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THE DAILY WHIG.

"Opifer per Orbem Dicor."

A CANDID STATEMENT.

One paper of conservative bearings has candidly admitted that after all Mr. Colter has the best right to represent Haldimand in the house of commons. He was, the Toronto Telegram says, "the victim of circumstances created by a partisan judge, and of the errors by which conservative polling officials spoiled the ballot, and thus enabled a minority to choose the representative of Haldimand in the dominion parliament." Right, they say, will triumph in the end. And it is some consolation to the member-elect that the best laid scheme of an unscrupulous party, and that the party carrying the government, banner have come to nought. The Spectator has insinuated that Mr. Colter will be a disgrace to the house. Well, he has been there before, as he is now, the choice of the majority, and the people are sovereign, and, according to modern political ethics, cannot err.

IT IS NOT CATCHING.

A committee of the house of commons has been enquiring into the question of tuberculosis and how far it is communicable to human beings. Several hundred replies have been received from medical men in answer to questions for information upon the subject, and these have all been tabulated. One of the questions presented for the committee was from the imperial privy council asking whether there was anything in Canada to show that scarlet fever was communicable from the milk of cows. The character of the replies from medical men goes to show that there is no foundation for such a belief. There is no evidence, either, to show that phthisis is communicable from animals. The information, as it is, as now collected, will be read with great interest by the people generally. The wisdom of the many is certainly superior to the wisdom of the few, and the consensus of expert opinion is decidedly against one of the most alarming of deductions.

AN EARLY ELECTION.

The Mail enters into reasons for supposing that the government contemplates an early election. It points out that a great deal of importance is attached to another gerrymander, and that it cannot occur until after the next census in 1891. It proceeds: "The last election took place in February, 1887. By February, 1892, the present parliament will have run its course. If Sir John decides upon a general election during the present year he will, provided he be successful, be able to attend to the redistribution at the third session of the coming parliament, and to take advantage of it at the polls in the following year or in the year after that. But if he should determine now to go on to the end of the present constitutional term he will either have to appeal to the country early in 1892, without a redistribution to help him, or to call a sixth session at the end of 1891 for the sole purpose of pushing the redistribution through. A sixth session squeezed into the five year limit will be an extraordinary occurrence, but it can be legally held. In fact parliament could follow session by session in constant succession were it so disposed, provided it did not sit beyond the five years from the date of its election to which its life is restricted. The situation then, is this: There will be a remarkably early election or an extremely late one."

The Mail suggests that the work of the session will suggest the probabilities of an early or late appeal to the people. The votes towards one scheme and another will have a great meaning in themselves. The government has had several long sessions of late, and it has been given out that the discussions have been in regard to the economy which the present administration of public affairs requires. The work is more likely to be the careful preparation of a programme which, while promoting conservative interests, will let the least amount of daylight fall upon the schemes that are behind it. The eagerness with which the outlook is being canvassed, and the attention which is being paid to party organization will be the best evidence that an election is premeditated. Ward committees are not formed and the voters' lists overhauled and checked usually three years before an election happens.

A BIG BLUNDER.

The inland revenue department is, through Hon. John Costigan, its head and director, being severely criticised for the imperfections of the annual report which has lately been given to the public. The temperance men are particularly excited inasmuch as the returns referred to indicate an increase in the consumption of liquor rather than a decrease, that is admitting that the Scott act is doing some good and that the drinking habits of the people are being corrected. As the inland revenue statistics are those quoted in all public discussions affecting the liquor traffic the apparent errors, to which the commissioner has certified, are the more significant. And what do they indicate? That the consumption of liquor in Ontario was in 1885, 1,334 gallons per head; 1886,

