

THE WHIG, SEVENTY-NINTH YEAR

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ACTIVITY AMONG THE LIBERALS.

The Liberal Association of the city had a meeting on Friday evening, and elected its officers for the ensuing year.

The signs of new life in this political organization are most welcome. The defeat, in an election, a year ago, had its discouraging effects.

The liberals generally have accepted the reverses that came their way manfully. They have had no reason to complain of the division of the favours the people has conferred.

best work, during which they learned the lesson of self-sacrifice. They have had long years of power and lost in the virility that makes for strong political life, by lacking too much, perhaps, in the sunshine of success.

Hence, the liberals, in opposition, are buckling on their armour, and when they are called upon to fight for principle or for party, will be able to give a good account of themselves.

STOP THE UNWISE AGITATION.

There is some agitation for another appeal to the electors on the liquor question. The idea is to have the sale of spirits still more restricted in both hotels and shops.

It is the aim of the earnest and consistent temperance man to continue his efforts so that eventually he may see the closing of the bar room and the limitation of a sale of alcohol to the drug store or the government dispensary.

The leader of the opposition has declared for the closing of the bar

rooms everywhere in the province, and his action has been considered, criticized, or endorsed, by numerous bodies. This way is being cleared for a remarkable manifestation of public opinion.

Now between the present and that time is it expedient to raise any issue which will have a tendency to divert attention from the main question or minimize its importance?

RESPECTING THE LAW.

The call has often been heard for a law which would forbid spitting upon the walks, the floors of halls, in cars, in hotels, and other places. It has been said, when this demand has been so urgent that such a law, if passed, would not be respected by the people.

The answer is that such a law—in the interest of cleanliness and health—is obeyed in other cities, and such a law, if passed and enforced in Kingston, would be respected.

It is to be regretted that many of the ordinances which are put upon the city books, which are carefully prepared and meant to meet many contingencies in the life of the people, are practically nullified by non-enforcement.

that—and it is an experience one cannot contemplate with any degree of comfort—and to the cost or pile of dusty literature it is not desirable to add.

Yet this spitting in public places is a hateful, a harmful, an unsanitary practice. Medical men have said, with an emphasis that is worth noting, that disease can be spread by spitting.

Spitting can be stopped to a large extent. It can at least be checked, and may be suppressed, so far as the walks, public offices, public halls, and public places are concerned; and if the edicts were once fully inaugurated, and the effects were witnessed as they have been in some western cities, it would grow in public favour.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP CHALLENGED.

A distinct and very pertinent record against publicly-owned and operated railways is supplied from Russia, where most of the lines are in the name of the czar.

The theory of managing railways for the benefit of the people, of giving them all the advantages that should accrue from possession, does not work out satisfactorily. Of the 45,000 miles of railway in Russia the government owns 33,000 miles, and all the equipment that belongs to them. The railways should pay, and that very handsomely, but, on the contrary, they have been a losing venture.

A commissioner was appointed to look into the facts. He made a note of what he had heard; he was most painstaking and persistent in his labors; he was searching in his examination; he learned that one-half had not been told of the robberies, that they were flagrant, not very much concealed, and in five years amounted to over one hundred million roubles.

or plain, open, audacious stealing—began in the offices of the high-up officials and went through every department of the service. One man, the director of the Siberia railway, who had charged 33,000 roubles for snow cleaning in July, and was dismissed, (not locked up), retired to Warsaw to spend his wealth lavishly and bask in the sunshine of society. It is inconceivable that the plundering of the people's railways should have continued so long, that before Senator Newhardt began his investigations some attempt was not made to find out what became of one-half of the freight which was shipped by railway and failed to reach its destination, that some official was so curious to know why the dead-headers who travelled on the railways outnumbered the paying passengers by four to one, that paid officials ranked as public thieves and plundered the railway exchequer at their own sweet will.

In Canada there are men who preach public ownership. The thing is ideal, but it is not, apparently, practicable. This Russia experience may frighten if not appal them.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Everybody is working for the Festival of the Empire. Why not? It is in behalf of the general hospital, one of the city's best and worthiest institutions.

The C.P.R. company has the power, according to its act, to exchange capital stock for debenture stock, but when the debenture stock is only \$30,700,000 why issue capital stock to the

extent of \$60,000,000? There may be a joke in this, but where does it come in?

