

THE WORLD'S MOST RIGID CONSTITUTION

(Continued from Page 4.)
for its adoption. The representation of a state cannot be diminished without the consent of a majority of the electors voting in that state. On the last day of May six important amendments, rejected two years ago, all succeeded in passing.

Canada alone retains the old colonial status. The parliament of the dominion could not make the senate elective. It could not change the quorum of the House of Commons. It could not give Prince Edward Island the guarantees provided in the Australian constitution that its representation in the commons will not be decreased. It cannot change one jot or tittle of the British North America act, since the act of the British parliament did not include in the grant of powers any formal provision for amendment by the dominion such as are found in the Australian and South African acts.

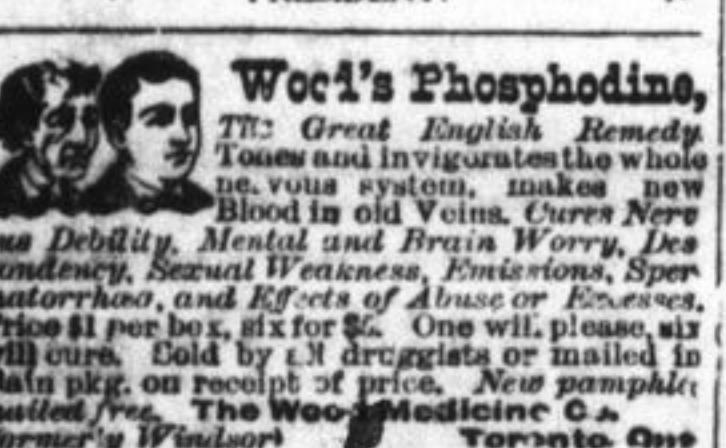
But, it will be said, this is only a formal disability. The parliament of the United Kingdom will pass any amendment that the people of Canada desire. Possibly, but who is to speak for the people of Canada? The dominion parliament alone? Certainly not. The provincial parliaments alone? Certainly not. A popular plebiscite? Not at all. The dominion government, together with the governments of the provinces? Probably, but how many of the provinces? Five of the nine, or nine of the nine? Who can answer?

The Historical Record.
In 1907 the parliament of the United Kingdom passed an amendment to the British North America act, altering the subsidies granted the provinces. The amendment embodied the substance of an address which had been passed unanimously by both houses of parliament, and had been agreed upon by representatives of all the provinces, except "British Columbia, in conference at Ottawa the year before. The premier of British Columbia, unwilling to accept the extra hundred thousand a year which the other members of the conference suggested to meet the special claims of the Pacific province, jour-

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neaded to London to appeal against this settlement, particularly if made a "final and inalterable" one. The reply from Downing street is notable:

Lord Elgin fully appreciates the force of the opinion expressed that the British North America act was the result of terms of union agreed upon by the contracting provinces and that its terms cannot be altered merely at the wish of the dominion government. . . . But in this case his lordship feels that in view of the unanimity of the dominion government and of all the provincial governments, save that of British Columbia, he would not in the interests of Canada be justified in any effort to override the decision of the dominion parliament or to compel the reference of the question to arbitration. I am to add that no mention will be made in the imperial act of the settlement being final and inalterable, such terms being obviously inappropriate in a legislative enactment.

Writing in 1912 Mr. Keith, of the colonial office, summarizes the official attitude as follows:

The act is a formal instrument of constitution which can be amended by the imperial parliament, and will be so amended, but only in accordance with the wishes of the people of the dominion as a whole, not at either federal or provincial bidding.

If the colonial office and the parliament of the United Kingdom are to act only when there is virtual unanimity—as in this case, where the dominion parliament was unanimous in the formal vote and eight of the nine provinces were in agreement—our constitution may be considered the most rigid in the world. On the other hand, if the colonial office is to use its discretion, what is to be taken as a sufficient expression of Canadian opinion? Suppose a proposal to alter the personnel or powers of the senate passes both houses by a narrow majority. What next? If the wishes of the dominion government alone, we are told, will not suffice. Is a concurrence of representatives of the provinces to be called, or a bill submitted to the provincial legislatures? And if four provinces agree and five oppose, will the colonial office feel "justify in any effort to over-ride the decision of the dominion?" Or with a small majority in the dominion parliament, and all the provinces but the three prairie provinces willing to grant Prince Edward Island its present representation as an assured minimum, will that be considered "the wishes of the people of the dominion as a whole"? Will the empire stand the strain of any attempt of the colonial office to decide between opposing and nearly-balanced parties? Is there any reason why the men who work the constitution of Canada, the sons of the men who framed that constitution, should not be empowered to amend it? Is there any reason why the Canadian should not exercise the liberty enjoyed by the Australian or the African? The only reason is the historical one that our constitution was drawn up a generation or more before the commonwealth and the union were formed, in the days before the conception of the empire as a partnership between nations equal in status if not in stature, to use Lord Milner's phrase, had seized men's minds. Inertia, and the lack of specific difficulties have prevented hitherto any demand for the revision of the anomaly.

