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Daily Whig.

MISSION OF THE MAN.
The retirement of Dr. Mackie, who for over twenty-five years has gone in and out among the people of St. Andrew's, is an event of special significance. A quarter of a century! How time flies. It is hard to believe that it is so long since he came to Canada, fresh from a Scottish parish, with all the fervour, the integrity and intensity of his countrymen, and began his ministry.

The years have passed silently, and they have written their record upon his life and the lives of his people. The worshippers in a kirk, anywhere are devoted and clamish. They have a profound and growing regard for the man who is their spiritual teacher and exemplar, and Dr. Mackie, in many ways, has realized the affection with which he has been regarded. The last act of his people is the culmination of many which will make him feel, when perhaps far from here, that he is still one of them and bound to them by ties that can never be severed.

The long ministry is the one that is usually fruitful of great benefits and Kingston has had, in connection with its churches, those who, catching the pastor's spirit, exerted a happy and a wholesome influence. The minister's mission is to elevate the taste and characters and ideals of the people, and Dr. Mackie can lay the unction to his soul that he has not in his life.

He identified himself with Kingston's public institutions; he endeavoured to perform his part as a good citizen, and it will be fortunate if his successor, in this respect, walks faithfully in his footsteps.

A CHURCH IN TROUBLE.
The Christian Scientists of Boston are battling for legal recognition, and with some misgivings as to the outcome. Two of the practitioners have been arrested for practicing the healing art without qualification and license. They are exempt from at least for resorting to prayer and exercising faith, but they have been attending the sick, have been accepting fees for mental treatment, and the Medical Society will see whether they have any status under the laws of the state.

Mr. Untermeyer will defend the Scientists, and in presenting the argument that they heal disease by prayer, it accords with a state law, which exempts from prosecution under the medical laws persons "who practice the tenets of any religion," will have his plea on the constitutional right of personal liberty.

Meanwhile, and over in Boston, a fierce fight is on between the son and adopted son of the late Mrs. Eddy and her executors with regard to the two million dollars which she left to the Christian Science church. There are three views under consideration (1) that the church is a huge charitable organization which can accept and use any sum for charitable purposes, the view of the church; (2) that such a large sum as two million dollars cannot, under the law of the state, be left to any single church, the view of the contending relatives; and (3) that the will can not be interpreted clearly, because of the uncertainty in defining what the church is. The religion of the Christian Scientists is an intangible thing. Within a year from the death of the good lady who gave to the movement its mysticism or importance, the Christian Science church is overwhelmed with strife and discord and difficulty. All this is the result of no one being found who can take up Mrs. Eddy's work and carry it on.

DISOWNS SIR JOHN'S WORK.
It has remained for Mr. Henderson, of Halifax, a conservative member of the commons, to repudiate the reciprocity offer of Sir John Macdonald. Hansard presents this member, in an unenviable light, that of saying that Sir John proposed something he did not believe in or desire to see adopted.

When challenged with the statement that reciprocity had always been the policy of the tory party, that it had been first outlined by the premier of many years' standing, Mr. Henderson demurred. He admitted that the offer of reciprocity was contained in the tariff of 1879, but it was inserted as a ruse, as expressing a friendly feeling for the people of the United States, but without the man advocating or wanting it.

When forced to face frequent references to reciprocity in the literature of the party, and the statements of

its leaders, Mr. Henderson said that he spoke not only for himself, but for many others, (conservatives) when he refused to be bound by what Sir John Macdonald proposed. Later he revised his former statement, that he did not know why the reciprocity offer had been inserted in the tariff of 1879, by giving a new version of the case.

Sir John Macdonald was anxious, he affirmed, to have ratified the fishery treaty which Sir Charles Tupper negotiated, and "one night drew up this reciprocity resolution and placed it in the Votes and Proceedings." When reproached for the act the premier had intimated that it was only a bluff, and whether the treaty were adopted or not the offer would not be carried out. Sir John Macdonald, in his day, was referred to as the artful dodger, but with all his faults, he was not so artful in deception as Mr. Henderson would make it appear.

The Whig recalls the campaign which Sir John Macdonald conducted prior to the election of 1878, and it remembers him referring to the jagged policy of the United States, which he prevailed. He said he was a free trader, but if Canada could not have free trade with the republic it should have protection, and if at any time the Americans desired reciprocity in trade they could have it. The offer was filked in the elections, and it is inconceivable that Mr. Henderson has the correct theory of it, that it was a snap opinion of Sir John Macdonald, and was slipped by him into the printed records of parliament.

