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**Daily Whig**

**DEFYING THE BOARD.**

The chairman of the Toronto school board finds himself in an embarrassing position. He is identified with the firm of Dr. T. H. Slocum, Limited, and he pushed the sale of stock so vigorously among the officers and teachers of the board as to cause people to talk about it. The question, "Have you bought Psychine stock yet," became a bye word in the schools.

The matter became so irritable, at the beginning of the year, that Judge Winchester was asked to look into it, and his lordship did this, and with a very critical eye. This judge has a remarkable pull with the people. He does not miss anything. The body politic may be badly lacerated, and may show the effects of his attention, but he has got at the bad spots and uncovered them.

The chairman of the board, the medicine man, invited criticism. He even welcomed the resolution which ordered the enquiry into his work, though it set forth that if the charges made against him were true he was not "a proper person to be representative of the board." The judge found that Lavee had solicited stock from the teachers and officers and that certain representations as to the profits the Slocum company were making were not true.

The board, thereupon, asked him to vacate his seat, or at least his seat as chairman, and he declined. He challenged the finding of the judge to displace him, and, in the language of a certain New Yorker, when on his defence, asks, "What are you going to do about it?"

The Toronto board has put the case in the hands of the lawyers, and something will surely happen. Meanwhile, the board is presided over by one who has forfeited the confidence of its members. Its usefulness is over.

**A MAN WITH A VISION.**

Sir George Gibbons is a man with a vision. That he made clear in his address before the Canadian club on Friday afternoon. No clearer view has been presented at any time of the Great Waterways Commission, and the work it has on hand. The interests of navigation required that the level of Lake Erie should not be disturbed, and to that end several things had to be settled—the free and open use of all the lakes, the diversion and division of the surplus water for power purposes, and incidentally the obligations that rested upon anyone, in any country, who presumed to interfere with crossing streams.

Details could not be cited, but simply some great facts, and from these it became apparent that the commission was one of the great institutions which is performing a service which the people could not sufficiently estimate. Incidentally a handsome tribute was paid to the generosity of the Americans, and notably Elihu Root, the secretary of state, who did not see eye to eye with the commission at first, but did later, and embodied its argument in a treaty to which he gave his endorsement. Only big men, in the public life, could do as these Americans had done, and they were entitled to the regard of all well-disposed Canadians. Special emphasis was laid on the importance of the court which had been established for the hearing of all disputes and differences which may arise. This court will take evidence and lay it before the commission and form the basis for a reasonable and correct decision. It was only a step from thence to The Hague, in connection with which Sir George foresaw the day when there would be a permanent court which would settle all international difficulties in a peaceful way, a court in which Great Britain, the United States and Germany would happily dominate. One treaty of peace was of infinitely greater value than many victories of armies and navies, with all their waste of life and treasure.

Sir George Gibbons is a graceful, a deliberate, and energetic speaker. His manner and matter of speech remind one of Lord Dufferin, a former governor-general of Canada. He has remarkable clearness of thought and expression. Each idea is evolved with grace and care, and when the culmination is reached, either in stating a fact or in enlarging a principle, the applause is warm and appreciative. The man has the faculty, which is rare enough, of carrying an audience with him, of giving his hearers a mental glimpse at the work in which the commission is engaged, the difficulties it has overcome, and

the good it has accomplished. It is rarely that a patriot has taught a lesson in loyalty so easily and effectively, and for the timeliness of his visit the Canadian Club is to be thanked.

**CRITICIZING THE MILITIA.**

A sane and sensible criticism of the militia department appears in the Ottawa Citizen, which is edited by Col. Morrison, an officer of distinction in the service. One gets, in this criticism, a fairly good idea of what was aimed at under a former disposition. General Lake's, what was recommended by Sir John French, and what is now the programme of General Mackenzie. Under the old system there was too much attention given to the commands, in divisions, and not enough to the practical training of the militia. In the opinion of General French the commands were a failure, and have been abandoned—not a day too soon.