1,510 gallons; 1887, 3,058 gallons; 1888, 3,067 gallons. The enormous increase in the last two years was so remarkable that investigation was made in regard to the accuracy of the figures, and the fact was discovered that the record of the year, so far as it embodied the returns of last year, was not correct. Previous reports gave the consumption of liquor in 1885 at 1,334 gallons; in 1886, 510 gallons; in 1887, 689 gallons. The inaccuracy was made manifest in still other ways. The commissioner of inland revenue has certified that the importations in 1888 were less in quantity than in the four years preceding, and that the revenue per head, in duties and excise on customs, was as follows: 1885, \$1.35 per head; 1886, 86c.; 1887, 91c.; 1888, 81c. "And now the question arises," says an Ottawa correspondent of the Witness, "whether the alterations in the figures for 1886 and 1887, and the false figures given for 1888, are the result of accident or of design on the part of some one in the inland revenue department. That they are not typographical errors is quite evident from the fact that they have been added into the total of the years since confederation in order to strike the yearly average for the province of Ontario, which, by this means, has been increased from 1,121 in 1887 to 1,428 in 1888. Still worse, however, is the fact that the misleading figures for Ontario have been added to those furnished for the other provinces, showing an increase per head for the dominion from .747 of a gallon in 1887 to 1.756 gallons in 1888. In view of the fact that a large number of Scott act contests are about to take place and that every error pointed out is largely to the disadvantage of the cause of prohibition, I am almost led to exclaim, 'Surely an enemy hath done this.' Whether such a conjecture is true or not it is certainly disgraceful that a report, certified correct by the commissioner of inland revenue, submitted to his excellency the governor general by the minister and presented to both houses of parliament by his excellency's command, should be so unworthy of confidence on the points to which I have directed attention as I have shown this to be." It is well the blundering has been traced to the high functionaries of the government department. These are usually very imperious, furthermore very exacting with subordinates, very fond of exhibiting their smartness. The lesson of the hour is that no one is infallible, not even the great "E. Miall, commissioner of inland revenue." And the temperance men will not be content with any private acknowledgment of the error. They demand that the correction be made as public as possible, and through the house of commons. They will not have it that all their labour has been going in vain, that despite their efforts the consumption of liquor is growing greater from year to year as the report of the government would seem to show.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The western cities are rivals even in disaster. The Duluth Tribune says: "Duluth allows St. Paul to surpass her in nothing. The burning of Duluth's grand opera house this morning was just as important an event as the burning of St. Paul's grand opera house two weeks ago."

And now the Belleville Intelligencer has it that the grit press suggested to the Conservatives of Hamilton that they allow Hon. J. M. Gibson to be returned without opposition in going back for re-election, on accepting office, and that now the party is accused of cowardice. The Spectator was the paper to made the suggestion, and until the present no one has ever suspected it of gritism.

It is announced that the conservatives of Haldimand "will meet at Hagersville shortly to look into the inwardness of the grit victory." Oh, then the Spectator has been giving the people puff in saying that enough evidence had been discovered to unseat Mr. Colter! After it has looked into the true inwardness of the great victory we hope it will apologize to the electors for its reckless abuse of them.

The Tory press generally rejoices in the defeat of Prof. Goldwin Smith in his contest for the presidency of the St. George's society of Toronto. And why? Oh, he's a disloyal man. He's squinting towards an annexation. That's what they say now. A year ago when he was writing to the London Times against home rule and the disintegration of the British empire he was a fine man, a man of noble thought and inspiring influences. How are the mighty fallen!

The post office department should see to it that the people are supplied with a better quality of stamps. Letters are returned to the writers in many cases simply because the stamps have fallen off. They are not half gummed, and will not stick to the letters when put upon them. We do not know whose business it is to see that the public is properly served in this respect but whoever it is should wake up and do his duty.

Dual representation was thought to have been abolished long since, but it seems that it continues in two cases, those of Hons. Messrs. De Boucherville and Ross. These belonging to both the legislative council of their province and the dominion senate, and by dodging between Ottawa and Quebec, manage to draw the indemnities payable to members of both houses. Mr. Mercier has a bill before the local house which will have the effect of making these gentlemen decide in which place they will serve, not for a day, but for the whole session.

