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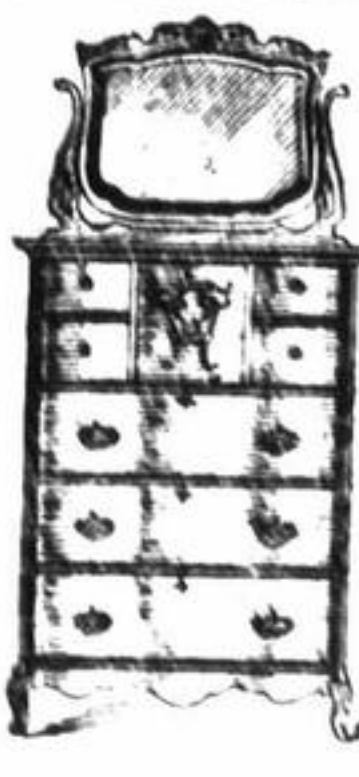
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THE WHIG--65th YEAR.

DAILY BRITISH WHIG published each evening at 306-310 King Street, at 25c per copy. WEEKLY BRITISH WHIG, 12 pages, published every Thursday morning at 5c a year. The Whig is one of the best Job Printing works in Canada; rapid, stylish and cheap work; nine improved presses.

THE DAILY WHIG.

"Optim per Orbem, Discor."

THE MEN THE CITY NEEDS.

A recent public speaker, and giving expression to his good common sense, said it was the duty of the press and citizens to begin early the discussion of municipal affairs so that by election day the people who do the voting may be educated as to what their duty was. The Whig is in accord with the suggestion, and it has a word to say now about the kind of council 1899 should have.

1. The council should be composed of experienced business men. The alderman should not be selected because of his handsome looks and ways, or because of his personal popularity. The questions before the electors should be these: Does this candidate, who solicits our support, understand the public's business? Is he so constituted that he will be able to study and comprehend the situation readily? Has he the time to visit the civic departments, to look into their methods of doing business, to elicit information, to suggest changes, and to advocate improvements? Is he a success in his own business? Is his record such that he can be depended upon to champion public interests, first, last, and all the time? Wall pictures are in demand at the city hall. What is wanted is something very much alive, in the form of flesh and blood, and in the seats usually reserved for our municipal legislators.

2. The city being somewhat hard to please, then, having a preference for men of a certain type, for active, energetic, business men, who know what to do though they may not have what the Scotchmen call "fash and din" about them, these should be excused if they refuse to canvass for votes. The representative citizen will be sufficiently known to him to even issue a card to the electors and in that way solicit their suffrages. And certainly it should not be necessary for him to send his photograph around, together with his pedigree, so that the electors may see that he is without blemish, and sound in mind and body. The day may come when the canvassing for votes will cease, but it will be here the sooner when all men become of one mind and decline to put themselves forward as targets for the missiles or maledictions of the people. The most a man should do—if he is dignified and self-respecting—is to give his consent to act for the people in the council in the event of his election. He should leave the rest to the free and independent electors.

3. It has been observed that the best men are not in love with the ward system. Which is correct. A small number of electors are harder to please than a larger number. A smaller constituency is harder to represent than a larger one. The abolition of ward divisions is very much to be desired. The election of a council by the whole city, or whole electorate, as the mayor is now elected, would insure a wider interest in municipal matters, better representation and better legislation. That is the conviction of many and it is more noticeable as time goes by.

Kingston's municipal business is, more over, in such a condition that it will not do to risk too much in the way of experiment. It is a source of regret that so few of the ex-mayors can be induced to serve as aldermen. Perhaps it is a weakness, too, of our system, and one which custom sometimes approves, that the mayor must be satisfied with one year in office. When he is most useful he goes into retirement and takes his experience with him. His ripened judgment should be at the disposal of the city, and it is doubtful if the demand for it has ever been greater than at the present time.

THE CITY AND THE GAS.

Mr. Martin, of the London Polytechnic Institute, the lecturer who had to abbreviate his visit to Kingston because the people did not seem to be much interested in his talks, is giving freedom to his thoughts in Toronto.

One of his strong points is the municipal ownership of gas works. He says that in England the idea no longer prevails that competition in the manufacture of anything cheapens it. Competition is profitable of good results. It makes those who are engaged in it to be not only enterprising and progressive, but economical as well. The best machinery and skill is employed in the production of gas, and nothing short of genius is exercised in seeing that there is no waste of any material that enters the business.

