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Daily Whig.

MUNICIPAL HOUSECLEANING. The Montreal Witness comments upon the fact that though three thousand people, by petition, demanded an enquiry into the municipal affairs of Montreal, there is a reluctance about furnishing the funds which are necessary to make the enquiry effective. The Witness continues: "Age we to spoil the ship for a haporth of tar? The energetic citizens' committee wants at least five thousand dollars to start with, and so far only a mere pittance is in the joint treasurers' hands. With the necessary money this city can be cleaned up, and now is the time to provide it. Pay up, please, Mr. Citizen."

When the commissioner took his seat the other day he ordered the city to put \$5,000 to the credit of the court, and for its expenses, and these do not include the costs of the prosecution which is a private undertaking. The municipal government of Canada's largest city has not, for many a year, been satisfactory. Its revenues are very large and yet there is always a scarcity of money, always a lean treasury, always a nuisance of the people. It does not seem to matter who compose the council the result is always the same—there is the policy of drift in public matters, waste, mismanagement. There was finally a grave suspicion of wrong-doing, and this suspicion became so general that a scrutiny of the accounts by an impartial critic, a probe of relentless touch, was demanded.

Then came the bill while men discussed who is to pay for the housecleaning. It is unfortunate that the people must pay high taxation, and in order to correct abuses, contribute in addition liberally of their means. Yet that is the ultimatum. It may be shirked and with the sure result that the things complained of will not disappear, on the contrary they will be more and more in evidence, and with a brazenness that must be appalling. Regrettable as it is the people who want a clean public life must pay for it over and over again, for the tendency of the age is to retrograde, and the municipal service is the very hardest to reform.

CONFUSION AS A RULE.

The Belleville Ontario calls the education department to account because of its "dedication of system." Its regulations are arbitrarily and killing restrictive, says our contemporary. In a sense this is correct, and in a sense it is not correct. A grievance in connection with the Kingston institute is the lack of harmony between the inspectors in their alleged interpretation of the manet of the department. One man comes along and grades the work according to his estimate of its value. He offers advice, and upon it the staff proceeds to act. Even some expense is incurred in order that the school may ultimately be "approved." Then a second man puts in an appearance, cursorily examines its work, and proceeds to find fault liberally. The standing of certain teachers is questioned, though in appointing them there was the assurance that they had the imprimatur of the department. The apparatus needs to be changed, including the material that had been ordered by the previous inspector. His attention was called to this fact and his only reply was that what he outlined was the requirement of the department. He does not like the manner in which some of the classes are conducted and points to regulations which have been modified by circulars which were not, it is assumed, issued by the minister for the confusion of the teachers.

It is an experience like this, exceedingly vexatious to say the least of it, and oft repeated, that produced the outburst of indignation in the high school department of the educational convention, followed by the declaration, which was filed with the minister, that the department should be the interpreter of its regulations, and that the petty tyrannies of the inspectors should be at an end.

SOME SHARP CRITICISM.

The Canada Law Journal, edited by Henry O'Brien, K.C., resumes its criticism of "Sir James Whitney's invasion of the rights of municipalities," reference being especially made to the act of the legislature which validated certain municipal by-laws that had been declared invalid by the courts. These were the power ordinance, the treatment of which is regarded as extraordinary as well as remarkable. The whole subject of civil contracts

and the rights of propriety," says the journal, "is placed at the mercy of a single elective body, chosen as partisans and led by men subject to all the influences of party government. Then the aggrieved have no means of redress."

Our contemporary seems to think that the act of the legislature, dealing with this matter, should have been disallowed, though there may have been reasons why the power of the federal government was not exercised. The result, however, is that "an investor in this province must now see that he has no certainty that transactions which appear to be based on principles of law and equity to-day, may not be declared illegal to-morrow. He may see no other reason than that some adverse influence has been able to give the support of a minister backed by a majority willing to accept his dictum upon a subject in which many of them have no interest, and with the merits of which they have not the information to deal."

This is the view, not so tersely expressed, of Mr. Lawson, of the London Financial Times, which has invited the hostility and rough speech of Sir James Whitney. There are men, however, who will not be deterred from a candid expression of their minds, and one of them is the editor of the Law Journal. He writes as a lawyer, with more regard for his legal than political reputation, and in exposition of principles that cannot be ignored.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Mrs. Carrie Nation is going into poultry raising. The hatchet will come handy by and by.

Abdul Hamid II may have to thank his stars that his crown wasn't taken off close to his shoulders.

Two of the most modern conveniences—the telephone and the fountain pen—are Canadian inventions.

There is nothing about the department of April to make anyone regret that it is pretty nearly gone.

Since the Welland water works has been placed under a commission the revenue has increased from \$500 to \$8,000 per year.