Why Not Face the Facts?
Why not go on as we have been? It is not the way of our race, it may be said, to tackle academic questions; let us wait till a concrete difficulty arises. But the question has ceased to be academic. The whole question of the composition and powers of the senate will have to be decided in a few years. The unsatisfactory basiness as to the respective powers of the dominion and the provinces in many spheres, notably as to the incorporation of companies, may require new delimitations. The interprovincial conference to be summoned this summer has on its agenda a dozen questions, any one of which may give rise to a demand for revision of the constitution. Why not face the facts and make definite provision now, before opinion is warped by specific interests, and before the colonial office has been forced to take sides in domestic dispute?

Opinion would differ widely as to the method of amendment to be adopted. Should a two-thirds majority in the dominion parliament be required, or a simple majority? Should the provinces meet in conference, or vote separately? Would five out of nine provinces be considered sufficient, or would two-thirds be essential? Or would a popular referendum on the Australian model better end our needs? And how is the amendment providing how future amendments are to be made to come about? If there is division on this point, must the colonial office use its discretion once for all, in order that it may not hereafter have to face the same difficulty or more partisan questions? These are all matters for discussion, but the first need is to recognize a present dangerous uncertainty.

This summer, it is announced, the governments of the provinces are to meet in order to confer upon the many important questions at issue between the federal and provincial authorities, and upon other matters where joint action is desired. Might we hope that the leaders of the conference will find opportunity to consider this question as well?

All Is Clear Now.

The old farmer was making his usual weekly call on Mrs. Higgins. "It's good this morning," he said, casting an admiring look at the basketful he had brought.

"Oh, as they?" retorted Mrs. Higgins. "That reminds me. I want to have a word with you about them you sold me last week. How is it they sit at the bottom of the basket in as much smaller than those at the top?"

"comes about like this," replied John, a knowing look on his face. "I stated a growth in that fast now, that by the time I get a basketful the last ones is about twice the size of the first."

Another natural beautifying treatment—for wrinkled skin—is to bathe the face in a lotion made by dissolving an ounce of salsolite in a half pint of kerosene. This is remarkably and instantaneously effective.

HAS A NEW SCHEDULE

HAS BEEN NECESSITATED BY INTERNATIONAL LAWS.

Affects the SS. Rochester—Will Not Stop At Canadian Points Between Toronto and Ogdensburg.

In compliance with an order received from the Canadian authorities, the steamer Rochester of the Richelieu & Ontario Navigation Co.'s line, will not stop at the Canadian points between Ogdensburg and Toronto. The order is in accordance with the law against an American registered steamer engaging in Canadian coastwise trade.

The order necessitates some changes in the schedule of the steamers operating between Toronto and Ogdensburg. The steamers Toronto and Kingston will resume their old runs, cancelling their special service westbound to Toronto. The Rochester will run direct from Clayton to Toronto, leaving Alexandria Bay at 2:10 in the afternoon, the same time as the steamers Kingston and Toronto, but will not make Kingston.

It is contrary to the laws of both the United States and Canada, for a foreign boat to carry passengers from one domestic port to another. The Rochester, then, being registered under the American flag, cannot carry passengers from Brockville or Kingston to Toronto. The steamers Kingston and Toronto, being registered under the Canadian flag, may carry passengers from one Canadian port to another but can not carry passengers from one American port to another. Any vessel, however, may carry passengers from a domestic port to a foreign or from a foreign to a domestic port.

Passengers for Kingston or Brockville will leave Toronto at 6 p.m. Passengers leaving Toronto at 2:30 on the steamer Rochester, will have to transfer at Ogdensburg.

The Rochester runs on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, touching at American points only before reaching Toronto.

6,449 JUNE WEDDINGS.

Bully. Says Mr. Gaynor, On Learning of Big Increase.