But this competition is not always wisely directed or wisely controlled. The competitors sometimes agree to work along uniform lines and all rivalry therefore ceases. The result is the same as if there were but one company, or partnership, or proprietor at work, and the people, needing the gas, have to pay for it as the aldermen decide. It is true, then, "if not before, to advocate such a departure as will give the people the best article of the kind that is available at the lowest possible value.

Municipal ownership in Glasgow, which Mr. Martin has quoted, has certainly brought about advantages in the manufacture and supply of gas. In this place the price has fallen from four shillings and six pence per thousand feet to two shillings and two pence, which, he says, has enabled the poor to use gas. Manchester, too, has had its success in the same way,

and, from its profits in gas, even at a lower rate than formerly, contributed a quarter of a million dollars to the relief of taxation last year.

The theme is suggestive. The time is approaching when Kingston may, if its council desires, acquire the gas and electric light plants from the company which now owns them. At least that is the impression which was left on the public mind by the discussions that took place when the last contract was made in regard to street lighting. The city can purchase, we presume, the property of the Light, Heat & Power Co., so far as the gas and electric lights are concerned, at a valuation, and can make the experiment of municipal ownership. At the same time it will be understood that everything does not depend upon ownership. Much, very much, depends upon management. The Whig remembers the scandals growing out of Philadelphia's civic control of the gas works, and these were such as to warn other cities to avoid Philadelphia's mistakes.

Civic government in Canada and the United States has not reached the high standard of civic government in Europe. The civic service in the cities of England and Germany especially is reserved for those who possess special qualifications for office, who are experts in their departments, and who have a training that enables them to deal with every emergency in municipal life. The public works under them are conducted as carefully and as economically as any work can be conducted under private management. Such has not been the experience in Canada. Toronto has a public building which has been in course of erection for years and given to succeeding councils all the worry they desired. Kingston has had sewers built whose cost has alarmed the people and caused them to appeal to the courts for relief. Other places have had their operations as well as impressions, and the lesson is not generally favourable to municipal ownership.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Ireland has undertaken the growth of tobacco. The experiments that have been made under government auspices have been wonderfully successful. As things go the sharecrop will cease to be Ireland's emblem, and the tobacco leaf may take its place.

The Toronto Star has its own idea of temperance reform. The idea is that the amount a man drinks at the bar should be measured out to him and limited each time, and the whiskey should be pure. How will this reduce the consumption of liquor?

Mr. Foster is becoming real good in adversity. He wants his party to be pure and patriotic and high minded. Above all things he wants it to avoid the taint of patronage. My, what a change has come over him since he stood behind Tupper and made faces at the governor general because he wouldn't let them have the snake.

The sand table is being introduced into the public schools. It is very useful in the teaching of geography. Indeed, it is without doubt the best device of the kind, and promises to grow in popularity. The scholar's interest can, with it, be developed in passing events. Cities and mountains and rivers and lakes become more real as they are made or traced in the sand.

Rev. John Munro has won the admiration of the people of Brooklyn, B.C., a mining town, by encoring a sick man to the hospital, at his own expense, fitting out another with a suit of clothes, finding still another a place of sleep, and thrusting a fourth who mistook his man and undertook to "ho him up." "Mr. Munro," says the local press, "has the confidence and respect of all who know him, no matter of what denomination, or whether of no religious belief." It is an idea of what the people expect from the coming preacher.

Lord Mount Stephen has decided to share his wealth with his relatives while he is living, and so he gives them nearly \$5,000,000. The bulk of this sum goes to residents of Montreal. We are perusing the water policy. He will be able to see how they enjoy themselves, how they apply the money they receive. He will gain in two ways, (1) he will evade the succession tax, and (2) he will have the experience he desires in making a distribution of the balance of his estate when he has no more use for it. He is wiser than the most of men.

IT TOLD A TRUE STORY.

FRANKLIN, Mass., Dec. 1.—A piece of bamboo which was picked up in the yard here brought a story of death, and the loss of the notorious White Wings, of Gloucester, in the recent storm. Prof. F. E. Thomas found the fragment tossing about on the waves. It contained a letter as follows: "We will be lost, thirteen of us, in fishing schooner White Wings, from Gloucester. Have no bottle to put it in. Everything is gone. We are about to go on a raft. Henry Walter and Frank Haskins are dead. If I could only see my wife and darling child again." Signed, ALBERT SIMONS.

WRECK OF PROMISE.

