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SEVENTH YEAR



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REFORMING THE FALLEN

Inspector Stewart makes one feel, as he reads the prison report, that he is afraid of losing his job, and that any reform which means less imprisonment for the unfortunate in Canada, must be tabooed.

"The self-constituted reformers" are not to be discouraged by Mr. Stewart's remarks. These reformers have accomplished a great deal by their reasonable service, and there is a great deal more which they can do.

A woman, young in years, and addicted to drink, had been committed to jail so often that her appearance to be a hopeless case, and yet, under the guidance of those at the farm, they become sober and industrious, had worked for a number of persons in the neighborhood, at a good wage.

The tendency to regard fallen men and women as hopeless wrecks is a sad mistake, and it cannot be too soundly repudiated by reasonable men and women.

Prison Inspector Stewart does not satisfy anyone that harsh treatment will reform a convict. Prison life is designed to punish and correct. It punishes all right. Does it correct and reform, or improve the individual?

ACCIDENTS WILL HAPPEN

The Quebec bridge catastrophe carries with it a great and serious lesson. The enterprise was one which only the country could undertake, not a country of unlimited means, but one of admitted possibilities.

Politicians have looked at this railway with varying emotions. Their visions have been as different as their views and beliefs. The men who projected the road looked far into the future and saw a time, not so far away, when another continental line would be necessary, and they boldly launched the scheme. The bridge was a part of it.

The policy of the builders seemed to be dictated by reason and experience. Then certain parts were erected in an unfinished condition, the plea being that as the great edifice settled the bolts could be tightened with greater effect and permanency.

The experience suggests that hu-

man foresight and ingenuity are sometimes baffled and defeated in a most surprising way. The plans and specifications, and the method of construction, were in both instances complete. Science and skill and genius co-operated in amplifying the preparations for the great undertaking. And in spite of all accidents happened.

What a commentary there is on the rash judgment of inconsiderate men. The first collapse occurred while the Laurier government was in power, and then men, in a partisan spirit, did not hesitate to insinuate that some one was criminally at fault. The second collapse accentuated a painful fact, namely, that accidents should be discussed without party bias and with something like human feeling for those who are crushed.

No one who is considerate thinks or imputes blame to any government in connection with the bridge disasters. The governments are not to blame. They entrusted the contracts to the best engineers and contractors, and they can rest assured that a discriminating people will know how to value and appreciate their work.

The government of Canada will have to increase its accommodation for the care of its soldier sick and invalids. The number of retiring heroes is very large, and no expense is being spared for their care.

TRANSFER OF MANAGEMENT.

The Mowat Hospital board has done the only thing that was possible under the circumstances. It has agreed to transfer the management of the institution, until after the war, to the Military Hospitals Commission, which has to do with the care of the returned and sick soldiers, especially those who are suffering from tuberculosis. For some time the soldier patients have been numerous, and the number will certainly increase. Why this is the case is explainable. The exposure of the men in the trenches, in inclement weather, develops the disease in all who show a tendency towards it.

The design of the hospital, for the time being, has been interfered with. It was planned to offer relief, if not a cure, to the tubercular patients of this district, and it has already performed in this respect a service of the very highest value. The contingencies of the war, however, have produced changes in its work of a most significant character. The hospital took in a few of the soldiers, and then a few more, and ere long the capacity of the institution was reached. Then became apparent a condition whose presence was very insistent as time went by. The military and the civils could not be very well looked after in the same establishment. There had to be a separation, and hence the enquiry as to whether the Hospitals Commission could not have the building and its equipment, until the end of the war, and a little later, for a consideration.