The Buffalo News remarks that if the Sultan of Turkey had a million lives and suffered atrocious tortures in every one of them it would not balance the account with him for the crimes he has committed during his long reign. It is impossible to pay such a villain what is his rightful due. The massacres in Armenia were owing to the belief that the Old Turk had beaten the reformers. That was because the revolutionists allowed the sultan to retain his throne.

Sign of Intolerance.

Ottawa Citizen. The legislative council of Quebec refuses to incorporate a Christian Science church in Montreal. This is a very serious step to take, especially on the part of a province which has so recently had occasion to reprobate the action of the French government which only regulated and did not prohibit public worship.

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DIED IN PITTSBURG, PA.

WHILE HIS WIFE IS ILL IN HOSPITAL.

The Late Malcolm J. McMurchy—Death of Mrs. George E. Fales—Sparring Exhibitions in Gananoque Opera House.

Gananoque, April 29.—Fanny Augusta Shapley, wife of George E. Fales, passed to rest after a lingering illness, at the family residence, Sydenham Street, on Tuesday afternoon, in the fifty-third year of her age. Deceased was born near Syracuse, N.Y., on Dec. 17th, 1857, married Mr. Fales, twenty years ago, removing to Gananoque from Auburn, N.Y., twenty-five years ago. Mr. Fales had been employed in the Spring & Axle Co.'s works, until a few months ago, when he suffered a stroke of paralysis, thus aggravating Mrs. Fales' condition. She was a life-long Methodist, energetic in every department of church work and for a number of years occupied the position of organist of Grace church previous to the installation of a pipe organ in the church. The funeral will take place on Friday, the 30th inst., at 10 o'clock a.m., in Gananoque from Auburn, N.Y., twenty-five years ago. Mr. Fales was shipped for interment to Auburn, N.Y. Rev. J. T. Pitcher will conduct the funeral service. She leaves a husband but no family.

A sparring exhibition was held in the opera house here on Tuesday evening which drew out a fair attendance of local sports. Two preliminary bouts, one between Robert Genge and Peter Lozo, the other between Colin and Richard Genge, after which a ten-round go between J. H. Sharpe, Toronto, and W. J. Cliffe, Gananoque, were pretty evenly mixed up until the sixth round when Cliffe sprained his thumb and was unable to proceed. William Gardner, King street, acted as referee.

The coal schooner Horace Taber put into Gananoque river at noon yesterday with coal for the W. J. Robertson Co.

Messrs. Thomas and Edgar Sharrott, of Detroit, Mich., and Mrs. Shook, of Clarkson, Ont., and Mrs. Rev. William Pimlott, Tuxon, P.Q., were in town for a few days this week in attendance at the funeral of their sister, the late Mrs. William Saiter, James street.

Mrs. George Wheeler and son, of Toronto, spending some time here with Mr. and Mrs. Albert Dickson, Sydenham street, left for home yesterday, accompanied by Mrs. Dickson, who will spend a short time there. Miss B. Halliday, Charles street, spent a short time in Kingston during the week. Mr. and Miss Stark, Kingston, were in town yesterday attending the funeral of Mrs. Sailer. Dr. and Mrs. J. P. Sinclair were in Kingston a short time this week.

The annual business meeting of Grace Methodist Sabbath school was held in the lecture room of the church last evening. The election of officials resulted: Superintendent, J. J. Jackson; assistant superintendent, Clifford Singer; secretary, A. H. Mabey; D.B.S.; treasurer, Forrester Seale; librarian, Miss Mabel Carpenter; organist, Miss Edith Rogers; assistant organist, Miss Laura Terney.

Word reached here yesterday of the death of Malcolm J. McMurchy, only son of Deputy Reeve and Mrs. John B. McMurchy, Stone street, at his home, Pittsburg, Pa. Deceased was taken ill with pneumonia on Friday last. Besides his wife, formerly Miss Bessie B. Cook, of this town, he leaves his parents and two sisters, Mrs. Walker, Buffalo, N.Y., and Miss Ford McMurchy, of this town. The remains will be shipped here and placed in the vault until such time as his wife, now ill in Pittsburg hospital, is able to travel.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Characteristic Antics of Some Citizens.

Kingston, April 29.—(To the Editor): Since the cleaning of the streets was begun, and the mud piled into heaps, some people have taken advantage of it by running out of their yards and from the adjoining lanes, that don't belong to them, whatever rubbish that had accumulated on these properties, especially tin cans, and piled it up closely against these mud heaps, close to the sidewalks and right in view of the front windows of the nearest houses, so that it appears that the occupants thereof had deposited this rubbish in the spots so plainly in view, and making it appear that these nearby residents had deposited them there. Now this is illegal, annoying and disgraceful. One of these displays may be seen at the head of Brock street, near University avenue. Did I know who did this, I would readily make it known to the police, as I am innocent of it.—INNOCENT ONE.

