

vious efforts have been in the direction of widening the scope of Provincial powers, and his usual course has been to pass a measure first and test its constitutionality afterwards. But he evidently wishes to fight shy of the prohibition question, and the utmost that the temperance party have to expect from him is a submission of the issue to popular vote on the referendum principle. But if he does not mean to let the result decide the question what is the use in putting the electors to the trouble and expense of taking a vote on it?

DIRECT legislation, such as prevails in Switzerland under the referendum, would take the prohibition question and many other issues out of politics, and prevent their being made the football of partizans, but a mere plebiscite, which does not commit the Government to anything is not direct legislation or anything but a piece of absurdity and child's play. What should be done is to pass an act authorizing a direct vote and making the result binding without further legislation.

THE passage of the second reading of Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule Bill by a majority of forty-three, practically ensures the ultimate success of the measure. The Lords will throw it out, of course, and Mr. Gladstone will have to go to the country again, when he is certain to come back with a larger majority, more especially if needed election reforms, such as the abolition of plural votes, are effected in the meantime.

THE adoption by the Trades and Labor Council of this city of a resolution in favor of the Single Tax and Free Trade is significant of a great advance of opinion on these subjects among the more intelligent workingmen. But the Trades and Labor Council have politically very little influence with the mass of the working class electors, who are as much under bondage to partyism as ever.

IF some of the Grit leaders had an interesting kid to play the Baby Ruth role in Canadian politics, it might help to popularize the party.



INTELLECTUAL PLEASURE AT THE MATINEE.

EDITH—"Is it not simply delightful, Annabel?"

ANNABEL—"Oh, it's just heavenly! Four lovely murders, a delicious divorce case, a beautiful elopement, and the first act is not half over yet. It's too sweet for anything."

IN HARD LUCK.

TRAMP—"If ye please, marm, I'd like a bite to eat. Aint had nothin' since yesterday noon."

LADY—"I'm afraid we have no cold victuals left, except a piece of custard pie."

TRAMP—"Don't mention it. Last piece of pie I got was so cussed hard that I couldn't eat it."

SHELVED.

HE—"Ethel's beauty always reminds me of a peerless alabaster vase."

SHE (*spitefully*)—"Naturally. You usually see an alabaster vase on the shelf."