New York, July 5.—City Clerk Salvio, who has charge of the Marriage License Bureau, reports to the mayor that 6,449 marriage licenses had been issued in June this year, as compared with 5,753 in June last year. The mayor was impressed with the figures and remarked:

"So you see there were 696 more marriages in this city in June this year than in June last year. That is bully. The more the better. Philosophers say that marriage should be made easy. This law requiring a license to be obtained is to some extent a hindrance. But on the whole, the number of marriages in this city is good. Buckle says in his 'History of Civilization' that the number of marriages and births depends on the rise and fall of the price of wheat, or on the cost of living, as we might more comprehensively say. As the price of wheat goes up, the number of marriages and births goes down, and as the price of wheat goes down, the number of marriages and births goes up. What do you think of that? Every one says that the cost of living is high, but if the prices of all things bear the same relation to one another and to the price of labor, times are good whether prices be high or low. Whether the price of wheat or of anything else be high or low is a relative matter. But I must not give you a lecture on the subject as it might tempt you to ask me questions or interview me, the same as they interview the governor at Albany."

Why Married Men Live Longer.

Cincinnati Enquirer. The reason a married man lives longer than a single man is because the single man leads a seafish existence. A married man can double his pleasures. Any time he has a streak of good luck it tickles him all over, but it makes him feel twice as good when he tells his wife about it. And she is so pleased and proud that he feels like a two-year-old. There isn't a chance in the world of a married man's getting into his heart, weakening when he can get a million dollars' worth of pleasure out of making his wife happy.

Carnegie Gives \$20,000 in Paris.

Paris, July 5.—It is announced that Andrew Carnegie has promised Louis Liard, rector of the university of Paris, to give \$20,000 towards the installation of the Institute of Chemistry now in process of building in Paris.

Gossip is a cartridge fired from the gun of idle curiosity.

To Help Nature Shed a Bad Complexion

(From the Family Physician.)

Beauty devotees are enthusiastic over the beautifying qualities of mescalized wax. Perhaps nothing discovered within recent years accomplishes so much so quickly, without harm, without detaining one indoors, and at such small expense. The principal reason for its wonderful merit is that it works in harmony with physiological laws. Instead of hiding, or "curing" complexion defects, it removes them. The wax actually takes off the aged, faded sallow, freckled or blotchy cuticle, gently, gradually, causing no inconvenience. It is Nature's way of renewing complexions. When the natural process is retarded because of deficient circulation, or nerve tonic, mescalized wax comes to the rescue and hastens the skin shedding. The new complexion which appears is a natural one, youthful, healthy, exquisitely beautiful. If you've never tried mescalized wax, get an ounce of it at the drug store, use at night like cold cream, wash it off in the morning.

"comes about like this," replied John, a knowing look on his face. "I stated a growth in that fast now, that by the time I get a basketful the last ones is about twice the size of the first."

Another natural beautifying treatment—for wrinkled skin—is to bathe the face in a lotion made by dissolving an ounce of salsolite in a half pint of kerosene. This is remarkably and instantaneously effective.

THE NORTHERN LIGHTS.

Discussion As To Whether Sound Goes With Them.

Christiania, Norway, July 6.—An interesting discussion has been going on recently in the Norwegian papers regarding the aurora borealis, those living in the northern part of Norway have always maintained that they often hear sounds accompanying the northern lights. These sounds are described by most people as similar to the crackling of flames, while the Laplanders say it resembles the sound made by a reindeer running.

Several men of science have studied this matter, and one of them, Olaf Askjaer, has spent a long time at the Halde Observatory in Flimarken. Mr. Askjaer seized several villages in the neighborhood of Pangnagon, which were occupied by the Greek army.

"To put an end at all costs to this state of affairs, and to prevent fresh incidents of the same kind, a convention was signed on June 2nd, at Salonika between the chief of staff of the Greek army and the commanding-in-chief of the Bulgarian troops in the region of Serres. This convention established a neutral zone which the two armies were to evacuate, and in which neither party was to penetrate."

"In spite of this agreement the Bulgarian general staff neglected to evacuate most of the points which it had promised to abandon. Besides this, Bulgarian troops on June 23rd, attacked the Servians at Istib. On the night of June 29th, Bulgarians also attacked the Serians at Guevherk, which they occupied on the morning of June 30. In addition to all this, the Bulgarians attacked a second time the Greek troops at Pangnagon, and also those at Nigrita on June 29. Finally, on June 30, General Hesseltz, chief in command of the troops at Salonika, no longer concealed his intention of leaving the town. This fact left no possible doubt as to the hostile intentions of the Bulgarian general staff, which had designed to keep inactive in Salonica for as long as possible an entire division of the Greek army.

