

THE WHIG, SEVENTY-NINTH YEAR

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THE SINKING FUND.

Edmonton has a method of its own in dealing with the city's sinking fund. It has an investment committee to which the fund is given, and this committee makes loans on real estate so that considerable is earned from current interest.

In Kingston the sinking fund is differently applied. It is loaned to the city and the city is secured by its own debentures on which the highest interest at the time is paid. The city is bound to pay its obligations to the sinking fund as well as to outside holders of its bonds.

Any system is desirable so long as the fund is protected, and it is used,

as it is intended to be, for the retirement of certain debentures as they fall due. The experience has been in some places that when the fund was wanted it could not be found, the money having been applied by the municipality to some unexpected and unusual purpose.

Hence the legislation which has been taken advantage of, and which has popularized the issue of debentures, part of the principal and interest being payable annually. This put the sinking fund out of existence, and makes it necessary that the municipality shall provide each year for its liabilities, and pay them as the money therefor is collected.

THE JUDICIAL RECALLS.

President Taft is outspoken in his denunciation of the judicial recall. This recall is a part of that government which some people espouse and champion with great enthusiasm. They see in it the opportunity of calling certain alleged defaulters to account.

Some men in high places disappoint the people. They forget or go contrary to the promises which they made. They are forgiven for a great deal, and for the reason that circumstances are sometimes encountered which changed the cases. There have been instances in which public functionaries have willfully betrayed their trust, and then the device of later government is found very useful.

The recall of the judiciary is not generally approved, and it is for the judiciary that President Taft speaks. He sees the occasion, in which a judge, in the performance of his public duty, and at a time when he realizes his responsibility very keenly, is incensed by a disgruntled faction, and this menace Mr. Taft abhors. He has a right to do so.

In the United States some of the courts are trying issues of the most momentous kind. They cannot rightfully be threatened with any proceeding which will interfere with their usefulness. They have an acute sense of the service they have to perform. They cannot be moved in any particular by the clamour of the individual or the community. But all judges are not constituted alike.

The judges of the United States should be appointed by the government, for life, or during their competency. That act would have its reassuring effect. It is because the judges may be the sport of politicians that they may be dismissed politically, and they occupy in this respect a position that detracts very much from their dignity and power.

TOO MUCH ATHLETICS.

Athletics no one should depreciate. The development of body and mind should go on at the same time, and the better educational institutions admit this by their curricula. The Royal Military College led off in this dual training, and its graduates have had the advantage in all their subsequent careers. The Whig knows of men who were built up physically by the college gymnasium, and this fact has made one realize the merits of its course.

Other colleges have followed the example of the Royal, and have introduced and commended physical exercise. To be sure that exercise is not made generally compulsory. It is recognized that some students should have the benefit of a systematic and continuous devotion to athletics, and the college makes athletics a part of the class work. It must be taken in order to make that work complete. Outside of the science departments the students are permitted to do as they please so far as the gymnasium is concerned. The field sports, however, are an attraction, and usually the teams are supplied with all the talent

they require for intercollegiate matches.

All this is well. But there is one point which deserves attention. It has been emphasized by the experience of individuals who are well known in Kingston and in its college halls. No young man is warranted, in any account, in sacrificing his studies, and through them his profession, by too much athletics. The athlete is the hero of but a day, so to speak. He may carry his triumphs into several seasons. He may for a time grow in power and popularity. But sooner or later he cannot respond to the demands of the hour, and then he is laid aside.

Athletics are useful, in their place, but there is a limit to the degree in which they should enslave one. They will not afford a profitable living to any individual. As a trainer he cannot do as well, financially, as he can in some calling and profession. Remembering this the student should apply himself to his books and his classes. He should above all things see that his college hours are well spent, and that he gets the education that fits him for advancement in life. Some have made athletics their hobby, and what a failure they have scored!

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The farmers of Alberta in convention assembled, have decided not to form an independent political party. They can get what they want without this.

Some parts of Alberta have suffered severely from frost. The seed grain has been frozen, and the farmers will be dependent on the government for a supply next spring.

Hon. Mr. Monk has made the important announcement that he will deprecate any official of whom complaint has been made. But if he finds afterwards that the complaint is unfounded he will put the man's head on again. Wonders will never cease.

W. H. Hoyle, of Cannington, has been named as the speaker of the next Ontario parliament. It is an honour he has earned. But again one of the ablest debaters in the house is silenced by promotion. The speaker of the house is the one man who does not speak.

Hon. Dr. Reid's action at South Renfrew—that Mr. Graham had been the means of keeping Mr. Borden out

of the house once for a considerable time—has been established. Why should any man, and especially a member of the government, deliberately lie for political effect? Dr. Reid should be ashamed of himself.

Sir James Whitney's idea of Mr. Fels, the naphtha man, is that he is diverting his business by booming income tax. He offered to put up dollar for dollar with any man or organization in championing his cause. If there is money in such tactics why should Mr. Fels have a monopoly of them?

