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First News from the Christmas Store

You know it is less than four weeks till Christmas. It is time to start shopping. Time to make up lists. Start to make purchases now and get the best of everything, and avoid the haste of the last moment. Let us offer you a few suggestions:

Skates, Snow Shoes, Toboggans,
Brass Fire Sets, Fenders,
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THE REFERENDUM ABANDONED.

The Tory party in Britain has deliberately repudiated the referendum. In 1910, and on the eve of an election, the party was divided on tariff reform. Balfour, the leader, hesitated, and declined to commit his party to it. Indeed he had the knowledge that some members of it, and some newspapers, would not be committed.

A happy idea came to the tariff reform or protectionist faction. In the election there were several issues, notably the conflict between the Commons and the Lords, and Home Rule for Ireland. It could not be said, when the voting was over, that tariff reform was carried if the unionists won, but they would end all doubt upon the question by a referendum. Mr. Balfour said this was "eminently consistent with the whole true idea of popular government." Lord Lansdowne, the leader of the party in the Lords, said that there would not be any tariff changing until a referendum had been taken and the people had expressed themselves favourably. When these leaders had spoken in Albert Hall, London, the cry was "It has won the election."

With defeat, a crushing one, no more was heard about tariff reform. The Balfour party abandoned it. Of late there have been occasional references to it, and at last, in the same Albert Hall, Lord Lansdowne has declared that the referendum has been dropped. The election gave the party "freedom" on the subject. The party may give some place to the referendum, but will be no longer hampered by any promises. And all that Bonar Law can say is "Me too." Henceforth the slogan is tax the food-stuffs—all of them sent from Canada—and so "diminish the burdens that are falling upon the poorer classes."

The Tory party of England and the Tory party of Canada are somewhat alike on this subject. In the last election the Borden party caught the nationalist vote with the promise of referring the naval question to the people. Now the leader is dumb, but his handy men, from Pelletier down, repudiate the idea that the referendum should be resorted to under any circumstances. Mr. Borden must make some apology for his change of programme. What will it be?

CAUSE FOR AN AGITATION.

The Patrick case is engaging large attention in New York, and not without much reason. Mr. Patrick was a practising attorney and had some connection in law with W. M. Rice, a wealthy reclusive, who died suddenly. Patrick offered the Rice will for probate, and according to this will he was the beneficiary to the extent of millions of dollars.

Relatives of Rice took action, and ere long they had Patrick arrested. He was charged with the murder of Rice, and the valet of this man, C. F. Jones, swore that he was hired by the attorney to chloroform the old man. He had carried out the nefarious plot. This was in 1900.

In March, 1902, Patrick was convicted. In April of the same year he was sentenced to die in the electric chair. He was married in the Toombs. A new trial was denied him by the court of appeal in 1905. In December he was re-sentenced to die. In July, 1906, a motion for a new trial was denied. The case was carried to the supreme court, but the appeal was dropped in order that Governor Higgins, of the state, might be able to pass upon the case. Higgins commuted the sentence to imprisonment for life. In 1909 the appellate court declared the Higgins commutation illegal. The case dragged along, unsettled, until this year, when Governor Dix pardoned the convict.

The remarkable thing is that the governor conferred with no one respecting it. Former governors had consulted the prosecuting attorney and judge—Jerome and Goff—and had as a result, declined to pardon. Dix asked no one for advice, pardoned Patrick, sealed the record, and refused to speak.

This comes at a peculiar time when Judge Goff has been establishing justice on a sure foundation, when he has expedited the trial of some bad men, and quickly followed their conviction with sentences. One of the convicts is ex-Chamberlain Hyde, once a very influential man, a law partner of the present mayor, and his election manager.

There has been a demand in New York for a Board of Pardons, an institution which would take away from the governor the responsibility of dealing with criminal cases. This demand has been revived. The people for whom the governor acts want assurance that a pardon in some mysterious way will not be handed out for the benefit of Becker, Hyde, or the gunmen whose conviction has cost the state so much.

