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THE WHIG, SEVENTY-NINTH YEAR

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BRIBERY IN QUEBEC

Terrebonne, Quebec, has been the scene of many exciting political events and the election that is now on, and concluding on Thursday, will not end the strife. The opposition has become desperate. It is deeply concerned with the fate of future of Jean Prevost, who won his triumphs as a liberal and is now appealing to the electors as a conservative.

They have never been expressly stated. Mr. Prevost has been the chief enemy of the government since, and he heard from the people in a liberal constituency and realizes the unpopularity of his cause. His opponent is Mr. Demartigny, who charges that an attempt has been made to bribe him out of the contest. He has been offered a federal appointment, that of chief immigration agent in Paris, at \$10,000 a year, and the expenses of removing himself and his family to Paris.

PUBLIC CONTROL FAILS.

The Manitoba government has something on hand which is bound to worry it, namely, the disposition of its elevators. The want of the government is storage for its grain. In the east the farmer builds himself a barn or grainary as soon as he builds a home. Some farmers in Ontario have better barns than houses. In the west the houses appear with the advent of the homesteader. His grain lies in the field until it is shipped or stored in the elevator.

Public ownership in Manitoba has been a failure because there was too much politics in the business. The elevators, managed independently and properly, ought to pay expenses and a good dividend. It is believed that several minor customs men were concerned in the illicit traffic in Swiss produce, such as sugar, watches, and jewellery, and many railway employees are under arrest on suspicion of being in the pay of the smugglers.

CARE OF OUR TIMBER.

Clifford Pinchot is a very active spirit in the campaign which will end in the presidential election next October. He is a hearty supporter of Mr. Roosevelt, who created the Conservation Commission when he was president, and made Mr. Pinchot the head of it. Addressing a republican meeting some days ago he became bold and cynical. "Tell me," said he, "one good thing which the Taft administration has performed." And from a near seat, in a clear stentorian voice the answer came, "It fired you."

It was a suicidal act on the part of the Taft administration, and it is now realizing this. Mr. Pinchot, out of office, is doing a good service in calling attention to the folly of congress in cutting down the appropriation for agriculture, and for forest ranging against fires. Of the emergency fund of \$1,000,000 for fighting fires, he says that only a sixth remains; and last year seventy-nine fire fighters and twenty-five settlers were burned in the national forests. Timber to the value of \$12,000,000 was destroyed. Mr. Pinchot declares that before the national forests can be regarded as reasonably safe, ten times the present trails and six times the present telephone lines must be built, and the timber is now worth \$300,000,000. In twenty years it will be worth a billion dollars.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Sunday trains on the Intercolonial railway. The minister of railways expects a row. Why? Why should there not be through trains on the Intercolonial as well as any other lines?

Hume Blake will enter Irish politics. If he wants to serve the people of Ireland they will probably give him the opportunity. But why should he not serve his own country? Canada has abundant room for men of the Blake calibre.

Wireless stations are all right and serviceable if wireless apparatus be found on every passenger and freight steamer which runs upon the lakes. This will not be had without legislation.

Canada has too much law, too many courts, too many expensive methods of adjusting differences between men. Why couldn't all our difficulties be adjusted on the plan of the railway commission? Difficult to get judges of the Mabee pattern? Well, perhaps.

Mr. Roosevelt assures the Halifax Chronicle, that he never contemplated the annexation of Canada to the United States, and an impression to this effect is not warranted by anything he has said or written. It is up to Mr. Taft to at least say "ditto."

The scandals of the Goderich license commissioners, and the removal of two of them from office, revives the demand for a provincial board. Occasionally the license board will be found whose members are above the average, but so many are faulty that a change is desired.

Why put several millions into a Dreadnought if she can be destroyed by a hydroplane which costs several thousands and does its deadly work with bombs? The battles of the future are to be fought more in the air than on the sea. That is the lesson of the Italian-Tripolitan war.