In the circular which has been issued, and dealing with the proposed unions of the Presbyterian, Congregational and Methodist churches in Canada it is thus announced: "The members of the church entitled to all church privileges are those who, on a profession of their faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to Him, have been received into full membership."

At Constantinople, Hadgi Adil Bey, general secretary of the committee of union and progress, has resigned his portfolio of secretary of the interior, while Talaat Bey, the recent minister, takes posts and telegraphs and David Bey public works. Book-binding and ruling at Whig office, Kingston.

DUCHESS IS AN ANGEL

GOES FROM BED TO BED NURSING THE SICK.

Soldier's Testimony—Writes Letters for Wounded Who Are Unable to Use the Pen.

Bologna, Jan. 24.—A soldier who has just returned from Tripoli and who was wounded in the battle of Sciarra-Sciat, declares the Duchess of Aosta has enthroned herself in the hearts of the Italian troops.

"I had the good fortune to be nursed by her," he said, "and she was a veritable angel to me. At the least sign she was beside me, bringing me refreshing drinks, which she held to my lips while raising my head with the other hand. She arranged my bed comfortably and asked me about my family. For a long time, I did not know who the blonde lady was, and the next time she came to my bedside, I could not speak to her, so great was my emotion. The duchess dressed my wounds herself.

"Her activity is remarkable. She goes from bed to bed, attending to the wounded, always smiling and ready to comfort the suffering.

"When I recovered a little, I wanted to write home, but could not move my arm. The duchess offered to write for me and finally did so, signing her own name to the letter sent to my old mother."

HICCUGHS FOR 16 DAYS.

Many Remedies Tried in Vain—Now Laughing Cure.

Cairdton, N.S., Jan. 24.—Marie Shinn, seventeen years old, of 125 North Twenty-fourth street, has been hiccupping continually for the last sixteen days and as a last resort her mother has appealed to minstrels to come to the house in an effort to get the young woman laughing so she will forget her hiccoughs and will regain her health.

On the supposition that a sudden shock might cure her almost everything has been tried. A revolver has been shot behind her back, persons have entered her room at night and friends even have threatened to throw her out of a third-storey window, but all to no avail so far as stopping the hiccoughs is concerned.

The young woman was stricken on January 5th, just after she had partaken of a hearty meal.

WIFE SPANKED HER RIVAL.

Mrs. Jennie Russ Says She Chastised Miss Sue Phillips.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Jan. 24.—Mrs. Jennie Russ, of this city, who lost her suit to have her husband found guilty of non-support, charged that the husband, Christian Russ, of this city, spent much time and money in entertaining Miss Sue Phillips, and that in consequence he deserted her.

She admitted that recently she had decoyed Miss Phillips into the private room of an hotel and had spanked her soundly. The husband said that after a quarrel with his wife she had gone to his bank and drawn out all his money, so that he could not give her any. Judge Strauss on hearing this dismissed the case.

BEER A COMMODITY.

Railroads Must Transport It Into "Dry" Counties.

Washington, D.C., Jan. 24.—Beer is a commodity and railroads must carry it, when offered for transportation from one state into "dry" counties of another state, regardless of the laws of the latter state.

The supreme court of the United States made this ruling.

Helps the Pensions Along.

Montreal Star. The arguments of the finance minister, therefore, ought to lead straight to the establishment of old-age pensions in Canada. It will cost us little, and it will lift a cloud of care from the hearts of millions of our people. We may be getting along well enough to-day. We have a good job, let us say, good pay, and good health. But to-morrow may bring a catastrophe—an accident—a crippling sickness. Not one of us can be sure. The most confident may be put out of the game before the end of this week. Then what will we do? The long years stretch before us; but our hands lie idle. We have been wounded early in the war, perhaps; but we are none the less maimed. If we had been wounded on the field of battle, the state would be proud to care for us. But when we are only wounded in the paths of peace, the state lets us lie by the wayside.

Old Adam There.

Montreal Gazette. Twelve thousand people, it is declared, went tobogganing in Toronto last Sunday. There is some suspicion that a strong condemnation of the practice of sliding on Sunday, made during the week, had its influence in sending at least some of the number to the scene of sin. There must be a lingering trace of the Old Adam in the make-up of the people in even the best of cities.

Come on Says Rev. C. O.

Toronto, Jan. 24.—Rev. C. O. Johnston has written to E. V. O'Sullivan, barrister, saying that he hopes the Jesuit order will sue him. His letter to O'Sullivan concludes: "I think it time an investigation of Jesuitism in Canada took place. I am sure the country is ready for it. No further correspondence need take place between us."

Women Defeated in Virginia.

Richmond, Va., Jan. 24.—Women of Virginia were defeated in the ballot when the house committee on privileges and elections of the general assembly decided to report adversely a bill changing the constitution of Virginia so that women might vote.

At Constantinople, Hadgi Adil Bey, general secretary of the committee of union and progress, has resigned his portfolio of secretary of the interior, while Talaat Bey, the recent minister, takes posts and telegraphs and David Bey public works. Book-binding and ruling at Whig office, Kingston.

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