MR. HANNA'S PAROLE METHODS.

Some exception has been taken by the Brantford Expositor to the criticism by Mr. Archibald, the dominion parole officer, of what are referred to as "the Hanna methods" of reforming the convicts for shorter terms in Ontario. Mr. Archibald, of whom one must speak kindly in any case, and especially in view of the very serious illness through which he has passed, has occasion to be proud of the parole system. It has been a pronounced success, and this fact is largely due to the man who gives the effect.

Mr. Archibald is a man of good judgment. He knows human nature so well. He also understands the convict life, and has the confidence of the large prison population with which he comes into contact. In thirteen years he has authorized 4,379 paroles, and only 237 can be regarded as delinquents. Reduced to a percentage, this is only 5.17 of the whole, and the number of convictions subsequently was only 2.18 per cent. Of those whose licenses had been cancelled the percentage was 3. This exhibit was the highest commendation of the work in which Mr. Archibald had been engaged.

In his report, however, he disagreed with those who would sweep away prisons and punishments. He did not approve of oppressive measures in the penitentiary, but he did think the prisoners should be disciplined as a means to an end, and that end the reform of the individual. "During the past decade or two," says Mr. Archibald, "it has been demonstrated without a shadow of doubt that industrial methods, strong and healthy discipline, accompanied by a parole, produce good habits and create moral fibre, and very excellent results have accrued in the after-life of thousands who have found their footing through the systems of our penitentiaries, and are now occupying good positions in the social life of the dominion."

In all this Mr. Archibald did not refer to "the Hanna methods," and one is inclined to question the Expositor's criticism, since Mr. Archibald is well known to the Whig and should be, in his opinion, in perfect accord with the Ontario parole system. Hon. Mr. Hanna did not make any sudden and surprising departure. A commission made a thorough enquiry into the parole system. The chairman of this commission was Mr. Downey, now the head of the Mimico asylum. The experiment in Canada has been regarded as a success, and something will be heard of it when Mr. Hanna addresses the Canadian Club, on Thursday evening, in this city. This story, told elsewhere, has been of very great interest.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Bourassa is opposed to the giving of a grant to the British navy and a Canadian navy. He is in favour of coast defence and submarines. Only that and nothing more.

Nationalism, according to its founder, is stronger than ever. But somehow it does not show itself. It is only strong in the minds of Bourassa and Lavergne.

The officials of the government participated freely, perhaps by command of Hon. Mr. Rogers, in the Macdonald election, and have been confirmed in their jobs. Such as Mr. Borden's manner of reforming the civil service.

As a result of the enquiry into the water works system Judge Gunn recommends that Ottawa place its utilities under the management of a commission. Do our people not see in this the tendency of the times?

The question has been asked, is Santa Claus a myth? And one Sunday school paper says he may, but that is not a reason for destroying all the pleasures associated with the old man's name.

The dismissal of the action against Hon. Mr. MacKay, an action based on the observation of an insane woman, and touching the morale of the individual, is a proceeding. That a public man should suffer in this way is a matter of deep regret.

The people of Toronto will, by a referendum, in the municipal election, determine whether they will petition the legislature for an amendment in the law permitting of the taxation of land values. It is a pity the people cannot get an option without this procedure.

The Ottawa Journal says that in a fighting speech against the charges of misconduct in the Macdonald and Richelieu elections, Hon. Bob Rogers produced some strong evidence "and made an impression in the house." And immediately, to escape the taunting of Mr. Carvell, he escaped from the house. Fights and runs away, eh?

HAPPILY MARRIED.

Men Whose Lives Were Brightened By Loving Wives.

When Frederick Morel, the writer, was told that his wife was at the point of death, he did not throw down his pen, but remarked: "I am very sorry. She was a good woman."

"Might I have had my own will," said Montaigne. "I would not have married Wisdom herself."

But in spite of these and numerous other instances there have been men of literature who could write of conjugal fruition from an experience extending through unclouded, beautiful years.