Fire in Brockville.

On Saturday night fire broke out in the store of G. E. Ashley, Brockville, and completely ruined the building and its contents. The stock was insured in the Queen's for \$3,350. Mrs. Fennot and children, in the corner store, had to be rescued from an upper window by the firemen. The cause of the fire is a mystery.

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The Soldier and the Peasant.

For the Whig.
"Twas very many years ago,
When keen was winter's blast,
A sentinel faced to and fro,
While hours too slowly past,
His clothing was a poor defence
Against the biting frost;
Eut, plainly, under no pretence,
Might he desert his post.
So hailed he one who passed that way:
"Stop, stranger, stop! he cried;
Lend me a coat or cloak I pray,
'Till the morning tide."
The stranger said, "I have but one,
Yet will I give it thee;
For now my journey's almost done,
My home I soon shall see."
Then answer gave the soldier brave,
"They good will I repay;
And hope I may some comfort have,
'Till the dawning day."
But when the sunlight touched the snow,
There lay the hero dead;
They knew his mortal form below,
Upward his soul had fled.
A few more years the peasant lay
Upon his lonely bed;
His life was ebbing fast away,
His days were well-nigh sped.
Then in a vision saw he One,
Most glorious to behold!
His countenance shined as the sun,
His sceptre, crown, of gold.
And yet the poor man's coat he wore,
Which wrapped the lifeless clay
Of the brave squire, now no more
Guard keeping night or day.
The coat soon changed to raiment white,
Adorned with many a star;
A robe of righteousness most bright,
Which earth can never mar.
Then spake the King in azure light,
Most beautiful to see—
"Thy loving deed done in my sight,
Was done as unto Me."
RAY. DR. J. L. BUCHOWS,
Oswego, Jan. 28, 1889.

Are You Going to the Ball?

Not unless I get a tube of Dyer's Cucumber and Rose Jelly for my poor hands. Look how they are chapped. It will cure them at once. You shall have it sure. Druggists keep it. Wm. A. Dyer & Co., Montreal.

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A dry preparation of Extract of Beef and Vegetables; a delicious, nourishing and economical basin of Soup in a few minutes; a ground-work for all brown soups, an excellent gravy, and an invaluable adjunct to Irish Stew.
The Best and Cheapest Article of Diet Ever Introduced to the Public.
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SECURE YOUR TICKETS for the above via the New Route, K. & P. and C. P. RR. Trains leave Kingston. Arrive in Montreal 12:40 p.m. 8:15 p.m. 11:45 p.m. 8:15 a.m.
The Ice Palace is just across the street from the magnificent New C. P. R. Depot, now being completed. Tickets good to Feb. 9th at 25c, and return up to and including February 12th, 1889.
Fare for Round Trip, \$6.
Ticket Offices New City Hall Depot and 42 Clarence Street.

NOTICE is hereby given that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the shareholders of the Kingston and Pembroke Railway Company will be held in the Company's Office, City Hall Station, Kingston, at Noon, on WEDNESDAY, the THIRTEENTH day of February, 1889, for the purpose of electing directors for the ensuing year. Also a Special General Meeting of said shareholders will be held at the same place and day, at one o'clock p.m., for the purpose of considering and, if approved, sanctioning certain agreements with the Napanee, Tamworth and Quebec Railway Company, for the use by the latter company of that portion of the railway of the Kingston and Pembroke Railway Company lying between a point at or near Harrowsmith and the City of Kingston, and terminal facilities at both places for ever; and granting to the Napanee, Tamworth and Quebec Railway Company running powers over that portion of the line of the Kingston and Pembroke Railway Company aforesaid; upon the terms, conditions and provisos set forth in said agreements.
By order of the Directors T. W. NASH, Secretary.
Kingston, 9th January, 1889.

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