The new order involves the better training of the militia and cavalry, their improvement in musketry instruction, in firing, and in field tactics. The department is congratulated upon its new departure, its desire to adapt itself to new conditions, its purpose to increase the efficiency of the militia and make it what it ought to be. Sir Frederick Borden is credited with a disposition to act upon every reasonable recommendation or suggestion.

For the current year there is an appropriation of \$7,000,000, but of this large, (this increasing), sum but \$1,325,000 goes into the annual drill of 60,000 officers and men. The permanent force of 2,800 men receive \$1,550,000, exclusive of the pay of staff, \$173,000, and the cost of schools of instruction, \$70,000. The pay in the permanent forces, in all the ranks, is high, and this is not objected to. But the Citizen points out that this pay is governed by a great consideration, namely, that the commissioned and non-commissioned officers are expected to do instructional work as well as regimental duty, and that they are not all adapted for this work. The cure is a radical one—to cut down the pay of the men who are not instructors, and increase the pay of the men who are. Better still, no man should be given a position which he cannot fill.

Incidentally the graduates of the Royal Military College call for criticism. The institution costs \$125,000 a year, and the contributions of the cadets amount to \$30,000. They are educated at less than cost on condition that they join some corps and give the militia the benefit of their training—when they do not go into the army. Some of them have been neglecting or evading this provision. Who is to blame? The militia department. It should see that every graduate carries out his contract and repays some of the cost of his education. Then the amount for injuries to men and horses in camp is ridiculously small, \$10,000. The result is general dissatisfaction. Indeed the Citizen charges that there has been systematic obstruction towards the settlement of honest claims. Every man should be promptly compensated, for the loss of his time, for the loss of a horse's service, and without this recognition the right kind of men and horses cannot be had.

Finally, absence of keen criticism of the militia, when the estimates are going through, is regretted. Col. Worthington, M.P., has been the one on whom the opposition depended to shed light upon passing events. He has been ill, and he has not had a successor or ally. What is the matter with Col. Hughes. He is noisy enough sometimes, and it is amazing that with all his experience and knowledge he can talk of little concerning the militia department outside of the Ross rifle.

**EDITORIAL NOTES.**

A wife beater in Ottawa gets off with two months' imprisonment. What about the lash? Why not use it in correcting the bad habits of these wife beaters? Its efficacy has no equal.

When Mr. Foster felt aggrieved with something which occurred in connection with the coronation trip the premier and finance minister urged him to go. There was no one more entitled to a place on the deputation. And the Toronto News accepts this

as a certificate of character, politically. Which makes Mr. Foster immune from further attack.

Brantford has raised, by a special appeal, \$117,900 for the Y.M.C.A. The Kingston association wants \$5,000 for its boys' department. Who will give the first \$1,000 towards the fund?

The Presbyterian synod of Montreal and Ottawa favours civil contracts in marriage. Will the ceremony not lose in solemnity without the religious element? Will it become a case of whom man joins together let so other man put asunder?

A crisis is on with the Telephone companies. The Bell resists the movement for an interchange of business and the railway commission is disposed to order it. The day of monopoly is passed. The powers granted by special charters can be modified by general commissions. It is well.

The kind things said of Mr. Foster by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Fielding show that these men can be considered of their opponents. Mr. Foster has not invited any bouquets from the ministers. He has not been known to harbour any kind thought, or express it, with regard to the ministers.

The government will go to the country on the reciprocity agreement if it passes the senates of Canada and the United States. Then it will be made apparent or not whether this agreement is "unpopular." If any party fears the result it is the conservative, and yet its leaders have been demanding an appeal to the people.

A New York law firm is managing, at Washington, the campaign against reciprocity. It is called a "spontaneous uprising"—manufactured by expert lobbyists, whose expenses are paid by high tariff men and manufacturers. And, strange to say, the grangers are letting these emissaries of a losing cause deceive and delude them.

**False Claim of Farmers' Favor.**

Buffalo Times.

