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GETTING AT THE FACTS.

The utilities' committee has been somewhat sharply criticized, and unfairly. It has not been able to rush results, and for the reason that to do so would be to the disadvantage of the Hydro-Electric Commission. This commission has been talking of cheap power for a long time. The promise of the chairman of the commission about four years ago was that the people here would get illumination as cheaply as candle power. When that promise was given there was no assurance of an early connection with any water power in the east.

When later the Seymour company became a competitor with the Hydro-Electric Commission there was the prospect of an early contract and on acceptable terms. We all remember the delays that occurred, not on the part of the power committee, but of those with whom the committee were negotiating. The meeting in the council chamber last December will be recalled. Then Hon. Mr. Beck said that negotiations were pending with the Seymour company, that the commission was about to acquire its rights, and that the assurance was clearer that the city would be served with power at a reasonable rate in the immediate future.

No one has ever heard what happened between the Hydro-Electric Commission and the Seymour company, but the merger did not take place, and once more the city is between the competitors and without any definite idea as to how it will come out. An expert, a man of large experience, has been employed to pass upon the merits of the two offers that are before the utilities' committee, and it cannot be long until he makes his report.

One thing is certain, that the city, in a manufacturing sense, is suffering for the want of cheap electric power, and that the sooner the wisdom of the aldermen and the experts settle the question the sooner Kingston will be in a position to compete for business. The utilities' committee is meanwhile proceeding perhaps as fast as circumstances will permit.

AN ELECTION IN QUEBEC.

The Quebec legislature will be dissolved, and in May there will be a new election. The Gouin government is one of the best—indeed it may be described as the best—the province has ever had. The most that can be said about it by its enemy, the opposition, is that it has been friendly with the Laurier government, and hence because it has been defeated the Gouin administration may go also.

It is said, too, that the premier is the main push, the big man of the ministry, and that his colleagues are simply his reflected lights. As a government Mr. Gouin's compares with Sir James Whitney's and it has a record of which the people should be satisfied. The revenues of the province have been large, and so have been the expenditures, since the government has, to the utmost of its limit, advanced the interests which have been committed to it. Education, good roads, agriculture, these and other causes have been most liberally aided.

Nor should any good conservative print like the Montreal Gazette find fault with this view of the way the federal government scattered the millions it found in the treasury and was applauded by the party. For years the conservative opposition was lamenting the fact that the government was not devoting enough of its surpluses towards the reduction of the public debt, and the debt was the last thing thought about when Mr. Borden and his friends had access to the funds.

Mr. Gouin gives the people plenty of time to think over the situation and act. Moreover, he has been challenged to face the election by the conservative party. They will expect the Borden government to deluge the province, as it did South Renfrew, and do much it if possible, but the people of Quebec have awakened from the spell of last September. The nationalist party, too, has gone to smash, and its high priest has gone abroad in disgust.

DERILECTS AND DELINQUENTS.

The people of Kingston have been made painfully aware that something must be done by the municipalities, or a part of them, to care for the imbeciles, and those suffering from senile dementia. These old people, fussy, restless, tiresome, vicious in action and in speech, cannot be herded with the common people. They are not insane and they should not be put into the asylums to fill them up and close out the younger generations with mental diseases that may be cured.

The local member, who has given this matter his serious attention, says that there is in Toronto an institution to which the sufferers from senile dementia may be sent. Last year the government gave it a grant of $5,000 and it was not understood—and it is not understood now—that this experiment is confined to Toronto. It is probable that any city or county, or any group of counties, can provide for the care of the imbeciles, and the mentally weak, through old age, and there is great need that this undertaking should not be delayed.

A sign of the times is the movement in the United States, (and in one diocese of Canada, by order of the Roman Catholic bishop), to prevent the marriage of those who are eugenically unfit. The record of imbecility in Pennsylvania is shocking. Over 10,000 cases are reported, and 3,500 cases are sequestrated. In New York the record is proportionally as bad. But why cite the experience of the United States or of any American city? Canada has its burdens and anxieties from idiots, epileptics and imbeciles, and the clergy that marry them assume a great responsibility. The license issuer begins the menace, and the clergyman completes it. The jails and the refuges and hospitals contain cases that should be in an institution that is differently equipped, an institution that is separate from others, and where the horrors of defection or abnormal life are hidden from the public view.

PYNE THE HYPOCRITE.

The protest in another column from the Toronto Telegram and against the injustice of the education department in closing a certain school because the trustees could not find a teacher who could give instruction in French as well as English, is in good form.