A favourite expression of Sir John Macdonald was that after he had passed away he would look down from the skies and have a spiritual supervision of the party below. Fancy this proceeding while Mr. Henderson, in his own boisterous way, stood up to cast aspersions on the memory of the man who was the party's magnetic master a life, the man who has had no successor.

THE MERGERS AT WORK.
The merging of the great western Ontario Electric companies means the reversion of the strongest competition and the guarantee that there will not be a monopoly of any kind. The Seymour merger was the first of its sort. It embraces all the companies which formerly did business east of Toronto, and supplying light and power to all the intervening towns as far east as Belleville.

Next came the merger which takes in the business of the Toronto Electric company, the Canadian Development company (owning the generating plant at Niagara Falls and the transmission lines), and the Toronto Railway company. Lastly it has been announced that there is to be a larger merger still and to include the Toronto and Niagara company with the Cataract Electric company, the whole representing perhaps a total capital of \$25,000,000.

A Hamilton paper, the Herald, moralizes on what might have happened had the Hydro-Electric Commission not taken form and power. It is assumed that the private combination would have come to pass, sooner or later, but, of course, that is a supposition. May it not be that the mergers have been a contingency of the times, and a contingency following the extraordinary control which the legislature presumed to give the commission by special legislation?

The commission, if it likes, can be very arbitrary. It has not hesitated to exercise its power to the disadvantage of the private corporation. It has, therefore, become a question of very interest for itself, and Sir William Mackenzie is only doing what anyone else would do with his financial resources, namely, think of his self and protect his possessions. The Hydro-Electric Commission, with the provincial backing, can do great things, but it will have to be careful and this is not a disadvantage.

The one conclusion of the Herald with which the Whig perfectly agrees is that the consumers will get a benefit from the competition. The enterprise of the private corporation will keep the commission on its metal, and the people may get eventually what Sir James Whitney long since said they should have, namely, power as cheap as air.

EDITORIAL NOTES.
The manufacturers are said to be abandoning the fight against reciprocity. They should never have been in it. Nor the opposition at Ottawa. The sooner some people begin to hedge the better.

The Fruit Magazine, published in the interest of the fruit growers, now declares that the trade agreement, if adopted, will not work injury to British Columbia. The editor says the Canadians can grab the American market if they will.

Tom Johnson dead. Yes, physically. But like that of John Brown, of southern fame, and patriotism, his soul will go marching on. He was a friend of the masses, and made sacrifices in defence of his opinions. There are too few of his kind in public life.

The Stratford Beacon is being congratulated upon its continued success. It is twenty years since W. M. O'Brien became its editor and publisher and he has grown in popularity and power

or as his paper has grown in circulation and influence. May he continue to prosper.

The hospital committee may succeed in convincing the local government that it has a duty to perform, namely, to erect a provincial institution in some isolated and elevated spot, for the cure of tuberculosis. But so far the Whitney eoterie is not impressive.

The Bourassa and the conservative clique in Montreal, who wanted to see him as an opponent of the federal and provincial governments, have quarrelled. Mr. Bourassa will have nothing to do with Mr. Sifton and with his tactics. Mr. Bourassa admires independence, but not of the Sifton kind.

The Mail and Empire raves (1) because the federal surplus is so large; (2) because the taxes of the people are not lowered, and (3) because the government dares to remove the taxes by a fair swap of national products. There's no pleasing it. Gabriel, as finance minister, could not please our contemporary.

Col. Sam Hughes is not raising himself in the estimation of the people by his attacks on Dr. Macdonald, of the Globe. The colonel once taught the Macdonald, as a boy, but that was a long time ago. Now the warrior could sit at the feet of his former pupil and learn something that would improve his manners.

The chief conservative organ is distressed because Mr. MacKay is out campaigning in the interest of reciprocity. In league with the federal government, eh? An awful crime. The conservative nobobs may frisk about as they please, and campaign as they like, but the liberals cannot do it. Strange argument.

The Mail has an idea—which is not patented. It is that because some people favoured reciprocity in 1879 they should not favour it to-day. Similarly, it is assumed, that because some people favoured the N.P. in 1879 they may or should not favour it to-day. But the Manufacturers' Association is not of this group.

HAD A LIVELY ROW.
Threatened to Shoot—Police Called in Early Morning Hours.

According to a report, there was a lively row in a house up on Johnson street, on Thursday morning. Two men were passing the house about one o'clock, when they heard loud talking among some men and women, and one is alleged to have heard one of the men remark that he would shoot. The two men hurried to a nearby telephone, and a call was sent into the police station.

