

THE WHIG, EIGHTIETH YEAR

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TORIES CAUGHT NAPPING.

The liberal counter to the unionist party's prospective abandonment of all proposals looking to the imposition of a new tax on food in Great Britain, according to reports, may be a project to take existing taxes on sugar, cocoa, tea and coffee, which have been levied upon for generations as a means of raising revenue. In that part of the game of politics designed to catch the votes of the mob, the managers of the government seem to be decidedly more nimble than the directors of the opposition—Montreal Gazette.

RELIC OF THE PAST.

When premiers cease to be amenable to public opinion they cease to represent the people, and are guilty of an abuse of power which was given to them for the good of the people. Sir James Whitney is a relic of the past. His wisdom has been dimmed. Mental stagnation has set in. His eyes are closed to future's beckoning hand and his ears barred to the appeals of reason. If this were not true, the demands of the tax reformers would now be incorporated in the legislation of the province—Industrial Banner.

DEMAND FOR MORE POWER.

A most interesting article in the Twentieth Century Magazine is that on "Local Government and Municipal Trading," by Harvey N. Sheppard. Mr. Sheppard has spent some time in England, an American apparently, and he has been deeply impressed with the spirit of government, which he finds everywhere. There is only the one body in control, that which represents the people, electively, and which, in the nation or in the municipality, exercises the fullest power because it possesses the entire confidence of the people. He comments upon the manner in which this spirit is manifested in every phase of public life, as it is manifested nowhere else. Municipal trading is maintained in Great Britain as a business proposition, and for two reasons: (1) The work can be better done by a public body, and the profits are used in cutting down the taxes. Birmingham, under Chamberlain as mayor, established its own light plant, which now contributes \$300,000 a year to the relief of taxation. Manchester runs its railway, which gives ten per cent. of

its earnings to the public treasury and tickets at the lowest cost in the world. The railway or tramway fares in half a dozen cities range from 1 to 2.45 cents. Bristol and Liverpool own their docks, representing many millions. Glasgow's lodging houses are models of their kind in cheapness and attractiveness.

Profit is not the only design and consideration. All sorts of social reforms are aimed at and carried through. Municipal trading, too, has become firmly established, and the earnings from them are applied to plans which mean the happiness and comfort of the people. This is the side of public life which surprises and astonished the Americans, who confess that they see nothing like it on this side of the Atlantic.

Mr. Sheppard says the cure for the ills from which our cities suffer "is not less power but more power." When, he adds, self-government shall have been restored, "then we may expect our cities to be as conspicuous examples of good administration as they are now of bad."

TEACHING BY MACHINE.

The picture show has come to stay. The cinematograph is being made perfect, and as a result the proposition is to make it instrumental in the teaching of art, literature, morals, sciences. The idea of Prof. Dean, of the Guelph Agricultural College, as expressed at the dairymen's meeting in Woodstock, is that by moving pictures the dairying business can be illustrated, from the work on the farm to the cheese factory, the railway station, the steamship on the ocean, the landing in England. Every step of the way and every feature of cheesemaking, cheese exportation, cheese distribution, and even cheese consumption should be clearly portrayed.

introducing the picture machines into the schools, and using them in the teaching of history, geography, botany, physics, and other subjects. Edison is credited with having patented a development of the machine so that one hears the voice in explanation, in song, in recitation or in teaching, and the work of genius in this respect appears to be complete.

A good man, a Sunday school teacher, in discussing picture machines with the Whig, said the church was condemning these picture shows without knowing much about them. "I can enjoy a moving picture," said he, "and these pictures in Kingston are all clean. Some of them are particularly impressive. Some of them have moved me to tears. Why cannot we have entertainments under a censorship, so that our children can attend them unreservedly, can learn much to their advantage, and laugh and even cry over some of the things they see?"

There is a good deal of force in what this man says. The church and the school can profit very much by entertainments under proper auspices, and the moving picture is taking rank with the high class events of the day.

SOLUTION OF A PROBLEM.

Prof. Cappon, in Queen's Quarterly, attacks the proposition of Toronto University, as advocated by Dr. Falconer, for a higher entrance examination, and as a means of reducing the overcrowding of the provincial institution. The federation of the colleges of Ontario, proposed some years ago, and carried through so far as certain denominational charges were concerned, was heralded as a great event, and as settling the question of difficulties of higher education for many a day.

with the people or fails to understand their plans or needs. "A fatal defect," says the Sun, "of all commissions is that they are withdrawn from the influence of public opinion and likely, therefore, to develop party government." Prof. Cappon does not argue in this way. His vision lies in another direction, and when he asks if the embarrassments of Toronto University cannot be relieved without resorting to an expedient, (in the way of higher examinations), which will work incalculable injury to all the colleges, it is evident that he can see, as others do, an opening of which the government can take advantage.