"This attitude of the Bulgarian troops rendered it necessary for the Greek army—to take measures to assure its own security. It was for this reason that, on June 30, the general commanding the district of Salonica called upon the Bulgarian troops to evacuate the place within a stated interval. This time limit was actually exceeded, 6 but the Bulgarians refused to go. Our troops, after a short resistance, captured the Bulgarian detachment remaining in the town.

"On the other hand, our troops which had been attacked since June 30th by the Bulgarians at the bridge of Gumentse, at Nigrita, and at Pangnagon, received today an order to advance.

"But apart from these military considerations, the great question of humanity arises. Ever since the occupation of territories in Thrace and Macedonia, where Greeks are in the majority, by the Bulgarian army, the population has suffered the harshest treatment. Since the first attack on Pangnagon on May 20th, this state of affairs has become intolerable. More than 15,000 refugees since that day—that is to say, during a period of peace—have poured into the Chalcidian Peninsula and into Salonika.

"The Bulgarian army respected neither the property nor the honor, nor the lives of the Greek population.

"By the capture of the Bulgarian troops in Salonika and the order given to the army to advance and make its position safe, the Greek army, in the face of daily attacks delivered in flagrant violation of a sworn compact, seeing under its very eyes atrocious committed on a population of the same race, has done no more than take the necessary measures of defence to insure its own security and to safeguard the higher interests of the nation and of humanity."

MET BY A HEARSE.

Mistake In Telegram Made Ohio Woman's Mother Act.

Bellefontaine, Ohio, July 5.—When Mrs. George W. Kerr, of Yellow Springs, a flighted from a town at West Liberty, she was surprised to see a hearse, an undertaker and carriages, being occupied by her mother and a clergyman, awaiting her coming. She found she was supposed to have died and that the hearse was to take her body to West Liberty cemetery.

A mistake in a telegram was the cause. Mrs. Kerr's mother, Miss Elizabeth Shumate, received a telegram saying Mrs. Kerr had died and that the body would arrive at West Liberty cemetery.

UNTIMELY ACT OF HEN

Railroader Charged With Stealing

Mates All Quit

London, July 5.—The untimely and inconsiderate action of a hen in laying an egg in a crate in which several other hens were travelling caused a strike of the north-eastern men at Leeds. A railroad man abstracted the egg and put it aside, as he says, to be sure it would not be broken. A railroad detective saw his act and arrested him. Thereupon his colleagues went on strike. The superintendent of the road ordered the prisoner released and the men resumed work. The fate of the egg is still under consideration.

Sharbot Lake News.

Sharbot Lake, July 3.—The rain today will do a lot of good. Quite a number of pupils attended the entrance examinations here. Quite a number of teachers are here to attend the summer school. Mrs. J. Thompson, who is on the sick list, is improving nicely. Mr. Shibley and family, of New York, have arrived at their cottage here, also Mrs. Campbell and family, of Toronto. Mr. Goldie and his bride are here at their cottage. Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Connell have moved to their cottage on the island, to leave the parsonage vacant for the new Methodist preacher, who has arrived. A beautiful cottage is in course of erection here on one of the islands, that will cost \$10,000. Miss Pearl Pappa has gone to the Hotel Ilio to undergo an operation for appendicitis. The Fosters marched to the Anglican church on Sunday. Martin Floyd Allen and Eugene Smith have arrived home from Sydenham high school, where they were writing on their examinations.

From Busy Plevna.

Plevna, July 3.—The dry weather is causing much damage to crops. Hay in this vicinity is very light. Some farmers have started cutting hay. The boys are taking advantage of the water these warm days. The swimming place is occupied every evening. The school has closed for the holidays. The teacher, Miss B. Curtis, is spending her holidays with her parents at Seeley's Bay. Mrs. J. F. Card and granddaughter, Frances Elkington, left Friday, to visit friends in Kingston and Rome, N.Y. Mrs. C. Huyle, of Constable, N.Y., is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Shultz. Mr. and Mrs. J. Young, of Marlbank, are guests of the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tait. Mrs. Barr, at Mountain Grove, Mrs. E. Albert and children spent last week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sills, Parham. A wee girl has come to stay at S. Vaness'.

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