Here is the resolution which Mr. J. C. Elliott offered in the Public Accounts' committee and which was shouted down by the tories present:

"We condemn the action of the minister of education in forcing the closing of the said school, on the ground that such action was contrary to the wishes of the majority of the ratepayers of the said section, was against the protests of the majority of the school trustees in the said section, and was in violation of the school law and regulations of this province governing the conduct of the minister in this matter, and was a most serious attack upon the rights and privileges of the ratepayers and trustees in the public schools of this province.

"We have enquired into the conduct of the department of education in forcing the closing of the public school in school section No. 4 in the township of Springer.

"We find, according to the certified statement of the secretary of the board of trustees of the said school section, that of the ratepayers in the said section, thirty-five are English and sixteen French, that of the children of school age seventy-two are English and thirty-three French, and that of the trustees two are English and one French.

"We further find that the minister of education, by his action, compelled the closing of the said school, under the circumstances and for the reason set forth in the said letter, written by the deputy minister of education on instructions of the minister of education."

And that was opposed by the committee. The government says the regulations of the education must be enforced, it will appoint more inspectors to see that this is done, but it will not take any steps so that the one thing needed may be supplied, namely, qualified teachers. Dr. Merchant showed how this could be done, and he quoted from Nova Scotia the experience of the education department there. But his illumination is passed over, and conditions are left so that there cannot possibly be any change in the township of Springer.

When the people there appeal to the minister of education he sends them a saucy note and tells them that French must be taught, and because it cannot be the school is closed. Could there be a more iniquitous proceeding on the part of the man who poses at Orange meetings as the champion of English schools?

EDITORIAL NOTES

The chief conservative organ for Ontario, says Mr. Rowell is unfamiliar with parliamentary proceedure. No one would for a moment imagine it who heard him present a case and support it with precedents.

Ulster, which is so much in evidence nowadays, sends to the imperial parliament seventeen unionists and sixteen home rulers. One would think, to read the papers, that home rulers would be as scarce as hen's teeth in Ulster.

W. T. Stead, one of England's greatest journalists, went down with the Titanic. No man lived more industriously, and no man, with his pen, was more actively and usefully employed. The literary world can ill-afford his loss, and it is very great.

A member of the board of trade points out that under the Hydro-Electric Commission the power can be bought in Brockville for about $10 or $15 per horse-power cheaper than in Kingston. Would that bring the industries to the city?

The Mail realizes in the plans of the local government that the pupils attending the bu-lingual schools will be "well instructed in English." Yes, if the teacher happens to be English. If she is not such French will be the language of instruction or the school will be closed.

The Grand Trunk railway system will miss the guiding head of its general manager, whose death at sea, as a passenger on the Titanic, has been reported. He ranked among the highest in his calling, and to him is due largely the position which the Grand Trunk company occupies in Canada. He had only one peer in Canada, namely, the president of the Canadian Pacific railway.

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS

It Pays to Wait.

Ottawa Free Press.

If you can show that you are a veteran of the Fenian raids of 1866 or 1870 you can get $100 cash from the government. Over forty years is a long time to wait for the money.

King Can Do No Wrong.

Stratford Beacon.

"The king can do no wrong" seems to be the motto of Sir James Whitney, and as he is practically king in Ontario, whatever he does, however at variance with constitutional practice, goes.

Extend the System.

Ottawa Journal.

A reader, noting the Journal's remark that to get the Ontario Provincial railway under the jurisdiction of the Dominion railway commission would be a good thing, asks: "Why not the Intercolonial, too?" Sure! Why not?

Slow in Meeting.

Hamilton Times.

As predicted, the Quebec conservative newspapers interpret the amendments to the Manitoba school act as an act of justice done by Mr. Roblin to the oppressed minority. If the minority are oppressed it has been within Mr. Roblin's power any time within the past eleven years to do them justice.

Reports of the Work.

Windsor Record.

We'll wager the next time Sir James goes down into the basement of the parliament buildings the janitor will find him kicking himself for committing his government to a policy of abolishing the treating habit and thus acknowledging that the leader of the opposition is on the right track.

ULSTER'S DREAD OF FUTURE.

Anglican Bishop Says They Will Defend Birthright.

Dublin, April 17.—Addressing the synod of the Church of Ireland, the archbishop of Armagh said they dreaded worse than he could tell the anarchy and civil strife that will result from any measure of home rule. They regarded with horror the thought that the destiny of their native land should be handed over to the mercy of men who had "marched through rapine to the dismemberment of the empire."

Already the dread of it had roused the fighting spirit of the toilers in the province where industry, self-reliance and peacefulness most prevail. With all solemn intensity he said the Ulstermen were desperately determined not to be driven out from under the Union Jack. He had lived among them the greater part of his life and solemnly believed the Ulstermen intended to defend their freedom and birthright with their lives.

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There is not a Hat in the lot to make us take back our assertion that we've the best Hats made for the money. . . . . .

