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A SCENE IN CHURCH.

What a time of it some preachers would have if subject to the interpretation which was offered to a Baptist on a recent occasion in England. He had been denouncing the sin of David when one of the parishioners objected He did not see what good was to come of "mud throwing at one of the best men in the Bible." Said this interrupter, when spoken to on the subject later: "For some weeks Mr. Hughes has been preaching sermons derogatory to the good men and women of the Bible. Moses has had it, Esther was spoken of as if she were a bad woman, and poor old Job has been dragged through the mud. Last evening Mr. Hughes went on in the same way, just as if he delighted in that sort of thing." Supposing this thing became common—that any man in the congregation, or any woman, were at liberty to call the sermonizer to account—what would be the effect on church attendance? Would it not increase? Would not the heckling, so common in political life in England, have a tendency to liven up the discussion? It certainly would, but it would banish the spirit of devotion. Some men may feel like criticizing the preachers betimes, but it does not comport with their sense of the dignity and decorum that should prevail in church.

THE GRAFTERS AT BAY.

It costs money to detect municipal grafting. This conclusion follows the story of Detroit's exposure so far as certain aldermen are concerned. A number of them are under arrest for complicity in the Wabash deal. At least twenty-five would have been involved had the man who is financing the case not become too communicative and given away that which should have been kept a secret, at least for a time. The Burns detectives are slick workers. They represent all classes and conditions of people, and as prosperous contractors and real estate men they are luxurious livers.

The Detroit aldermen thought they had struck it rich when they came into contact with the detectives, who had their offices, their ways of entertainment, and the money with which to carry out their plans. The offenders dropped easily into the trap, some of them accepting the bribes without any qualms of conscience, and showing a readiness to serve which suggested that as grafters they were old campaigners. And all of them talk of running again, and right away, for the places in the council which they have forfeited.

The experience again of Montreal, which had public men not so long ago, who disgraced it and who had been driven out of power by the people. They brazened it out, however, seeing no impropriety in anything they did. They were heard of again, in a recent election, but the result of the poll showed that the people had not forgiven or forgotten them. Detroit is going, it is said, to try a commission for municipal government. commission is a guarantee of greater efficiency, with honest men. It is not a guarantee against graft. Men who are crooked will destroy themselves under any form of government.

SWEEP OF MORAL REFORM.

A grievance against the imperial government, on the part of Mr. Chamberlain, is that the old age pension scheme of Lloyd-George is adding many millions to the burdens of the government, and these millions are raised by the taxation of the rich. A grievance of Boner Law is that the country is rocking with a want of confidence in the methods of Lloyd-George.

The wail is that of the rich on behalf of the rich, and calls attention to only one side of the case. There is another side. It is presented by the blue book, which the imperial government has issued, and according to which there are nearly 100,000 fewer paupers than there were a year ago. What has become of them? They have left the poor houses and refuges and resumed their places in the community, as helpers in their own support.

Old age pensions are graded and made to fit the physical and financial conditions of the aged poor. Hence, when they were made available over 61,000 women and 26,000 men over seventy years of age passed out of the care of the poor-law authorities during the year, but there are still nearly 50,000 people of pensionable age who prefer to remain in poor-law institutions, and another 9,500 to receive outdoor relief. The rate of pauperism per 1,000 of the population is now only 22.2, the lowest recorded for forty years, when it stood as high as 43 per 1,000. With the exception of 1901 the actual number of persons relieved was the lowest for nineteen years.

The report brings out the significant fact that 60 per cent. of the adult males classed as ordinary "able-bodied" in receipt of indoor relief, and 64 per cent. of those in receipt of outdoor relief, were relieved on account of their own sickness, accident, or infirmity at the date of the return. It is an obvious inference that eventually the Insurance Act will provide the means of escape from the workhouse and infirmary for thousands of this class of unfortunate persons. This, indeed, has been the experience of Germany.

At a great meeting in Kensington on the eve of the date set for the operation of the Insurance Act, the chancellor of the exchequer made a speech in which he said that when assailed the fiercest, when insults hurtled through the air, he had a vision which sustained him. "I can see now," said he, "the humble homes of the people with the dark clouds of anxiety, disease, distress, and privation hanging heavily over them, and I can see again another vision. I can see the Old Age Pension Act, the National Insurance Act, and many another Act in their trail, descending like breezes from the hills of my native land, sweeping into the mist-laden valleys, clearing the gloom away until the rays of God's sun have pierced the narrowest window."

Lloyd-George may not suit some people—the politicians, who are out of power especially—but he is a great social reformer, and in the improvement of social conditions has done more for the masses than any man. His is an exemplary and exceptional position.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The one man in New York who does not tremble with fear—when others are shaking and fearing assassination—is Mr. Whitman, the district-attorney. Jerome, in his day, was a picturesque and dauntless prosecutor. Whitman in his equal, and his superior in some respects.

The sickness and non-employment schemes of old England are not copies, as some people suppose, of Germany's plans. The English pension and sick and non-employment departments are the best in the world, thanks to the services and study of that most brilliant man, Lloyd-George.

England is spending a lot of money on munitions of war. She cannot help it. England's supremacy on land and sea, for the sake of the world and its peace, must be maintained. But England is taking care, at the annual cost of many millions, of its sick, its aged, and indigent poor. The masses are not being neglected.

Some people are anxious to turn the Borden government out of office. Are they not a little hurried? The tories were a long time in opposition. The grits basked in the sunshine of office. Is it not fair that the spoils of office, the pudding with the plums, should be passed around?

A great many of the western teachers—in rural sections—have been taking the agricultural course in the college at Guelph. It pays to get the certificate of a specialist. The holder gets a special bonus of $30 per annum from the education department. How many of Frontenac's teachers are taking the course?

Regina wants to borrow a million dollars from the federal government for several years, and on account of public works. It seeks to recover as speedily as possible from the effects of the cyclone. The federal government ought to help—if it can—and Regina can rely on the cordial support of its particular friend, Hon. "Bob." Rogers.

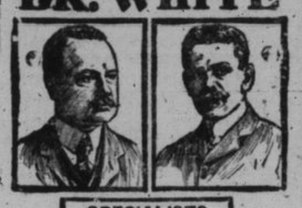
Great was the mikado of Japan. His praises are sung in every land. He has been represented as one of the greatest lights in his day. And so he was. But he was a passive ruler, with the sense to let his advanced legislators alone. The Japs, as a nation, are progressive, and its rulers are doing well to let them succeed.

Who is to represent St. Lawrence ward in the council? There is no need of a hurry. As a tribute of respect to the late Ald. Carson, who served it well, the council can afford to wait a while before filling his place. But when an election is held, as it may be when the vacation is over, some good man should be chosen.

The Canadian ministers may return to Canada on the British warship with Churchill and Asquith to complete Canada's naval conference.

Sir William Mackenzie, president of the Canadian Northern, returning from England, says there is plenty of money for Canada there.

DR. SOPER
DR. WHITE



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