It is fortunate that the submarine which was struck and went to the bottom was not the one in which Col. the Hon. Sam Hughes and Hon. Winston Churchill were covouring under the sea.

William Maclean, M.P., dug up the ancient act which made the Grand Trunk Railway company run a car it had long years before abandoned. He did not dig as deeply into the C.P.R. cards or he would have found the joker and said nothing about the melon.

Hon. Mr. Pyno went to Europe for a season to study industrial education. Dr. Seath followed. His was a similar mission. Now Dr. Merchant goes abroad for several months. In time the people may get something which will be worthy of their money, but really this touring at the public expense, without result, is getting tiresome.

Canada's representative in England should be amply provided for and should not have to spend his own means in order to sustain the dignity of office. The United States ambassador to England must be a rich man. Heretofore Canada's representative has been wealthy. Why should these things be? The man should get the position because of his usefulness, not his riches.

Three names are mentioned in connection with Canada's high commissioner which Lord Strathcona desires to resign—Sir Edmund Osler, Sir Edmund Walker and Sir Hugh Graham. One other may be referred to—Hon. Mr. Foster, the minister of trade and commerce, and politically the ablest of them all. He is not rich and titled, but that should not be a bar to his elevation.

THE SPIRIT OF THE PRESS

Compulsory Voting. Syracuse Post-Standard. Mr. Wickersham proposes that if the initiative, the referendum and the recall are to be grafted upon our governmental system voting shall be made compulsory.

A Very Bad Place. Hamilton Times. Rev. T. T. Shields, made a bitter attack on a Toronto theatre in his sermon. He also ran foul of the morality department. If all be said be true, Toronto must be little better than a whitened sepulchre.

Their Aim Defined.

Hereafter the minimum salary of Presbyterian ministers in the Toronto district will be \$1,000 per annum; and the aim of the congregations should be to see how far away they can get from the minimum.

A Great Menace.

Someone has calculated that there are a million and a half more women than men in England. This makes the suffrage movement an unconquerable power, if only someone would "set the style."

A Different Coup.

The democratic party in the United States has raised a campaign fund of \$298,750 in the last six months, or nearly three times what was raised for the Irish party in two days at Philadelphia. There seems to be a difference in the point of view.

A Real Good Act.

No better piece of legislation ever was enacted than that which constituted the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board and defined its powers and duties but this excellent piece of legislation has been made comparatively useless and ineffective by a board which either has not realized its duties to the public or does not quite understand how to exercise the powers of which it is possessed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Needs Investigation. Kingston, Oct. 3.—(To the Editor).—In a recent number of a prominent paper, devoted to the advancement of our country along sociological lines, there appeared an article entitled "The Menace of Coca-Cola." In this article the most striking feature was a signed statement by Dr. H. U. Wiley, (a man who holds in this department the absolute confidence of the people of the United States) in which he says: "I consider the Coca-Cola habit one of the most dangerous and insidious habits which is in existence to-day, and I believe the

DR. SOPER DR. WHITE



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health officers with the aid of parents should do everything in their power to prevent children, especially, from acquiring the habit. This view has strong support among scientific men. A few months ago, the president of an important scientific association in the state of New Jersey read a paper before his organization in which he explained the composition of Coca-Cola, and pointed out the deleterious effects upon the human system of two powerful drugs contained in the mixture. It is admitted by all that any drug habit, has a more injurious effect upon our young people than upon their elders. The question therefore is: Should not we as guardians of our youth, when informed on such high authority that we are exposing them to a terrible peril through our own ignorance, take steps to find out whether or not there is truth in these opinions of the scientists. I respectfully ask, then, in the name of the Women's Christian Temperance Union of our city, that you open your valuable columns to this letter, and to any others which may be called for by it; and also that you discuss the matter on your editorial page with a view to interesting the public in this phase of their own welfare. Why cannot the people of our province take sufficient pains to guard themselves from the poisons of all kinds contained in impure foods and drugs? What is the attitude of our representatives in the legislature towards the people's health? These are questions in which I think it would be easy to arouse the interest of your many readers.—M.K.

Removal Notice.

SPARKS & SPARKS, Dentists, On Oct. 1st has moved to their new Offices, 159 Wellington Street, corner Brock, over Carnovsky's.

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