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SOME VERY COWARDLY ATTACKS.

Hon. Bob Rogers has not yet apologized for his attack on Mr. Sullivan, who was illegally arrested and locked up for wrong-doing in the Macdonald election. Sullivan was alleged to be a notorious corruptionist and the courts dismissed him honourably and regretted his arrest.

Mr. Currie, M.P., charged that manager of a wire works at Sarnia lied when he stated that overtures had been made to him for a merger, and on the ground that it would be the only salvation in view of a prospective change in the tariff. Major Currie used his position as a member of parliament for saying a very offensive and privileged thing.

William Smith, M.P., for South Victoria, discussing the dismissal of L.

C. Smith from the collectorship of customs at Orillia, charged that he had bought his way into office and through the previous representative of the riding, Mr. Fowke, ex-M.P., declares that the statement is false and slanderous, and until explained away and atoned for will parliament be "purged" of a vulgar and villainous liar in the person of the member for South Ontario.

Now the question arises, Why should any false and slanderous statement be privileged? Members of parliament should be more careful than usual in their discussion of public subjects, and no improper and wicked attack should be made by them under cover of their position. Attacks under these circumstances are cowardly in the extreme.

WHITNEY AS A BOSS.

The determined opposition of Sir James Whitney to the local option in the assessment law is aggravating his own party. He has had many evidences of the growing demand for the taxation of land values. Mr. Frupp, while the member for Ottawa in the legislature, presented a private bill and pressed it as far as he could without giving offence to the premier whose policy generally he supported. Mr. Ellis, the present member for Ottawa, is also an advocate of the single tax, modified, and has had an experience similar to Mr. Frupp's. He has pressed for the reform as far as he could without breaking with his leader.

The attitude of Sir James Whitney before the Special Committee, which had the assessment bill under consideration, was very injudicious. He could have dropped in and heard what was going on—he could have incidentally expressed his mind mildly—but he assumed to bulldoze it, to practically direct what its decision should be. Mr. Rowell did not run into hiding when the premier appeared to say what he thought of things in general, and of

Mr. Rowell's proposition in particular, but Mr. Ellis saw the wisdom of quietly accepting the situation as it was revealed to him.

The press is speaking out upon the subject, and Sir James will, of course, read the articles which appear in the papers. The Ottawa Citizen is a conservative paper, but it does not hesitate to protest against the premier's arbitrary action and to denounce the bossism which he implies. The Hamilton Herald does not see why the municipalities—the counties and cities especially—should not be allowed to decide how they want to assess property for taxation purposes.

The fact that public bodies like the Toronto Board of Trade, petitioned for this privilege, that the president of that body says the present system of taxation is a real iniquity, does not seem to have given Sir James Whitney any thought. He is acting as the ruler of the people, rather than their servant, and sooner or later he will know what "bumping the bumps" means. There is no boss so obnoxious as the political boss, and no people or party can afford to suffer long under his denomination.

LAST THOUGHTS OF THE COUNCIL.

The last thoughts of the council of 1912, and of the officials and representatives of the people, were expressed at the banquet which was given last night, with the mayor as the host. It was a unique function in many respects, and under the influence of a good dinner the legislators bade farewell to the duties of the year.

The Board of Education was especially honored. Its representative had explained that there was ample cause for the increase in expenditure on behalf of the two boards, the one acting for the public and high schools, and the other for the separate schools. The expenditure is as follows:

	Public Schools, Institute, Schools.	Separate Schools, Institute, Schools.
1902	\$27,530	\$3,590
1907	29,365	8,916
1912	42,220	17,220

In addition there was spent on capital account the following sums:

	Public Schools, Institute, Schools.	Separate Schools, Institute, Schools.
1902	\$4,150	\$1,800
1907	2,529	1,968
1912	5,563	2,274

Added together here was a total expenditure in 1902 of \$41,536; in 1907 of \$48,928, and in 1912 of \$75,176. The increase in the last five years was \$26,000, and in the ten years it was \$30,000. But the money was considered well spent, and the note of several who spoke was that the investment was the best that could be made. Moreover the hearts of the trustees were warmed as the members of the council declared that education was the best asset of the people and the board should have, reasonably, what it wanted.

Two important changes will take place in the new year. The Utilities will probably pass under the direction of a commission, for which Aids. Bailey and Rigney, the mayoralty candidates, have strongly spoken. The Board of Health will be a new institution, composed of three members by virtue of their offices, the mayor, city clerk and medical health

officer. Two others will be chosen by the council, and they will have larger powers, and powers that cannot be affected by any action of the council. The public health is to be elevated to the place it should occupy in the esteem of the people, and splendid work should be done by it.

In January the tenders will be called for the new bridge and harbour improvements and a commencement be made upon the national harbour. Before these improvements will be completed a large sum of money must be spent, and the work must be hurried if the harbour is to be ready for the trade that will surely follow the opening of the enlarged Welland canal.