The board of management has given its consent, and the friends and subscribers to the funds of the institution will approve when they know all the circumstances. The Hospitals Commission will have to add to the accommodation, and as far as this may be necessary, through a number of cottages, all of a given plan. These will be constructed on capital account, and they will become a part of the plant when the Hospitals Commission is through with them. The Ontario government will probable continue its grants, and the federal government will become interested, in a way that will be abiding and of great financial advantage. On the whole, the arrangement is one which will prove very satisfactory.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Whig rejoices that the Quebec railway bridge will yet be finished, and by the St. Lawrence Bridge Company. Canadian talent, Canadian skill, and Canadian energy will yet triumph. No one has lost faith in the contracting company.

The defect in the Quebec bridge has been discovered. It was a girder which had been weakened by the strain of several weeks. Good. This will be avoided again. A third effort to complete the bridge will be a success, surely.

Hon. Mr. Graham is authority for the statement that there will be a federal election within a year. This was expected. The truce has been a failure. The government has taken advantage of it in many ways. The militia department has certainly settled its future.

Brigadier-General McDougall is rising in the military world. He has been given a very important command in England. He will be remembered by many in Kingston. While here he was a young man, of soldierly appearance, and with a future which is now unfolding.

Hon. Bob Rogers pleads not guilty to the charge that while he was

minister of public works in Manitoba he suggested an amendment to the contract of Carter & Company, who were building the Agricultural College, and that later the Conservative Association profited by the contribution of many thousands of dollars. The transaction looks very bad all the same. It has the usual Rogers' appearance.

PUBLIC OPINION

Don't Look Well.  
(Hamilton Times)  
Rev. Dr. Chisholm is an honorary colonel and a member of the church militant.

Call Them In.  
(Hamilton Herald)  
Are the engineers who worked on the Fort Bridge living? If so, better engage them to complete the Quebec Bridge.

Perhaps He Was.  
(Ottawa Free Press)  
At the last hour the U. S. Congress dropped all repeal legislation. Perhaps somebody was afraid of hurting the crop of munition millionaires.

A New Retreat.  
(Hamilton Times)  
The Brantford druggists have refused to dispense liquors under the prohibition law. Perhaps the doctors can open a bar in their consulting room.

Time to Think.  
(London Advertiser)  
Plaintiff in a lawsuit at New Orleans says an engineer stopped his train for two hours in order to go fishing. This is a relief from those noted American hustle stories.

Historical Precedent.  
(Toronto Globe)  
Those persons who are seriously disturbed at the language of Sir Sam Hughes, which, as Truthful James would say, "is frequent and painful and free," should study historical precedents. Rome was saved by the cackle of a goose.

All Hope Is Gone.  
(Brantford Expositor)  
Swiss despatches indicate that German manufacturers are demanding payment for machinery supplied to Switzerland in French francs, instead of German marks. When the citizens of a nation of the pretensions of Germany lose confidence in their own coinage the financial condition must indeed be bad.

SING SING PRISON AS IT USED TO BE

Toronto Star (Lib.).  
Frank Marshall White, in the Atlantic Monthly shows how the thing was managed in Sing Sing before the

Random Reels

"Of Shoes and Ships, and Sealing Wax, of Cabbages and Kings."

THE SILK STOCKING  
The silk stocking is a once proud emblem of aristocracy which has now become more common than flies at a Sunday school picnic.

Who of our readers cannot remember the time when the owner of a pair of silk stockings was looked up to with more reverence than the possessor of a plug hat? In our childhood there were always one or two pairs of silk stockings in town which were worn on stated occasions and exhorted the aromatic flavor of the moth ball. There were long-wiry, coal-black stockings, and whenever they appeared in public they caused more unrestrained envy than a sedan top does nowadays. As they were made entirely of silk they were harder to wear out than a hall clock, and passed down to the third and fourth generation of hating, hieps intact.

As money had become more plentiful and mid-summer clearing sales thicker than the seeds in a watermelon, silk stockings are encountered at every turn of the road. They are thrust into the faces of modest men on the street, the veranda and the stage. Most of these stockings are born to bloom but for one brief summer, when they revel out at the heel and break down at the ankle, thus discouraging people from taking a second look. The silk stockings owned by the average girl of sixteen, if placed on end, would reach twice around the world and as far south as the Gulf stream. This is no doubt the reason why father enjoys so many of his vacations in close and studious proximity to the creditors' ledger.

