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A CLEAN-UP NEEDED.

A peculiar feature has developed in connection with the New Brunswick elections. The issue is the rottenness of the local government during the last four years. It has been a coalition, but dominated by conservatism and defended by leaders in the cause. It will be remembered that a royal commission exposed the acts of the Flemming administration, and that after its report was made public the premier, (Mr. Flemming), was driven from public life.

Flemming did not remain long in obscurity. Certainly not long enough to undergo a thorough fumigation. He appeared in a bye-election as the advocate of a member of the government just called to office, and brazened out his sins and accepted the success of the minister as a white-wash for himself. Now the Murray government—the successors of the Flemming government—is disposed to repudiate the report of the commission which laid bare the irregularities of the former premier and the government which he led.

The question before the people, and to be settled by the election on Saturday, is not whether this government is responsible for the commission and its revelations, but whether those given to shameful deals are worthy of the punishment that has been promised to them. The result should be a cleaning up of the province politically. A coalition government, on its merits, cannot be injured by the misdeeds of men who are willing to use or work any combination for their own particular good.

How much are some people denying themselves during Lent? Religious ceremonies are welcome when they mean something in the lives of the people.

MILITARY SERVICE TAINTED.

The sudden departure from Winnipeg, when the Roblin government went down, of Dr. R. M. Simpson was reported. Simpson was the treasurer of the Conservative Association and handled large sums on behalf of his party. When indicted for wrong doing, he was in the military service, and abroad, and the feeling was engendered that it would be in bad taste to call him to account. He did not return to Canada when he was wanted and the Crown took action.

The case came before one of the London courts and some of the comments upon it showed sympathy with the man. He was engaged in the greatest of all works while the war was on. Why should he be disturbed? The demands of the Crown could not, however, be denied, and now we have the report of Judge Paterson upon the Manitoba roads' expenditures.

This report is very severe on those who obtained money from the provincial treasury for work which was not done. Some of this money went, it is reported, "directly into Dr. Simpson's hands, and so far as the provincial treasurer is concerned, are there yet." What will they say in England about this? Will those who were so ready to condemn his offenses offer any palliation now?

Probably, the Canadian parliament will now be induced to legislate against the invasion of Ontario by the liquor traffic from Quebec. The small order business must be stopped.

THE WOMEN: THE SURRENDER.

One of the most remarkable changes in England is that of the people towards the women in many respects. They were limited in their occupations before the war. There were some employments which appeared to be at the disposal only of the men. The women had no access to them. But, gradually, as the result of the nation's tragedy, one after another of the avenues of service opened to them, and now they are everywhere performing duties that are difficult and doing it well.

The women are in the munition factories, machineing shells and filling them; they are in the mines and fields, serving in any capacity, and with an energy that compels admiration; they are driving the omnibuses or electric cars of London, and acting as conductors; they have acted in the fire department, the warehouses and the mail service; they have lined up as clerks in the post offices, the customs houses and other public institutions, in shops and stores and factories. They have preached and practiced economy.

With the new and excellent resources of the women public opinion has veered around in their favor and given them what they have so long desired, namely, the assurance of the franchise. This in itself is a great concession, and with it anything worth having is said to be at their command. The last announcement is that they are to be allowed to practice law. They may become members of parliament and judges later on. This is the consideration which exercised a certain government official not so long ago. He may realize in the capitulation of the government the evidence of a complete surrender.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

New York is giving the women the franchise, and without the fluster and foolery to which the Hearst government is committed.

What has become of Mr. Hanna? He still occupies a seat in the legislature. Has he abandoned the Hearst government? What else, however, could be expected when it abandoned him?

The conservative majority upon the striking committee in the Ontario parliament tried to keep Mr. Dewar off the public accounts committee. Why? What is the government afraid of?

Congress has passed a bill which, when approved, will prevent a word state from sending any of its goods into a dry state. The American legislators are sensible men. How can prohibition be made a success while conditions exist as they do between Quebec and Ontario?