Danger In The Racing.

Toronto Mail. "Marathoning" has begun in all the suburbs, engaged in by every lad old enough to toddle and brave enough to unroll in the sort of spring we are having. Parents would probably be wise to get the hearts of their young-est lads examined before they permit them to go out "Marathoning" with harder companions; for the glucky boy will run until he is "dead beat" and that may mean a strained heart for the rest of his life.

Challenge May Be Accepted.

Ottawa Free Press. Mr. Cowan, of Vancouver, has offered to vacate his seat and contest it with any person, resident or non-resident, of Vancouver, to test public opinion on the policy of the present government. It is not unlikely that a gentleman well known in the west, who would be an acceptable candidate, may accept the challenge. This gentleman is a well-known platform speaker and would prove no mean antagonist.

A Call To Action.

St. John Sun. Why does not Premier Hazen, who showed such eager anxiety to read the false affidavit of G. S. Meyer, reflecting upon Hon. William Pugsley, show equal eagerness to read the affidavit which he has in his possession made by two reputable business men of St. John, charging one of his supporters in the New Brunswick legislature with serious offences, including the crime of forgery?

Minister Does Not Know.

Windsor Record. It is a pity that the minister of education should not know anything about education, but that would not be so great a misfortune if he should surround himself with men who do not know anything about education, and Deputy Minister Colquhoun is a bright newspaper man, but not an educator.

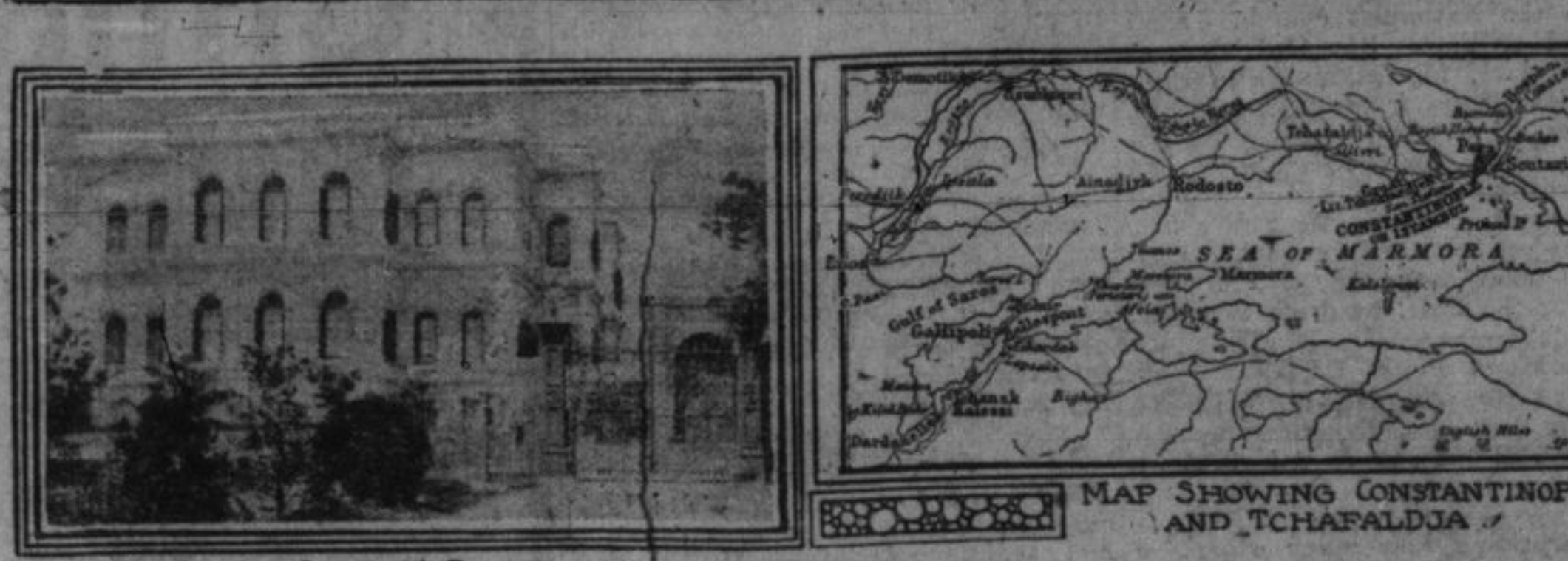
Britain Is All Right.

Toronto News. When the South American republics want a railway lifted over the Andes at an altitude of 12,000 feet and at a cost of \$150,000,000, they give the contract to an English firm. British constructive genius has accomplished most of the engineering feats of the modern world.

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