MONTREAL, Mich., Dec. 1.—Mrs. Ethel Precheux's suit against Anonore The Rate, a prominent Frenchman, for \$24,000 damages in a breach of promise suit is on here. She swore that De Hine courted her for five months, and that her wedding outfit had been prepared. The damages were \$24,000 in two previous breach of promise suits at Port London, Oct., and Syracuse, N. Y.

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Weakness of men, nervous debility, loss of vitality, etc. Write to Dr. Roberts, 110, St. Woodrow Ave., Detroit, Mich.

THE OPENING OF SAFES.

(Continued from Page One).

Mr. Gravelle here thought he should not give away his knowledge of the court and have. Porter allowed the matter to rest.

R. D. Miles, St. Paul, Minn., a safe opener, required and looked at, next took the stand. He said he was acquainted with the Sargent and Greenleaf combination, and had opened many of them. The shortest time he ever took in opening one was eight or ten minutes and the longest fifty eight hours. He proceeded by system, no guesswork. The last safe he opened was on the middle of this month. He had no college education, only attending school four years.

"By your system, is there any such thing as failures?" asked Mr. Porter. "I never have," replied the witness. "Are you familiar with four wheel Sargent and Greenleaf locks also?" asked Mr. Porter.

"Yes," replied the witness, "and have opened many." He was sure that Mr. Gravelle's system was all right. The numbers 3, 20 and 25 were simple as was also 30, 60, 80 and 43, and they could be opened in four hours. He said he did not depend on the sense of touch only to tell if the lock was in perfect working order. He had opened locks with seven tumblers, and four-wheel locks could be opened on two numbers.

To Mr. Oler the witness said his father was a safe opener in St. Paul since 1833 and that he had been called to open safes in Helena, Mont., Morden, Dak., and west of there, but he had never come east. "How do you apply your system do you try simple or easy numbers?" asked Mr. Oler.

"There are no easy numbers," answered the witness. "I always try my system." "Of the forty million numbers, how many are there that will open it?" "Three or four."

"And there is no guessing in it—no sense of touch and you get it open sure?" asked Mr. Oler. "Yes," replied the witness. "And your father left you this in a will?" asked Mr. Oler. "No," he replied.

"No," he replied. "Retired," questioned Mr. Oler. This caused a smile to pass over the court as the imputation was he could be rich if he so desired, he had such a complete mastery of safe combinations. The witness said to Mr. Oler that he did not tell anyone how he opened combinations; it was his secret. Mr. Oler asked him to write it down and the witness said he could not write it down, and he stuck to this. Mr. Porter asked him if he could work it and he answered "yes."

He said he could open a combination like the one in the bank vault in five minutes, and it might take him four hours to open the safe combination. Witness had opened locks of seven wheel combinations. He said that with a four wheel combination there were forty million different sets of numbers by which it could be opened.

Continuing Mr. Miles said he had never failed to open a three wheel combination. It was possible to open a three wheel lock in two or three minutes. The witness said he had been thirty years at his trade. He said in opening a safe he estimated the stock number first, as most people got their safes on those numbers from the manufacturer. The safe experts were not invited to go down stairs to try their hand on the bank lock. The evidence of the two safe experts has made a deep impression upon those in attendance at the court and convinced a large majority that combination locks can be worked without any knowledge of the combination numbers.

How McCallum, Belleville, was called and testified that he gave a bicycle lamp to Ponton in June, 1887. He had bought it in Rochester, N.Y. This evidence is in rebuttal of Hobden's contention where he claims to have made Ponton a present of such a lamp.

Herbert Allen, Belleville, corroborated How McCallum's evidence, as he was with McCallum when the lamp was brought. H. Ponton was next called as a witness for the defence. His voice was firm and his answer given in a straightforward manner, which left a good impression. He denied all knowledge of either Dare or Hobden and said that his evidence was false in every particular regarding himself. He denied ever making or having the impression found in his room.

The court adjourned at 1 p.m. with Ponton still under cross examination by Mr. Oler. The crown has rebuttal evidence to offer, when at least two new witnesses will be called. Saturday may see the finish. The defence want Gravelle to have a chance to open a safe. The crown may afford it.

It is tiresome to see the quantity of cheap cigars offered to the public as something "just as good" as "El Padre". Do not be imposed upon. Insist on having "EL PADRE," it is the best that can be made. S. Davis & Sons, Montreal. Largest Cigar Manufacturers in Canada. Why would it be impossible to serve in the desert of Sahara? Because of the sand which is there.

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