The boom is on in the city. In 1911 the increase in the assessable value of new buildings was \$300,000. This year the assessable value of new property is over \$600,000. The public debt is \$1,400,000, but about \$500,000 of this is represented by the utilities which are taking care of themselves, and the debt will be wholly wiped out in the process of time. Of the balance of the debt a large sum represents the bonuses which have been given to railways and elevators, and of the prospective liabilities the main one is the new hotel bonus. The city treasurer sounded a warning note. The city credit stands high, but its cost must, nevertheless, practice economy in its administration.

The aldermen congratulate themselves upon the record of the year. They have been criticized, but not in an unkind way, and they admit that this criticism stimulates them to do better work. The note of all was most optimistic. The city has entered upon a new era, and the idea was to continue its prosperity by making it attractive and healthy, by giving encouragement to every industrial institution, and by courting capital courteously, three C's which one speaker referred to as the most becoming motto or slogan of the hour.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The alter-dinner jokes or stories are not deteriorating. The budget at the mayor's dinner last evening was without any evidence of mildew or moss.

The assessment of the city is going up, up, up. In 1902 it was \$7,729,590; in 1907, \$7,950,000; in 1912, \$9,800,000. The beginning of the boom can be easily located.

The industries lately located in Kingston promise to be among the most promising. Manufacturing sites

are greatly needed. The Council of next year must provide these.

The members of the Board of Health who offered to serve the city when public servants were scarce, and who may retire now, are to be sincerely thanked. They have done good work for the people.

Why don't the women ask places on the Board of Education? Years ago two of them sought election as trustees, and they were elected the next

ed honour. Not good men, who are ambitious to serve the people, appear to be scarce. The turn of the women has come.

The population in 1902, when \$41,536 was spent in education—public, separate and high schools—was 18,461. In 1912, when the total expenditure was \$75,176, it was 19,707. So that the cost of education has certainly been going up with the cost of living.

The probability is that the box stoves, which have so long adorned the public halls, will disappear this year. One of the speakers last night declared solemnly that the pictures have been smoked long enough. Does smoke add to their artistic value?

A lot of money, \$75,000 in the last ten years, has been spent on schools. Yet the school rate has not risen so remarkably. It was, for public schools, 4¢ mills on the dollar in 1902, 4½ in 1907, and 5.02 in 1912. For high school purposes the rate ran from 2 of a mill in 1902 to 1 75-100 mills in 1912.

The present mayor and the two candidates for the mayoralty are ex-pupils of Mr. Metcalfe, and this fact seems to account for their laudable ambitions. Mr. Metcalfe also seems to be the political parent of a parliamentary member of the county. He has been surely leaving his mark on the public life of the times.

MISS GOULD'S ENGAGEMENT.

Mr. Shepard Proposed at a Railroad Wreck.

Finley J. Shepard, assistant to President Bush of the Missouri Pacific railroad, became engaged to Miss Helen M. Gould after a wreck in which they had a close escape in New York state on October 10th last.

Mr. Shepard was in Chicago on his way to St. Louis when he received a telegram from his chief requesting him to return to New York and escort



FINLEY J. SHEPARD, Of St. Louis. A prominent railroad man, who is to wed Miss Helen Gould prominent business leader in many philanthropies, and who recently got very famous by her controversy with a program as to the possibility of "old maids" being useful in the world.

Miss Gould to Chicago. She was going there with a party of friends to attend a convention of the Railroad Young Men's Christian Association. The president's assistant went to New York and had a conference with Miss Gould. The details of the railroad journey were left to Mr. Shepard.

There are four parallel tracks at the point where the wreck occurred. A freight train westbound had been wrecked and several cars had been tossed to the track on which the passenger flyer was speeding close behind. There was no time to send a flagman back after the freight smash. In the lead of night the passenger train, making more than a mile a minute, crashed into the wreckage of the freight.

The first thought of Shepard and Pryor was for Miss Gould and her women friends. Through the darkness they pushed their way to the front part of the car. They rapped on the stateroom door and asked if Miss Gould or any of her friends were injured. Miss Gould answered no one in her party was hurt.

Then Mr. Shepard gave his attention to passengers in other parts of the train. Leaving Mr. Pryor with the would party, he clambered out of the larked car and ran through the mud to the engine. The engineer was pinned down by the tender. Mr. Shepard seized a shovel and an ax and liberated the engineer. He was so absorbed in his work that he did not observe two women standing by him in the darkness for a few moments and watching his efforts. One of them was Miss Gould.

When he returned to the private car he was astonished to find Miss Gould gone. He again hurried forth. Soon he saw a woman clad in gray. She carried a little medicine case, from which she was giving first aid to the nurse. She was Miss Gould.

The women and children to whom he gave attention had no idea who he was. But Finley J. Shepard knew, and when the party resumed its journey to Chicago he and Miss Gould were engaged to be married.

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