The enemies of reciprocity have asserted that they were moved largely by the regard for the farmer. They were sure that the farmer would suffer if the deal were carried out, and they have gone up and down the land, praising agriculture, professing their love for the husbandman and pleading almost with tears in their eyes for defeat of the reciprocity bill for the farmer's sake. But the farmer is beginning to be heard from and his testimony is putting the standpoint to rout.

One of the reasons why the farmer is for the bill as stated by western men of note, is that the vast prairie proposition is a very serious one through an enormous stretch of territory and the price of lumber in the United States has been going up steadily for years until very recently, when something of a reaction set in, and getting it in shape to use.

Then it is found that the talk of competition of Canada on account of the labor question is all false. Prices are quite as high in the dominion as in the States. Labor is paid fully as much and often more. The cost of living in the country to the north of us is necessarily a little less easy than here, because of the difference in climate alone. The people must be seen through the standpoint pleading and understand that it is based purely on grounds of utter selfishness. That is the only fit term to apply to it.

**Suffered Greatly From Colic.**

Mrs. Aime Guenette, L'Immaculee Conception, Que., writes: "My little boy suffered greatly from colic. I gave him castor oil and other medicines without helping him in the least. One day I saw Baby's Own Tablets advertised, so wrote for a box. I found them so good that I always keep them in the house and would use no other medicine for baby."

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**The Man On Watch.**

The other day, the Lampman read an item which said that in order that a certain church dignitary might travel through a district "in keeping with his high and holy office," a handsome auto-car had been placed at his disposal. Perhaps it was not the fault of the church dignitary that he should thus be so exalted, but, any way, the Lampman recalled the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on an ass, and also long journeys made on horse back and on foot in the last century in this part of the province by great religious leaders, who did not think that their high and holy office required a gilded coach-and-four. The meek and humble for the Lampman.

The Lampman would suggest to the Board of Health that having condemned the public drinking cup at town fountains, it should get after those women who will persist in holding rummage sales, for the sake of making dollars for church or charitable work. Some of the rummage leaders are no doubt connected with societies for the prevention of disease. The health board should recommend the abolition of the rummage gatherings and by so doing it will meet the wishes of the great majority of the townsmen.

Now that the town's milk supply has been examined, the Lampman is looking for a published report as to an inspection of bread. In past years, enough short-weight bread used to be seized to supply the home for the aged poor for some months. What's the matter with the bread inspector. The committee running the above home should stir him up. The Lampman does not mind watered whiskey, but he draws the line at watered milk. He got some of the latter in a certain tavern in the town recently, and he wondered if the milkman or the hotelman was to blame. If the tavern keeper diluted the whiskey he sold, no doubt he would also likewise treat the table milk supply, so perhaps the poor milkman was not to blame after all.

One hears a lot about the necessity of having drinking places for the poor man, who would not want to go into a good bar to drink his glass of beer. This cry is all rot, the Lampman says for in this town there are only half a dozen good bars. Of the other class there are too many, and he looks for a reduction of them twelve months hence, after the people have marked their ballots. The better the bars, the better will become the drinkers, and the less bar room rows will there be.

Reading a report about an out-of-town church congregation, which offered to guarantee its minister an increase in stipend, the Lampman was of the opinion that here was a case of a bribe. It is quite difficult for even a clergyman to shut his eyes to the glitter of gold. When a clergyman feels that he can do a bigger work somewhere else, he is bound to go, and the Lampman does not like to see him away by the size of the stipend and the social surroundings.

Kingston has no need of being represented at the crowning of the king in London next month. The Lampman is sure Mayor Graham does not want to hobnob with the royalty of Europe, including the crazy King of Spain and the ruler of Servia, who sits on a bloody throne. The town requires its mayor at home where he can serve it a great deal better than abroad. Some other time he can cross the ocean, and tell King George that the old Cataract bridge which he crossed on the occasion of his visit to Kingston ten years ago, still occupies the same position it then held.

THE TOWN WATCHMAN.

"Ice cream bricks," Gibson's.

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New flowing ends, in the new hair line effects. Rich shades. SPECIAL, 50c.

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