kingston had not suffered thereby, forgetting that Mr. Whitney had cut off over 600 heads in other places in the province. The recent gerrymander, Mr. Nickle thought was quite fair.

The presence of Mr. Metcalfe, the third candidate, linked the old days with the new. The old conservative warhorse, who was elected on five different occasions in Kingston, proved himself as clever and witty a platform speaker as ever. He called a spade a spade when he paid his compliments to Mr. Nickle, for securing his nomination outside a convention and to Dr. A. E. Ross for placing the muzzle upon him at the executive, and giving him no chance to explain his position.

Altogether the liberal cause was sustained and will no doubt have the endorsement of the electorate on June 8th.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Don't judge the school fire escapes until the architect has pronounced them correct and according to his specifications.

The Whitney government will not affirm or deny Mr. Crothers' statement re free school books. The inference is plain.

Mr. Wilfrid Laurier proposes to work the members of the commons to a little more, and in that way cure them of their crankiness.

Hon. Mr. Graham, while leader of the opposition, advocated free school books, and could not get a response from the government.

The Montreal Gazette believes the closure must come sooner or later in the commons, but not under liberal rule. That is consistent.

The liberals held out the olive branch to the conservatives at Ottawa, and it was not accepted. Now they repeat their action.

The Whig staff pleads guilty to the charge that every member of it is Canadian born and bred, and every one has remained loyal to king and country.

The Christian Guardian has been appealing to the Methodists of Canada to come to its support. What claim has it upon the liberals when it becomes a conservative party?

The evidence accumulates that the people of the county do not want Mr. Gallagher as their member. Dr. Spenkis was the favourite with the party, but the machine shut him out.

In Saskatchewan it is proposed to disqualify the Chinese because they do not know or do not try to vote intelligently. A good many others should be disqualified for the same reason.

Some Ontario papers, says the Montreal Gazette, are fighting the Game case over again. No, but the conservative party is fighting over it. The scrap in West Toronto is disputable.

"King Ben" has been accused of grafting by the conservative party—the family name is being besmirched by political things—and Mr. Nickle's paper is silent. How do you account for that?

The Whig has been threatened with cancellation more than during the

last thirty years, but it has survived all attacks and has pursued its course without any perceptible diminution in power.

Mr. MacKav was of so little account that the government did not care where he went or what he said. But he has fired the heather, and there is a general stampede among the "enemy."

The alarm that has seized the conservative camp is indicated by the excitement that prevails. The premier—who was not to do any campaigning—is on the road, and will not rest now until the battle is over.

The Hamilton Council has shelved the power question until after the local election. The Spectator says "Sane counsel prevails." Our contemporary knows what will happen when the political air has been cleared.

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS

A Very Bad Fall.

Dr. Hosack. "The close of the session witnessed a rapid degeneration in the government. Their acts have been suspicious and the province should be on the watch."

Place For Foster.

Toronto Star. "Cold storage, by the way, ought to be a congenial topic for George E. Foster, who has a natural endowment of ice in his manner which is quite remarkable."

"Soc et Tuum."

Lindsay Post. "Judging by the way the railways are bleeding the farmers to dry, Whitney's railway tax, it seems as if they had adopted as their motto the phrase, 'Soc et tuum.'"

The Great Question.

Toronto Globe. "It would add indefinitely to the interest aroused by A. W. Wright's revelations of the secret history of the Gandy scandal if he could only tell 'where the money came from.'"

Frauds Of Education.

Montreal Herald. "Considering that some of the conservative candidates are going about denouncing the establishment of technical and commercial schools, you can't blame some other conservative candidates for preferring to call themselves independents."

Not Hard Up.

Ottawa Free Press. "The textile trust made profits of \$4,492 last year after paying dividends upon its watered stock. That is not a showing which qualifies it to put on a poor face and declare that it cannot pay living wages to its operatives."

MR. BLAKE IS BLIND.

Does Not See Imperfection in Whitney Government.

Hamilton Times. "When he says, 'I am unable to see any act for which you or your government is responsible that has been devised or carried out from any sinister or improper motive,' he speaks more like an extreme partisan than a discriminating supporter. Praise-worthy as the record of the Whitney government, on the whole, has been, it is not without its stains. The government has weakly yielded to pressure from local partisans and discredited liberal friends from office without just cause, merely to make room for conservatives who wanted office. In its partial redistribution of the constituencies it has stooped to the trick of the partisan gerrymander. It has failed to give effect to the premier's promise to remove the administration of the liquor license law from the atmosphere of political influence. These may be regarded as minor sins, but they are blemishes on the record of the government, and make the government unworthy of such a sweeping endorsement as Mr. Blake has given it."

Another House Episode.

Debate in Parliament. Col. Hughes repeated that Mr. Bergeron had informed him that he was accused of grafting, with the Ross Rifle company, and Col. Worthington was named as the author of the story.

Mr. Bergeron—I have nothing to take back at all. My honorable friend is entirely mistaken, so far as I am concerned. I never heard or knew of these scandals. Nobody told me about it, and I never told him.

Col. Hughes—Again I insist that the words were uttered, not once, but two or three times.

Mr. Bergeron—I rise to a point of order. I say that the honorable gentleman is obliged to take my word.

