

THE WHIG, SEVENTY-EIGHTH YEAR

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THE QUESTION OF PAVEMENT.

New York is agitated over the pavement question, and the Herald gives columns of its space to a discussion of the subject. Now, one would expect to find in New York the best conditions. A city that spends \$7,000,000 a year upon its streets should have the very best of labour and material, and it appears to have some of the worst.

As the result of a special appeal to the street commissioner it was decided to try what is called the "Liverpool pavement," and Liverpool is said to be the best paved city in the world. This pavement is like unto that which is being laid in Kingston—block asphalt, laid upon a concrete foundation. But New York does not consolidate its foundation, and does not use rock asphalt. Apparently the street is prepared in a kind of way, and then over it is laid sheet

asphalt, and this represents a pavement which is not now being laid in any progressive city. It was abandoned in the last century.

Naturally the question arises, What is the matter with New York? A writer in the New York Herald supplies the answer: "Gen. Bingham resigned as engineer in charge of highways in disgust. He said there were more than enough men on the pay-rolls to do the work, but none of them was of any use. He found the records defective, much red tape and no ambition among the employees. He found his hands tied at every turn, and, although he took the office with the idea of working reforms, he found he could make no headway and quit."

The \$7,000,000 which goes into street work suggests a lot of jobbery, and out of it some people are getting rich quick.

LECTURING ON THE TARIFF.

The meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers' association is interesting. The views, or opinions, or resolutions, of the big wigs in business and finance count, for the aforesaid big wigs are the dominant force in commercial and political life. The opening address of the president was a revelation.

In this address it was pointed out, with special unctious emphasis, that the association, as an organization, was neutral in the election. But the members of the association, as individuals, were very industrious in the enforcement of their demands. There is hardly any question that they asserted themselves in the councils of the conservative party. There is little doubt that they supplied the sinews of war. There is less doubt that they are represented in the new government, and their glorification is complete.

In the late election it was argued that the farmers were protected with the rest of the people, and the farmers, generally, appear to have believed them and voted accordingly. It is probable that many of these farmers realize that they have acted foolishly, and the number whose thoughts are running in this direction will increase in the near future.

Hence the anxiety of the C.M.A. to educate the people, and convince them, that "there is no divergence between the needs of the farmers and the manufacturers." Joint debates between them are suggested. These would be glorious occasions.

A point of great interest was made by Mr. Ellis, a past president. "I trust," said he, "that before members go to Ottawa to lay grievances before the new finance minister they will consult our tariff committee so that when they ask for the duty to be taken off their raw material others won't be removing the protection from some other member manufacturer's product." Later the tariff council was asked to report upon the tariff situation and Mr. Russell counselled that this committee do nothing about the British preference and the increase in it to which the Grain Growers' association demanded.

One can read between the lines and realize the plans of the C.M.A. It will do, or seek to do, whatever revising is to be done to the tariff, and it will be for the special protection of certain manufacturers. Once, when a former conservative government held office, the C.M.A. presumed to hand the finance minister their brief. Will they attempt this again?

CAUSE OF HIGH LIVING.

Two conditions meet every housewife these days and give her cause for reflection. She has a liking for canned goods, and that liking is the result, partially, of the education of the canners. They laboured for years in competition, to show the merits that they could buy canned fruits, and canned tomatoes for which there is a particular demand, much cheaper than she could buy and bottle them. Confidingly she followed the lure of these men, and suddenly she discovered that something was amiss. The goods became scarce and dear.

One gets a little light upon the situation when he enquires into what the canners are doing. In the vicinity of their factories contracts are made for fruits and vegetables. All that has been contracted for is taken up all the stock for which there is a need. But a big stock means lower prices, and the merger aims at a short stock and high prices. Is it not a scandal? Living higher? Yes, and here is one cause for it, and a cause which should be removed. The canners' association does not own the farms and their products. The men who raise the fruit and vegetables will sell to any one who pays the price. What is the matter with a few capitalists that they do not get a couple of factories going in Picton or elsewhere and get some of the huge profits in canned goods while selling to the people at reasonable figures and giving them in abundance all the articles they desire.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Ontario, says Le Devoir, will not dominate the cabinet. It certainly will not if the nationalist leader is allowed his way, and so far he has had it.

The power behind the Borden government is Bourassa. He does not desire office, and he does not need it, so long as the government does his bidding.

Borden and Bourassa must have been very confidential. Bourassa knew sixty hours before any one else who would be Borden's ministers. What is the inference?

A member of the council, after contemplating some of the council's difficulties, remarked that government by commission was not so far away as some supposed. Is he alone, of all

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the members of council, in this opinion?

According to the Telegram Mr. Borden has been loaded up with a rare incapacity in the person of Mr. Cochrane. As minister of mines he was supposed to be a rare and beautiful failure. So he is dumped over on Mr. Borden, to add to his cares and responsibilities.

The grand jury which, in Los Angeles, California, indicted the McNamara brothers, served for a year less ten days. Why not make the grand jury a permanent institution? It might lose its air of freedom. It might not seem like a jury of one's peers.

Opposition is threatened the ministers in going back to the people for re-election. Some think that this opposition is most unusual. But the reverse is the case, and the defeat of two or three of Borden's colleagues would be the greatest favour the people could confer.

