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DAILY BRITISH WHIG, published at 206-210 King Street, Kingston, Ontario, at \$6 per year. Editions at 2.30 and 4 p.m.

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**THE CHURCH UNDER FIRE.**

The Methodist church of the United States has put itself upon record that it is willing to let its members exercise the fullest freedom as to how they shall act or live. There is to be no longer an appraisal of what is termed the personal equation by the church.

If one can reasonably profess to be religious, and at the same time devote his time, his energies and talents to something which, in the estimation of another, may be questionable, the responsibility is his and his alone. There has been some canvassing as to the meaning of this change in the rules, without result. It is known that the growth in the membership of the church last year was only two per cent., though that, in a population of many millions, represented a large number. The bishops had in mind more than that when they urged an amendment of the discipline.

"In the great cities," says the Watertown Times, "the Methodist church seems to lose ground and possibly the reason has been because of its rigid discipline, which has forbid engaging in the social and amusement

life, which so largely makes up the life of large cities. Being irksome to its younger members, they stray off into other communions, where amusements are not under the ban. Fashionable life is attractive, in the great cities and the Methodist is not a fashionable church and does not want to be. Its vigor and strength comes from the workers of the world. However, if it has not grown as rapidly as formerly, it still grows and there is no sign of decay. It is gaining in wealth and power, in educational institutions and in all facilities for prosecuting its uplifting work, and it remains the most vigorous in that work of all the denominations of the Christian church."

Formerly, when the Methodist church lagged behind, or manifested an indifferent spirit, its membership was worried into activity by a revival. In this way they were inspired with new zeal. But the revival is almost a thing of the past. It has been tried by other churches in vain. One scarcely hears about it now, and when he does it is with a feeling of disappointment.

**PROTECTING PUBLIC PROPERTY.**

A citizen who has fine trees outside of his property, and who has been taking care of them, laments the seemingly wanton destruction of them by telephone men. The company has certain rights under its act of incorporation—rights which have been given it by the Canadian parliament, without due consideration—and it takes advantage of them to outrage the feelings of the people occasionally.

There should be, we submit, a study of public and private interests by the telephone and telegraph companies. They should not put poles in front of any man's door if they can avoid it. They should not brace up these poles by wires fastened to trees, and in such a way as to cut and injure them. They should not attach wires to houses, for support, anywhere, without the permission and consent of the owners. There should be, generally, more regard by the construction department of the telephone company for public and private interests than it seems to have at present.

Sooner or later the municipality will have to consider the removal of all poles from the streets, and the sooner the better. The legislature of Ontario has passed an act which enables it to order a clearance from the highways of all wires, but it will have to construct conduits for them in the streets.

**RESCUE OF THE DERELICTS.**

The investigation into the alleged mismanagement of the Mimico school has done good. It has established quite clearly these facts: (1) That one-third of the boys sent to the industrial school are the product of mismanaged homes, and that their greatest fault is the wilfulness of which they could have been corrected under proper parental government; (2) that many are vicious in temperament and should not, under any circumstances, be herded with these not so inclined; (3) that the place is not a prison, but a school, and that its real object has been obscured for many years.

The charge against the management was that boys were handcuffed for lengthened periods, that they were confined to their dormitories and beaten there, while handcuffed, and fed or prison fare, that this manner of reform had been carried on for many years, and under different superintendents, and that the institution was not really fulfilling its purpose. As a result of the enquiry there will be a change in the school itself. It will cease to be under the education department—which needs reforming nearly as much as the Mimico school—and it will probably become a reformatory with proper equipment.

The very name of the place, "Industrial," has been a misnomer. The idea, a correct one, was to give the misguided youth a training that would occupy their time, that would inter-act them, and incidentally qualify them for useful life. Education they were to receive at the same time. But a prison the Mimico institution was never designed to be, and an end will surely come to the work in which it has been engaged.

One thing is certain—the province must have somewhere a school for derelicts. They are to be found in every community. They cannot be managed in the ordinary school. They corrupt all who come into contact with them. They should be in a school or a class of their own, and be taught as their cases suggest.

Toronto had such classes, and, strangely enough, it is disposing of them. Why? There was a shortage of school accommodation, and this rich city, which should lead in all moral reforms, is closing up the classes of derelicts, and is turning these derelicts loose to run at large among other boys.

The commissioners who went into the Mimico case, and understand so well the situation, should have gone further with their report. They have rebuked the parents for a failure to do their duty; they should have rebuked the education department for its failure to see that the vicious boys in every community are sorted out and put under proper restraint.

The trancy, the crime, the degeneracy that are observable everywhere, cannot be checked while the good and the bad are herded together, and no genuine attempt is made to have the one from the impurity or taint of the other.

**EDITORIAL NOTES**

What is this we hear? That thousands of claims for veterans' grants (the \$100 each for service during the Fenian raid) are spurious. A new species of grafting in a very obnoxious form.

Must the wives of the Indian Sikhs be deported? It seems a hardship, to say nothing of the impropriety of the act from a national or imperial standpoint. An appeal has been made to the imperial government, and it ought to be granted.


Col. Roosevelt is still after Mr. Taft.

The president is now accused of frauds. Verily Col. Smith's remark is true. The man who sets out to be conspicuous in public life must start with being a gentleman.

It don't pay to make butter (at a declining price) with cheese at 14¢ and 14½¢ as it has been quoted in the Utica market. Eggs, too, are not as cheap as they should be. Well, every man can have his own poultry department. That's one consolation.

Col. Smith's talk to the Canadian Club was very fefficious. It was a half hour's recall of scenes and incidents in the public life of Canada's sergeant-at-arms, and the time passed all too quickly. The colonel has a keen sense of humour, and he is a capital story teller.

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