Col. Hughes—My word is as good as yours. (Laughter.)

Mr. Bergeron—I think, according to the rules of the house, he is obliged to take it back.

The Speaker—in matters of personal disputes it is a difficult thing for the chair to decide.

Col. Worthington—I wish to add my absolute denial. I never at any time, in any place, made such a statement to any member of the house. I think it is nothing but a silly dream.

Files are easily and quickly checked with Dr. Shoop's Magic Ointment. To prove it I will mail a small trial box as a convincing test. Simply address Dr. Shoop, Racine, Wis. I surely would not send it free unless I was certain that Dr. Shoop's Magic Ointment would stand the test. Remember it is made expressly and alone for swollen, painful, bleeding or itching piles, either external or internal. Large jar, 50c. Sold by all dealers.

Some men are never satisfied unless they are on the wrong side of the fence. If you had taken two of Carter's Little Liver Pills before retiring you would not have had that coated tongue or bad taste in the mouth this morning. Keep a trial with you for occasional use.

POWER CONTROVERSY

IN REGARD TO THE STREET RAILWAY.

What Should Be Done in Revising the Agreement—The Actual Cost of Production Should Be Decided By Experts.

Kingston, May 29.—The power question is now a very active one, municipally, for it is an issue that arises in the council, and as a result of the protest in which Ald. Nickle led, against the sale of gas below cost. It was a concession to the people that they could use gas as a fuel, and an inducement which added consumers to the gas department. These new consumers and others, regardless of politics, felt that Ald. Nickle has no right to find so much fault because he is a beneficiary to a very large extent. He has been drawing a herring across the trail, has been telling how much money has been lost on the street railway and how much good it is to the city. All this is wholly aside from the question.

When this street railway agreement was made in 1905, certain calculations were made approximately. They could not be accurate because the civic power plant was then undergoing reconstruction. The expert estimated that power could be supplied to the railway at 1.66 cents a kilowatt and that this rate would cover the cost of production. Certain things were taken into account—oil, grease, waste, fuel and labor. The idea was the rate was not to be lower than 1.66 cents a kilowatt hour, or more than \$2.50 for a car a day for continued service of fifteen hours. That the estimate was too low has been shown by the published records of the department. Power cost last year 1.94 cents a kilowatt at the switchboard, or, including the loss in distribution, 2.36 a kilowatt.

Mr. Nickle submits a statement from Prof. Gill that the fact that the railway company is a patron of the city contributes to the lowness of the cost of production. There is another way of looking at it, and this view is supplied by the published statement. The net power produced last year after deducting the loss was 773,447 kilowatts. The street railway took 267,328 kilowatts, or over one-third of the entire production. The city's revenue from the electric department was \$41,972.56, and the street railway paid in \$4,468.65. Take it another way. The city consented as an encouragement to the railway to give the company the power it wanted—for a limited time of one of four years—at actual cost. The financial statement shows that the expenditure on waste, fuel, oil, and grease, wages and sundries, was \$21,994.03. As the railway consumed one-third the power, it ought to be liable for at least one-third of what it cost to actually produce the electricity at the switchboard, which sum would be \$7,331.34. The cost of the power might be more without the railway's patronage, but apparently the city would be in pocket.

There are three lessons to be learned from this controversy: 1.—That before there is a renewal of the contract there should be an examination, technically, into the actual cost of power. Granted that the city will be disposed to grant the railway company aid tantamount to a bonus—or the keeping of the devil strip in repair, or removing the snow from the side of the rails, where it has been thrown by the sweeper, or exemption from taxes, etc., there should, on the question of power be no more guess work. The rate under present conditions should be ascertained beyond doubt.

2.—The people should be consulted with regard to the agreement. It is claimed in behalf of the present arrangement that there was not the time for a plebiscite. The bondholders it was claimed, asked a settlement within fifteen days. No reason now exists for not referring the question to the people. If the property owners endorse concessions all well and good.

3.—One thing more. The loss of power. This appears to be very large. Has it been investigated? What was the loss before the new wiring was done at a cost of many thousand dollars? It is a question that no layman can settle. It can only be answered by the experts, and the company has fallen back on one whose opinions about the power plant have not been much in evidence heretofore.

4.—Finally, the company's representative in the council will realize that if something should be said about raising the price of gas, that "something" can be better said by another. As a beneficiary of the city to a very large extent, he can only advocate as a square deal that which will effect every consumer of electric light, power or gas in the same way—CITIZEN.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR RE-ELECTION

EDW. J. B. PENSE.

Provincial Election.

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GENTLEMEN—I respectfully solicit your votes and influences, to secure my return as representative in the coming legislature.

Very Truly Yours, JAMES H. METCALFE, Kingston, May 2nd, 1908.



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Will buy one of Our Dressed Wentworth Suits, in fine Blue, or Black Worsteds, Scotch Tweeds, etc., Single or Double Breasted Styles.

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Will buy one of Our Celebrated Bibby Suits, materials, Fine Imported Serges, Fancy Worsteds, Cheviot, etc.

Hand-padded Shoulders, etc., Two or Three Button Styles. See Our New Browns, New Greys and New Blues.

We would like you to compare Ours with the more expensive ones in other stores.

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