Rumor has it that Mr. Matheson will retire from the treasury department of the Ontario government. He has done better than he was expected to do, and he had held office longer. As the critic of the party he had to be recognized when the change of government took place, but it was said he would very soon make way for another. Why should he retire now?

The north country in Ontario was opened by a liberal government, and the Whitney government has been simply following up this advantage. It is now charged, by a conservative print, that very little has been done to make the value of Northern Ontario known and open it for occupation. The incompetency is not of one man, but of the government and its many members.

Le Devoir, with the approval of the Toronto News, (how accommodating), suggests that the navy question will be shelved for four years, until the next imperial conference. Then the admiralty will be asked what the Canadian government should do in the name of the empire. And why wait four years for the admiralty's advice? Is that Bourassa's recommendation?

The success of Hon. Mr. White, finance minister, as a phrase-maker, is recognized. It is not generally known, however, that he began his career as a journalist, and wrote for many a day the epigrams that made a certain column in the Telegram so readable. So that the press is to be credited with the production of the new master of finance, and if he walks in Fielding's shoes he will do.

PUBLIC OPINION.

Which is Right? The Hamilton Spectator, Ottawa Journal and Ottawa Citizen, all conservative, say there will be no navy referendum. But Le Devoir says there will be a referendum, and Le Devoir is in close touch with the new government.

Hard on Cochrane. Toronto Telegram. And Hon. Frank Cochrane, "the man who brought Bourassa to Sud-bury," is the sort of leader who leads only to the slaughter. Hon. Frank's first act of leadership at Ottawa having signed the death warrant of at least twenty conservative M.P.'s from this province.

Bourassa Knows. Le Devoir, Montreal. The Toronto Telegram indignantly says: "Will H. L. Borden shape the naval policy of his government to meet the wishes of F. D. Monk, M.P.?" The poor sheet forgets that Mr. Borden has twice pronounced in favor of the appeal to the people upon the

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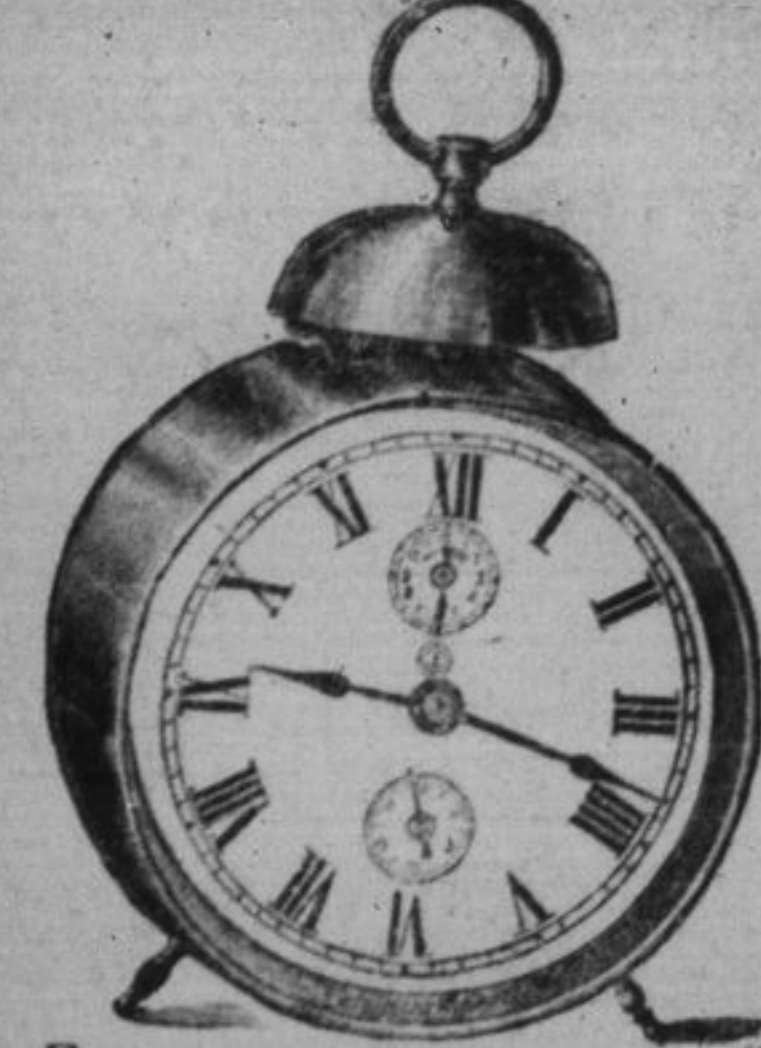
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Desultory fighting between the Monarchists and the republicans continues in Portugal. A car of Green Mountain potatoes arrived for Gilbert's stores. Prices right.

FIRE

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Agent for McQuay Bros. and Company, Members Montreal Stock Exchange.

Rev. Mr. Cox, who preached his farewell sermon last Sunday, had by his kindly manner, endeared himself to the hearts of his parishioners and his departure is regretted. Rev. Mr. Hall comes in his stead.

Cushendall News. Many of the farmers have had their hay pressed and numerous loads are being hauled to Rideau Station for shipping. W. Gordon and several men are filling his corn silo. J. Duffie has the hay press engaged. Master D. German's friends are pleased to know he is recovering fast from appendicitis. Mrs. Hyland,

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