Four police constables were soon on the scene, but when they arrived, matters had quieted down, and only the regular inmates of the house were present. The others had made off.

The man who talked about shooting evidently changed his mind. The case will be further investigated.

Anti-Vaccination Prejudice.
Ottawa Journal.

Kingston, Ont., some years ago, had an outbreak of smallpox. Some one hundred cases were treated in all. In Kingston, and among Canadians generally ninety per cent. of the population is vaccinated.

In Kingston there were households of a half-dozen people in which five people unvaccinated took smallpox, and the one that was vaccinated escaped. There were, conversely, households of a half-dozen people, of which but one was unvaccinated, and that one took the disease, and the others escaped.

Among the hundred sufferers there were only three who had ever been vaccinated. One of these had been vaccinated fifteen years before, and the other two about twenty years before.

The ninety per cent. of the population who had been vaccinated within seven years—the period through which the efficiency of vaccination holds good—escaped entirely.


Opposition Dying Out.
Weekly Sun, Toronto.

It is quite apparent to close observers that the opposition to reciprocity has collapsed. From the day of Mr. Fielding's announcement of the agreement, it was apparent that the manufacturers began to the whole to withdraw from the patriots, and a careful survey of the daily press now assures us that the manufacturers and their dependent population are willing to accept this measure for the relief of the oppression of agriculture. It was plain that outside of the Empire Club and the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire no one took any stock in a British preference on Canadian grain, involving a reduction of Canadian duties on British goods in contemplation of which the Canadian manufacturers' loyalty visibly subsided. In view of the farmers' uprising there was nothing left but to choose between reciprocity and a sanguinary defence of protection. The choice was easily and wisely made.

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A GENERAL SMASH.
What Modern War Would do for Canada.

At present, says C. F. Hamilton, writing of "The Seriousness of Modern War," in Maclean's for April, a general smash in Canada would mean that a great many people in England would lose heavily, because we could not pay the interest on the hundreds of millions which Englishmen have lent us. In India were to lapse into barbarism Englishmen's pockets would suffer greatly, partly because the \$2,500,000,000 they have invested there would be lost, partly because a valuable market would disappear. In short, individuals, communities and nations now live a very complex life. That means that it has become very easy to hurt communities and nations.

For instance—in 1907, the harvest of Western Canada was rather poor, and Eastern Canada, a thousand miles away, suffered keenly. You do not need now to get at a man to hurt him; if you interfere with a business on the other side of the globe you inflict privation and hardship upon him. A nation now is like a highly organized creature, which may die of a gangrene in some limb remote from the seat of life.

In a word, the march of progress has made it easier to hurt a nation. But there is another circumstance to consider. It also is possible for a nation to put forth greater efforts than were formerly possible, and great efforts, of course, are exhausting.

Didn't Know This Man.
Stratford Beacon.

The financiers of Montreal who got "stuck" on steel stock in a "tip" that the bounties would be renewed, and bought at an advanced price, have discovered by this time that it is not safe betting on Mr. Fielding breaking the word of selling the country to save his own or a half dozen Nova Scotia constituencies. Mr. Fielding gave notice a year ago that these bounties would not be renewed, but the stock speculators banked on the "scare" they raised over reciprocity frightening him into changing his mind. They knew not the strong, honest man they had to deal with, but know now. The total sum paid by the Dominion since the bounty system was introduced in 1884 has amounted to \$21,031,700. The bounties on iron, steel and puddled bars expired on December 31st last, and that on rolled round wire rods expires on July 1st next. These bounty-fed industries have surely passed the infant stage and ought to be able to stand alone—those of Nova Scotia especially, where the iron ore and coal lie almost beside each other. That evidently is the opinion of Mr. Fielding, who knows as much about them as any man in parliament.

Ideals at a Discount.
Hamilton Herald.

Carter H. Harrison, the successful candidate for Chicago's \$18,000 mayoralty, was opposed by Charles E. Merriam, a professor in Chicago University, and a social reformer. The professor didn't do so badly; the majority for Harrison was only 18,000 in a total vote of 340,000. Far more crushing was the defeat of Prof. Osborne, of Manitoba College, by Premier Roblin, in the Manitoba elections last year. The prestige of academic scholarship and the forces of social and moral reform look formidable in an election fight, but usually they need allies in order to win, especially when they make their fight against practical politicians like Harrison and Roblin, supported by many entrenched interests.

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