The late Principal Grant, whose loss to the educational world is yet lamented, seemed to see farther than any of his contemporaries, for he contemplated the time when civilization would not meet the expectations of the people and when decentralization would be again in order. That time appears to be very near, if it has not already been reached, and the evidence is supplied in the anxiety of the Toronto University's commission for relief from the congestion. The raising of fees may not work a change for the time being, and for the reason that while the masses are living in easy circumstances, the matter of expense will not be a bar to attendance. And so the only suggested check is a higher standard of matriculation and one which cannot be easily passed. The Weekly Sun, speaking for the farmers, and speaking with great power generally, finds fault with the commission which manages the uni-

versity and says it is out of touch with the people or fails to understand their plans or needs. "A fatal defect," says the Sun, "of all commissions is that they are withdrawn from the influence of public opinion and likely, therefore, to develop party government." Prof. Cappon does not argue in this way. His vision lies in another direction, and when he asks if the embarrassments of Toronto University cannot be relieved without resorting to an expedient, (in the way of higher examinations), which will work incalculable injury to all the colleges, it is evident that he can see, as others do, an opening of which the government can take advantage. Thanks to the wisdom of the late Dr. Grant, and of the men who were allied with him, among them Prof. Cappon, Queen's College remains in the east with a policy which is capable of unlimited expansion. The government has been asked to assist this university in the matter of meeting additional expenses without curtailing or diminishing its usefulness. Let the government be generous in its aid to all the colleges in Ontario, which are doing a splendid work, and presently the congestion at Toronto will be at an end. The great university for Ontario, cumbersome in its proportions and in the work it has undertaken, cannot be made to meet all the conditions of this growing province, and the sooner the question of relieving it, by letting the other universities do what it cannot, the better.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Proportional representation is receiving a great boost in Canada. How would do to elect the mayor and aldermen according to it? Would it eliminate politics from the council? If so, for goodness sake give it a trial.

The Ottawa French-Canadian school trustees want Sir James Whitney to explain what he means by his last declaration on bilingualism. Fancy the premier speaking in such mysterious language that it is necessary to send out a key for the interpretation of it.

Last year, according to the auditor-general's report, \$7,558,636 was spent on the Canadian militia, on camps, accoutrements, etc., and \$2,771,636 on arts, agriculture and statistics. The science of killing people is of more importance, of course, than the science of keeping them alive.

Vocational high schools in the United States are all the go. The demand for practical education may cause a sign from those who believe that all students should have classical culture and some training in the humanities. But this is an utilitarian age, and colleges and high schools must meet its demands.

Have the recommendations of the Board of Visitors, at the Royal Military College, been carried out as to accommodation, salaries and pensions? These, as reported in the minutes of the Militia Council were of a very important character, and should have been at once acted on. It would be too much to expect that, however.

Speakers at the cheese convention lamented the scarcity of farm labour, and still more the scarcity of the labour suitable for the cheese industry. The cause? Occupation not fascinating and wages not high enough? Perhaps. But it's a business that hard times cannot knock out and bankrupt.

Too Much Swear. Toronto Mail and Empire. "A Widow by Proxy" would be improved if some of the profanity were omitted. A comedian who cannot get a laugh without swearing ought to be in some other line of business.

Time the Cure. Montreal Witness. Time, that in a no longer period after the cessation of the Boer war, made the Dutch loyal fellow subjects of a common country and common empire, may work another marvel. Home Rule for Ireland.

A Lonely Fallow. Austen Chamberlain criticizes the unionists for abandoning the food taxes idea and says his belief is unchanged. He has his hand to the plough and will not turn back. His furrow is likely to be a lonely one.

You Don't Say. Orange Sentinel, Toronto. Ontario insists upon remaining an English-speaking province. It will not tolerate a school system that not only produces illiteracy, but is the means of crowding out English settlers and making whole communities French.

An Unsavory Dish. Toronto Globe. A reader of The Globe asks why Canadians should be surprised to learn that the Germans are eating dog to save money for militarism when at Ottawa they see Mr. Borden and his cabinet eating crow that they may build Breadtroughs.

One Sunday's Product. A Chicago physician, addressing the Young Women's Christian Association at Springfield, Mass., told it the gowns worn by women in New England are wickered than those worn by women of any European country except France and that Boston is the "most suggestive city" in America. A Philadelphia preacher denounced a well-known society woman for permitting the smoking of cigarettes at an entertainment and said she and her husband should be tarred and feathered. A minister in this city declared Mayor Grayson to be the cause of the "moral miasma" that emanates from the city hall.

A physician in St. Louis mocked the advocates of simple diet and said man should eat pie twice a day, and also hard-boiled eggs until he has learned how to chew soft-boiled ones. The dean of a medical school in Kansas said that in their efforts to make themselves beautiful, American women were acquiring an "artificial homeliness painful to behold." A Boston physician advised everybody to go barefooted.

These are gleanings of sermons, lectures and discourses in six cities out of the American galaxy on a single Sunday of the year. They will inevitably recall Solomon's oft-quoted statement: "In the multitude of counselors there is safety." This in turn will recall the Saxon proverb about the needle in the haystack. In appraising Sunday counsels given each must seek the needle of safety for himself.—New York World.

Easier to Carry. A man moving from one house to another was carrying a grandfather's clock. Another man met him and said, "Say, stranger, why don't you buy a watch." White Swan Yeast cakes are like the watch. They are not so large, but they do more, and do it better than the clock-sized ones. Send for free sample. White Swan Spices & Cereal Co., Limited, Toronto.

Mr. Hodgins, Consec, has left for Blenheim, to take charge as manager of the branch of the Standard Bank.

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