As we do not manufacture any silk in the country that will defy the in-

Rippling Rhymes

THE BULLY

You've doubtless encountered that terrible gent, who'll fight at the drop of the hat, who wanders the village, on trouble intent, as sassy as Thomas H. Cat. He says he's the Terror from Bittercreek Bend, who was divorced from his goat, and he will consider that person a friend who treads on the tail of his coat. He bullies the under-sized people he meets, and wrenches the invalid's nose, and tramps on the patriarch's toes. The chief of police, when the bully's around, has duties important elsewhere; he's pinching an orphan for beating a hound, or chasing a hen to its lair. It may be for months, and it may be for years, men stand for this delegate bad; but finally someone undaunted appears, and spreads him all over the grad. Then people rejoice with a hearty good will, no longer distraught and afraid; the bully they take to the dump on the hill, and put him to bed with a spade.

meddlesome reformers began their agitation. The men were set to work quarrying marble. The practice was to drive from fifty to one hundred men on chains attached to poles of the cars that carried heavy blocks, ahead of a team of oxen. The whip was applied to the men and oxen alike.

Sometimes men alone were used, and more than once it happened that the legs of those nearest the front wheels were broken by a sudden jolt. The cells were seven feet long, three feet and three inches wide, and six feet and six inches high, providing one-third of the space allowed in the municipal lodging houses in New York. Sometimes two men were placed in one cell. There was no plumbing, and the bucket provided for the prisoner was emptied only once in every twenty-four hours. The stench was frightful.

Did any "self-constituted reformer" ever make so terrible a mistake as that? Did any "self-constituted reformer" ever make so terrible a mistake as that which resulted in the sale of liquors and drugs by keepers to prisoners? Talk about coddling! The indulgence that is prompted by desire for reform is divine wisdom compared with the cruelty that leads to ruin.

We do not mean to suggest that Inspector Stewart would countenance these horrors and crimes of the old regime. But we have a notion that a certain obstinacy and love of controversy are putting him on the wrong side, and against such men as Thomas Mott Osborne, the man who reformed and humanized Sing Sing. Depend upon it the reformers are right.

SOLDIERS VOTING IN THE TRENCHES

Montreal Gazette (Con.).

The soldiers from British Columbia in camps in the United Kingdom have already voted for the provincial election in the Pacific coast province, and now the war office has given permission for the extension of the voting privilege to those on active service in Europe. This creates a precedent. It also proves that voting in war time does not necessarily upset the voters' balance to the extent of causing trouble between the various political sections, a condition which some of the observers pretended to fear would be the case. There have been parliamentary by-elections in Great Britain as usual during the war and there have been general elections in some of the self-governing lands. The Commonwealth of Australia is soon to hold a referendum on the question of compulsory military service, a contentious issue if ever there was one. To date no harm has come of these expressions of public will through the ballot box.

"If any of you go to Canada, I hope you will give me a call. You will find a hearty reception awaiting you," said the Duke of Devonshire to a gathering of his tenants at Pentrich Wearage, 1910.

Random Reels

"Of Shoes and Ships, and Sealing Wax, of Cabbages and Kings."

roads of the American union and the silk mills of France are turning out shrapnel, we are obliged to rely upon shiny substitutes composed largely of lacquered lisle thread and



Alleged silk hose which after two hours of service allow the big toe to protrude in a disconcerting manner.

public confidence. It is extremely disappointing to invest 35 cents in a pair of alleged silk hose which after two hours of service allow the big toe to protrude in an aimless and disconcerting manner. This experience has driven many a man to wearing some durable form of stocking which will not fall apart before the end of the week.

The silk stocking is cool and enticing, and can be washed once with good results. It would be more universally respected, however, if a small part of it could be left to the imagination.

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