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CRITICISM OF FRIENDS

In an adjoining column the Whig prints from the Ottawa Citizen, which may be described as a government paper, though it has no fear of it and criticises it sharply, an article which depicts the seemingly studied neglect that has been practiced towards Gowganda.

In his first meeting, at Cobourg, the inaugural of the conservative campaign, Sir James laboured-laboured in the word-to show that his government could not be expected to do more than it had accomplished with the means at its disposal. The immigration department of the Ontario government had not been successful because it was without initiative and energy, and what is of more importance, ministerial encouragement—and the office in Toronto was closed after the federal election. Why? It was decided to depend upon federal agencies and aids to do the work which depended on the provincial government.

While Sir James was vainly trying to defend, or apologize for, his failure in New Ontario the Citizen opened

fire upon his administration and arraigned it in a manner the premier will not forget. It is not pleasant for the conservative papers to sharply call the Whitney government to account. The Hamilton Spectator has not spared it because of its hostility to tax reform; the Toronto Telegram has not saved Hon. Mr. Cochrane for his idleness while acting as minister of mines; the Toronto World has not hesitated to hint that there are members of this government who should follow Mr. Balfour's example and disappear from public life, and the Citizen regretfully comments upon the discrimination of the government towards the miners in Gowganda.

All honour to the conservative papers which, while still supporting and commending the general policy of the government, exposes its unkindness to some necessary reforms and its indifference towards the creeds of the northern country. The government that has been as faulty and so unfair towards the undeveloped districts can have precious little claim upon the consideration of their people.

TIME FOR A CHANGE

It is a compliment to Dr. Knight, of this city, that the leader of the opposition, in his Toronto address, quoted from the works of the professor, and commended him for what he had done for medical inspection. Mr. Rowell has been what some people call severe upon the minister of education, but he would have been more severe had he been fully aware of all the facts.

Dr. Knight is not usually a critic of the Whitney government. He may be fairly represented as a supporter of it. And yet his devotion to medical inspection led him, in a recent lecture before the Alumni Conference of Queen's College, to say some astonishing things. No one, he said, was in a better position than the minister of education to understand the teaching of medical statistics, and one is left to wonder at the aloneness with which he acts. Over four years have passed since the legislature authorized trustees to provide and pay for such dental and medical inspection of the pupils as the circumstances called for, and yet during all that time nothing has been done to educate the trustees and people upon the value of inspection.

The professor did not relieve the school boards of the responsibility that rested upon them, but the minister was the one chiefly to lead the people in educational matters, and Dr. Pym had been blind to the "appalling facts that had been laid before him." He should have gathered up all the information that was available, and if he could not compile or edit it, he has as deputy one of the best journalists in Canada, Dr. Colquhoun, and between them there

should have been a campaign that would have led to the best results.

What is of greater importance the minister should awake to the wisdom of having the teachers-in-training given a course in medical inspection and hygiene that can be called up-to-date. The astonishing announcement was made that the students in the schools of education were limited to eight lectures in anatomy, physiology and hygiene. It was expected that the universities would give instruction in every faculty advanced to that given in the normal schools, but in anatomy, physiology and hygiene the course in Toronto and Queen's falls far short of that; "in fact," said Dr. Knight, "the course of instruction in these subjects is not worthy of the institutions referred to, and Toronto and Queen's might just as well advertise in their calendars that first class honours in classics can be won in eight lectures as to allow the public to understand that a knowledge of anatomy, physiology and hygiene can be communicated in eight lectures."

So that there has to be an awakening all round. It should begin with the education department. It should call in a few experts on education, as Col. Hughes is calling in the military officers of Canada, for a conference, and he should accept their advice. He needs to do it. The machinery of the education department of Ontario, like the machinery of the military council, needs to be remodelled or removed. From the department should issue the inspiration that all engaged in education need, and the department must lamentably fail to fill the bill while it is being run as at present.

EDITORIAL NOTES

An alderman thinks something should be done to hush up the temperance people. What ward does he present? He had better test the public pulse without delay.

Strange that when the naval question occupied so large a place in the public discussions of Quebec—when it filled up the large space in two manifestos by Mr. Borden—there should be no reference to it in the address from the throne.

The women of the city did not do so badly on the voting on the hotel by-law. They may do better in the municipal election, and upon the question of license reduction. This is the campaign in which the suffragettes are supposed to shine.