The Hearst government is kind to the nickel corporation. It has, through an intermediary, a willing servant no doubt, given the company another slice of land in the mineral district for \$3 an acre. Is there anything too good for the nickel combine?

The Hon. Mr. Ferguson pleads that he did not know the government was giving away its valuable nickel mining property to the Nickel Co. when an individual staked out a big slice of land and bought it for \$3 an acre. He ought to wake up. He ought to know enough to enquire into the plans and purposes of this individual.

Mr. Rowell must be sitting up late at night in order to think out plans for improving social and political conditions in Ontario. And the government quietly appropriates all he suggests, swallowing everything without a grimace. The ministers must need the new foods which Mr. Rowell supplies.

PUBLIC OPINION

Mr. Rowell Rules. (Hamilton Herald) This province appears to be governed by N. W. Rowell through the instrumentality of the Hearst government.

He Never Did. (Guelph Mercury) The man who invented the double house idea never had an idea that any person in the other half would take singing lessons.

Buy by Tender. (Toronto Globe) The purchase of supplies, when possible, by tender is among the reforms in Provincial administration advocated by the Liberals. The majority shows no sign of yielding.

Billy Sunday's Talk. (Belleville Intelligencer) When a girl giggled during Billy Sunday's opening sermon in Buffalo he yelled at her: "That's right, you little frizzled-haired sissy. You couldn't turn a flapjack in the kitchen without spilling the batter."

British Navy Counts. (St. Thomas Journal) Sir Sam Hughes points out that not one Canadian has been lost in passing from Canada to Britain, to France or back again. Of course, Sir Sam will give the British navy credit for this?

Stealing Policies. (Hamilton Times) Premier Hearst stole Mr. Rowell's prohibition policy, and now he wants

to steal his enfranchisement of women policy. The Premier's opposition to the amendment was made with a view to jockeying Mr. Rowell out of his legitimate position as the advocate of women's rights.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

A large quantity of fox skins were offered for sale on the market today.

W. J. Arnel will contest the vacancy on the School Board caused by the death of S. Angrove.

Kingston has been again restored to Liberal ranks. William Hartley defeated Mr. Drehan by a majority of 753 votes in the by-election for the Ontario Legislature.

Legislative Snapshots.

By Don Hunt. H. H. Dewar, K.C., M.P.P., for South-West Toronto.

With Hartley. There has come into the House, Vivacity, wit, vitality.

French is his beard, Irish his eyes, Sparking in good humor.

His opponents, He puts upon the grill, Burns them, roasts them, Turns them over,

And roasts them again, Until they cry, "Who said this fellow was good humored?"

MILITARY CHAPLAINS MUST HAVE A CARE

Ottawa Citizen. The Canadian chaplains have been reproved by the British military authorities for appearing in London without gloves and swagger sticks. This is serious. If the extra-orbital muscles of some of our Canadian dominions are not trained to retain a monocle they are likely to find themselves charged with high treason. The Dominion military authorities should explain the dangers of overseas work to all candidates for positions of this kind. In the meantime, lectures on spat wearing and the proper occasions for soup and fish clothes might be introduced into our theological colleges.

WHY SOME MEN DO NOT WANT TITLES

Hamilton Herald. That highly respectable English newspaper the London Morning Post declares that British titles of honor are now bought and sold and each has its stated market value; that the dispenser of honors is the chief whip of the party in power, and that the money paid by the purchasers of the titles goes into the party chest as an election fund. If this is true it is not strange that Mr. Asquith, Mr. Balfour, Lloyd George, and Bonar Law prefer to be plain "misters," and that men like Gladstone and is such a thing as being too big for a title.

Appointed Clerk of Senate.

Ottawa, Feb. 23.—A. E. Blount, private secretary to Sir Robert Borden, has been appointed clerk of the Senate in succession to Major S. E. St. Onge Chapleau, who retires on superannuation.

Random Reels

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

The Welsh Rarebit.

The Welsh rarebit represents an earnest effort to find out how much the human stomach will stand without rising up in open and unconcealed rebellion.