Sir Walter Scott in his marriage relation, was happy, not only with his first wife, but also with his second. Cowper enjoyed matrimony, and Moore was happily mated, and Shelley's second marriage was the entrance upon a joyous period of domestic life.

Wordsworth had many years of gladness with his wife, and Prof. Wilson was well married, and Dr. Johnson, who was 21 years younger than his wife, "continued to be under the illusion of the wedding day till the lady died, in her 64th year."

Numa, who is unlike all the other kings of early Rome, since he was a sort of poet, holding company in still retreats with the muses—this Numa had a sweet wife of the name of Titia, who was partaker of his retirement and preferred the calm enjoyment of life with her husband in privacy, to the honors and distinction in which she might have lived with her father at Rome.

There was Plutarch also, whose days in marriage were all by his brightest. He named his only daughter after his wife, in attestation of his fond admiration and of his tender devotion throughout all his manhood, to that wife.

In a beautiful epistolary portrait of his Trilixena, he represents her as being far above the general weakness and affectation of her sex, as having no passion for the expenses or the parade of public appearance.

The world does not know all the happy homes in it; out of the doors of which there do come, at one time and another, manuscripts of thoughts or of sentiment which thrill the living race.

In a right match, books and learning do no more divide husband and wife than do beautiful children, or a pleasant journey, or a new house all paid for.

Beautifully have passed away the lives of pairs, the marriage of whose hearts was contemporaneous with the marriage of their minds.

When the wife of Plautius died, it is said that he threw himself upon the lifeless bosom and breathed no more. He could not endure existence separated from that helpmate, so devotedly loved, so devotedly loving.

Pliny said that on the death of his wife, "study was his one relief."

Historians, painters, sculptors, musicians, poets, statesmen, philosophers—these have become famous; but who has told how far their triumphs were owing to the noiseless influence of their wives. —Philadelphia Inquirer.

An Advance Notice.

If you be no kin to me—
Nearer, say, than cousin,
Let no busy Christmas bee
In your head start buzzin'.
Vain, it were to look my way
Christmas gifts pursuing,
This year on the happy day
There'll be nothing doing.

If no ties of family
Bind us close together,
If we merely chance to be
Linked by friendship's tether,
Make your mind up, you'll be missed.

When the gifts are dropping,
You're not on our Christmas list,
When we start our shopping.

If by birth or marriage, you
Cannot claim relation,
Don't expect that we'll come through
As helms our station.
Do not look for gloves or ties,
Book racks, poorly jointed,
For as sure as tempus flies
You'll be disappointed.

Aunts and uncles by the score,
Nephews, nieces, cousins,
We're obliged to purchase for
They run into dozens.
And we've got to practice thrift
Even though we dread it.
No outsider gets a gift
This year. She has said it.

Prof. Pember Coming.

On December 10th Prof. Pember, the well-known hair goods man of Toronto, will visit Kingston, and at his rooms in the Randolph hotel, will show a full line of hair goods for both ladies and gentlemen. Everyone interested is invited to call and inspect these goods.

Cold's Cause Headache and Grip.

Laxative-Bromo Quinine removes the cause. There is only one "Bromo Quinine." Look for signature of E. W. Groves, 25c.

A two-year-old grade Angus steer from Brandon, Man., was declared champion of the live stock show at Chicago.

The government gets a majority of 48 on Laurier's re-nomination to the address replying in the speech from the throne.

Our Xmas goods are all on exhibition now

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New Senator styles, silk velvet collars, reversible tweeds, fancy pockets, etc. Beautifully tailored, regular \$18 values. Bibbys special - \$15.00
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The finest line of \$15 Overcoats in all Canada.

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New Reversible collars, English style, Raglan or plain sleeve, cuffs or plain sleeve with or without belts. Very new colorings, new Scotch fabrics. High class tailoring, shield lined with best quality satins. Real dandies. Sold in most stores at \$22.50 and \$25.00
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