The Citizen is certainly wrong in saying that medical inspection is something that should be left with the municipalities. The health of the pupils is a matter that concerns the education department and to the extent at least of showing it may be conserved.

Col. Ponton, of Belleville, is out with a revolutionary idea. It is that the franchise should be "made conditional upon military service." This is the predominant feature of the military conference. It remains to be seen whether the minister of militia is radical enough to espouse it.

Labour in England is fairly, if not

adequately, represented in the imperial parliament. It had one member in the last legislature, and he is being opposed by the conservative party in Hamilton. It will be necessary for the labour men to go into politics if they are going to get proper recognition in parliament.

The women of Massachusetts went gunning after the republican candidate for governor and the democratic candidate for lieutenant-governor, because they were bachelors. They held that no man who is not married should be elected to office. A campaign like this in Kingston would rob the council of some of its best members.

The opposition to the hotel by-law is up against a difficulty now which was not expected. The board of trade was not beaten, and the legislature, when it meets, will not be influenced by highly coloured and inflammatory fly sheets distributed among the members under cover of the night.

An Annapolis paper objects to Hon. Mr. Graham representing Renfrew in the commons, and simply "because he is an outsider." Any constituency should consider it an honour to have Mr. Graham as its representative, and the Watchman to the contrary the people of Renfrew will be proud of their new member.

NEGLECTED GOWGANDA

A POWERFUL ARRAIGNMENT OF WHITNEY'S GOVERNMENT.

The Story of Injustice as Told by a Conservative Paper—The Ottawa Citizen Describes the Situation and Demands a Remedy.

Ottawa Citizen (Con.) An appeal has been made to The Citizen by the superintendent of the Millerette mine in Gowganda district, on behalf of the mine owners, merchants and prospectors, to aid that region in obtaining transportation facilities. Accompanying the appeal are four photographs of the condition of the government road between Gowganda and Elk Lake city on the Montreal river.

These photographs show the road on which the Ontario government spent some \$30,000 two years ago, to be in an all but impassable condition. In some places it looks more like the bed of a rocky torrent than a traveled road. Its condition can be further surmised from the fact that it requires a four-horse team to drag less than a ton of ore over it. Yet during the past season we are informed that two hundred tons of high grade ore and concentrates were shipped out of the camp. This was only made possible by the mine owners contributing money to make the road passable after the government refused to help them.

Why this should be the case is a mystery. From other sources it is learned that since the camp was opened up over fifty cars of ore have been shipped out of Gowganda, having a total value of at least one million dollars. Notwithstanding that the lack of transportation facilities has heavily handicapped the development of that region, there are already two or three fine shipping pines, as well as a considerable number in an advanced stage of development. Over 600 claims are staked, but the prospectors have been prevented from doing more than the statutory work necessary to hold their claims, on account of the high cost of provisions and the difficulty of getting in all sorts of supplies.

Comparatively little is heard of Gowganda by the public, for the reason that none of the mines are selling stock, and therefore, stockbrokers have no interest in making its riches known. On the contrary, there seems to have been a conspiracy of silence regarding the Gowganda district. Why a region that has already produced one million dollars' worth of silver should not have even a decent wagon road into it, when Porcupine, which as yet has only produced \$42,000 worth of gold, has had a railway built into it, is something only explainable by the supposition that the provincial government has been dazzled by the calcium light of publicity, which has been thrown upon the other camp by the stockbroking interests, that have been dealing in hundreds of thousands of shares in more than prospects, whatever they may turn out eventually.

Contrasted with this is the fact that the Millerette mine in Gowganda, which has already shipped over thirty tons of ore, is not even quoted on the stock market, for the simple reason that it has no stock for sale. It seems a gross injustice that a mining region where the development work is being done by the mine owners with their own money, instead of exploiting the public, should be discriminated against in such a manner.

Apart from any other consideration, a silver camp is a far better feeder for a railway than a gold camp, for the reason that in the former all the ore has to be transported by rail to distant points for smelting, whereas a gold camp has comparatively little, if any, return freight, as the quartz is crushed at the mine and the gold product can be taken out of the country in a hand satchel. It is to be hoped that the Ontario government will afford the Gowganda mining region a reasonable degree of consideration in the immediate future, and that consideration should take the shape of building in a branch line of railway.

THE WHIG'S PUZZLE

Can You Guess What the Picture Represents?



What part of a building? Answer to Friday's puzzle: Bag-pipe.

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