The stomach is given to mankind for the purpose of converting food into brain and muscle. Sometimes it seems too much in the direction of muscle and seems to forget that a few brains will not injure the total ensemble, but this is because people insist upon eating something which was intended solely for the adult ostrich. If the stomach is treated right and not called upon to digest food which would appal a cement mixer it will perform its work with the smoothness and rhythm of a street accordion, and will accompany the owner down to old age without having to be overhauled and re-battered every few months.

The Welsh rarebit is composed mainly of cheese and luck, and if either ingredient is lacking it is a

FOOD CONTROLLER NEEDED IN CANADA

Montreal Mail. The food controllers in England have established a maximum price of one and a half cents a pound for potatoes. That is equivalent to 90 cents a bushel or \$1.20 per bag of standard weight.

The present price paid by the Montreal consumer is \$3.25 per bag. Warning has been given that the price is likely to go much higher. Are we not hearing the point where a food controller is needed in Canada?

Canada is a country with illimitable possibilities in the potato growing industry. She already produces more than she consumes. England is not able to produce potatoes in sufficient quantity to satisfy her home demand. Yet in England the consumer is able to buy this indispensable food at only a little more than one-third of the price paid by the Canadian consumer.

It is not enough to say that this condition is due to the fact that England is at war and in the hands of a food controller. Canada also is at war. Every day it becomes more evident that unscrupulous producers and middlemen are taking advantage of war conditions to inflate the price of foods. The price of potatoes is only one of many evidences of the need of a Canadian food controller.

SOLDIERS WANTED ON THE FARMS

Ottawa Citizen. Hon. Howard Ferguson has introduced a bill into the Ontario house giving the government power to take over land for the settlement of soldiers and to spend money in training them and getting them started, buying machinery, etc. The honorable minister undoubtedly means well, and is well advised in taking steps in this direction before it is too late and returned soldiers are again on Ontario soil. But what assurance has the minister that the returned soldiers, or even a portion of them sufficient to justify such a step on a large scale, will feel disposed to take up farming? Is the minister aware that a recent official census of 2,150 returned soldiers showed less than 40 or about two per cent, desirous of going on farms? The South African veterans were given scrip in the hope that they would settle on the land, but it would be interesting to know just how many bona fide veterans of that war are today engaged in farming on the land given them by the government.

WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE MEASURE PASSES

Referendum Carried in Assembly, 124 to 10, Augsbury Voting in Minority.

Albany, Feb. 23.—The woman's suffrage referendum bill was passed by the assembly without debate by a vote of 124 to 10. Those voting in the negative were: Augsbury, Baxter, Grant, Malone, Marsh, Tlauer, Welsh and Youker, Republicans; and McCue and O'Hare, Democrats.

Applause greeted the announcement of the passage of the measure. Assemblymen Welsh, Youker and McCue explained their opposition on the ground that woman's suffrage was defeated in 1915 by more than 200,000 votes and that another referendum this year was unnecessary, notwithstanding the fact that their party platforms declared in favor of a re-submission in November, 1917.

Rippling Rhymes

VITAL TRUTHS



WALT MASON.

The vital truths are old and gray; they're old because they're true; the vital truth we spring today; old Father Noah knew. If any man comes up, forsooth, and says that he can show a truly modern vital truth, oh, lay the fakier low. A man might rustle up a lie that bears the signs of youth, but never, friend, will you descry a strictly recent truth. The vital truth is that which leads the sons of men 'right, to useful lives and goodly deeds, and records clean and white. We know that industry will pay, that honesty is great; and truths like these however gray, are never out of date. Old Adam knew them as he wrought among the first green trees, and he rehearsed them as he sought his missing swarm of bees. Oh, every blessed rule of life, that's likely to exalt, was old when Lot's devoted wife became a chunk of salt. The vital truths are but a few, and easy to adopt; the truths that seem grotesquely new don't count, and may be dropped.

—WALT MASON.

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