Miss Addams, of Hull House, Chicago, holds the church responsible for the social evil and for the annual expenditure of \$15,000,000 in the white slave traffic. The church, she says, should fight the evil, and with a persistency that knows no weakness. And she is right. The church stands for a clean life if it stands for anything.

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SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

Fight of the Future. Hamilton Herald. Among the features of the next naval war are sure to be fights between submarines and hydroplanes. They will be decidedly one-sided—like fights between fish-hawks and fish.

Meaning of the Merger. Toronto World. Mark our words: a widespread merger means that a lot of people are going to be turned out into the street for banking accommodation. Make no mistake about that.

What's the Matter? Winnipeg Free Press. A steamer which has just arrived from Glasgow reports that not one drink was sold to the passengers during the entire voyage. That ought to disprove for all time the rumor that the Scotch are addicted to the amber beverage which bears their name.

He Probably Will. Ottawa Free Press. J. H. Hawthorthwaite, the one-time socialist leader in British Columbia, having come into a fortune, is going to England to enter the House of Commons. He will probably end up as a blooded conservative. It is wonderful how the possession of a little money moderates a man's socialism.

License Board Defects. Ottawa Journal. A provincial license board, independent of the government, and of political considerations, with full power to appoint and dismiss local boards or disperse with them altogether. The only wonder at present is that more scandals do not occur in connection with license administration.

BIG CUSTOMS FRAUDS

OVER 2,000 ITALIANS INVOLVED IN CONSPIRACY. Operates of Syndicate—Began on Small Scale, But Soon Enlarged Their Operations When Undiscovered.

Rome, May 13.—Following a chance discovery by a frontier customs officer, a vast conspiracy has been unearthed for cheating the Italian revenue by organized smuggling. So successfully had the scheme worked that it had been providing snug profits for a long time. The probe has not extended to its limit yet, but it is clear that nearly 2,000 Italians are involved in the operations, to say nothing of Swiss accomplices. They began on a small scale, but emboldened by success their operations extended till at the time of discovery quite half the Swiss frontier was corrupted to the smuggling game.

EXACT HEAVY TOLL

IOWA FARMERS ORGANIZE TO STOP THE ROBBERIES. Would Compel Railroads to Ship Grain Directly From the Great Producing Sections to the East—Would Stop Adulteration at Chicago.

New York, May 11.—The real middlemen is held held up by Edward G. Dunn, the Iowa farmer, who organized the farmers' grain elevators in the middle west, now in a death struggle with the grain trust. Dunn declares that the way in which the consumer is robbed is not through the manipulation of Chicago and Liverpool prices but by widening the margin between local and Chicago prices.

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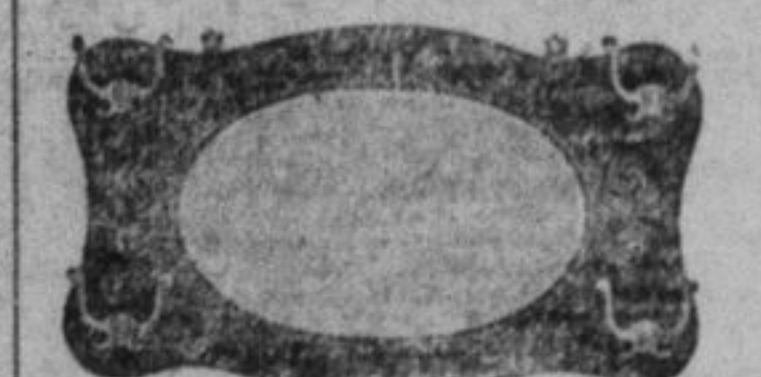
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USE CRAWFORD'S COAL

We Have Plenty of Coal Have You? Clara and Clarissa Pritchard, twins of Tivoli, are honor pupils in the Albany law school but cannot graduate because they are under twenty-one. If you want oranges that are full of juice and excellent flavor try those grown on Gage's fruit farm. Two British and five Egyptian officers, and thirty-seven men were killed in battle with tribesmen in Egypt. Cedar and lavender camphor, fresh, at Sargent's Drug Store. The Mexican rebels were badly routed, and are now in full retreat.