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We claim to have the Best $2.00 Hats in Canada.

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The Shoes we offer our patrons are the best Shoes that experience can secure.

Choice models, productions of Canada's Best Shoemakers.

We Specialize on $4.00 and $5.00 Shoes.

New Oxfords—Button, Blucher and Seamless. New Tans, New Gun Metals, New Patents.

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Good Trunks

Wardrobe Trunks $10.00 to $20.00

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Canvas Covered Trunks $3.75 to $7.50

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Leather Suit Case Two Straps Something Special $5.00

Leather Travelling Bags See Our $5.00 Leather Bag

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78, 80, 82 PRINCESS STREET.

DENOUNCE CARDS

IT IS SAID THEY ACT LIKE DRUGS ON BRAIN.

Appeal to Unbalanced Minds and Lead to Neglect of Sane Occupations, Says Medical Journal.

New York, April 17.—A report that a certain prominent church is to raise its discipline so far as to countenance dancing and card playing among its parishioners calls forth in the current number of the New York Medical Journal an editorial on card playing, in which the pastime is denounced as a "pure and simple mental dissipation, which grows upon the victim, like all other dissipations, to the eventual exclusion of logical and close thinking."

The writer expresses hearty approval of dancing as "an art, perfection in which requires study and practice, and leads to a healthy fatigue which prevents excess."

He hopes, however, that any religious body, which has the power "will continue to enforce a regulation evidently based years ago upon observation of the stupefying effects of card playing, effects which are identical with those of 'playing the races,' a pastime which finally incurred extinction at the hands of none too squeamish legislatures."

Card playing may be a "valuable distraction for the elderly," the writer grants, but once a week only, and upon others, young people in particular, who indulge in it more often, he declares, "it exercises its narcotizing influence with irresistible force."

He says further:

"The legend which attributes the invention of playing cards to the necessity of amusing a mad king of France possesses verisimilitude. Appealing primarily to the unbalanced mind they soon reduce that of a better quality to the same level. They are comparable in every way to the habit-forming drugs and lead surely to the neglect of every sane and healthy amusement, to say nothing of business and professional duties.

"Skill counts for only three per cent. in even the most scientific of card games, much less in the popular gambling forms."

Sale of smart women's boots. You save money at Dutton's shoe store, 209 Princess street.

HARD TO FILL PLACE

MR. WAINWRIGHT IS IN LINE FOR ADVANCEMENT.

Or Vice-President Chamberlain May be Called Upon to Take Charge of Grand Trunk.

Montreal, April 17.—If, as is feared, C. M. Hays has perished, the management of the Grand Trunk railway will for a time be thrown into chaos, for there is not a single man belonging to the company whose activities have extended over the wide range of Grand Trunk legislation and operation as did the activities of Mr. Hays.

The only man whose grasp of the Grand Trunk situation even approaches to that of Mr. Hays is Mr. Wainwright. It is possible that if the presidency of the company has been rendered vacant Mr. Wainwright will take hold of the situation temporarily, but as he is already considerably past the pension limit he can hardly be expected to remain with the company much longer.

Meanwhile, it is certain that there would be a complete reorganization, but it is impossible now even to speculate upon it, except that it is well within the range of possibility that Vice-President Chamberlin would be recalled from Winnipeg to take up a position at headquarters.

Annual drill of the 14th regiment will commence this week.

Sale cotton night dresses. Dutton's.

THE EFFECTIVE LAXATIVE

Tastes Like and is Eaten Like Candy

In our experience in the handling of drugs and medicines, we believe we have never had experience with any remedy that gave such great satisfaction to our customers as do Rexall Orderlies. This remedy is not like any other laxative or cathartic. It contains all the good features of other laxatives, but none of their faults.

Our own faith in Rexall Orderlies is so strong that we offer them to you with our own positive personal guarantee, that if they do not thoroughly satisfy you, you only need tell us and we will hand back to you every penny you paid us for them. Therefore, in trying them upon our recommendation you take no risk whatever.

Rexall Orderlies taste like and are eaten like candy. They do not gripe cause nausea, excessive looseness, or any other annoyance. They act so easily that they may be taken at any time, day or night. They are particularly good for children, aged or delicate persons. They are put up in convenient tablets in three sizes of packages. Prices, 10c., 25c. and 50c.

Remember Rexall Remedies can be obtained in this community only at our store.—The Rexall Store. G. W. Mahood, Kingston, Ont.

Sale three-inch ribbon, 10c.; large hair nets, 5c. Black underskirts, 50c. Dutton's.

One of the best known railway men, Richard Tinning, Toronto, travelling freight agent for the Grand Trunk, will retire on May 1st, after fifty years' service.

USE CRAWFORD'S COAL.

We Have Plenty of Coal Have You?