

THE TRUE WITNESS

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THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF FRIDAY announced the dissolution of the Legislature. The date of the nomination will, it is expected, be October 7th and the elections on the 14th, not the 3th October and 12th as anticipated in these columns.

WE are glad to see that the organ of the Minister of the Interior has authoritatively denied the truth of the story, which we felt compelled to refer to in terms of severity yesterday, as to his reported conduct at Cayuga. We said it was "hard to believe," but it is strange that so important an organ of public opinion as the Globe should have given currency to so serious a charge without some foundation. Probably that organ was misled by political exigency.

THE release of the British schooner seized for trespass in alleged Alaskan waters had to follow as a matter of necessity. Not even the usual adroitness with which the United States authorities sometimes interpret treaties could be brought into play to justify the monstrous claims of jurisdiction, which was the ostensible cause of seizure and the very arguments used by American Ministers when their own ox was being gored on the same pasture could be turned against them with fatal effect.

IT is, of course, "officially" necessary to deny the truth of the story that the military mutinied against performing any eviction duty in Ireland. The fact is, it was never said they mutinied, but that on returning to their barracks protested respectfully against being employed in work so unsoldierlike and harsh. But it will in all probability be found that the seedy customers of the balliff class, with the police—who like the work as little as the soldiers—will have to do the dirty work in future, at least until the present barbarous treatment of the Irish tenantry is dropped.

IT is only reasonable that Mr. Gladstone should oppose Mr. Parnell's Land Bill. He has a great love for his own battling, passed a short time ago, and no doubt regards it as an absolute panacea for all the ills of landlord and tenant curable by legislation. But for all that, the Government will have to introduce a much more sweeping measure to be effectual. The debate on Parnell's bill will certainly give the direction in which the clauses of the Government proposition must go. That is Parnell's object in raising the discussion, and his purpose will be accordingly served.

THE phenomenal "bum-bailiff," who, disgusted with the duties he was called on to perform at Gweedore, threw up his odious calling and refused to aid further in the evictions, has now become historical. His example is contagious, and now we hear of soldiers openly refusing to aid in the work of casting "helpless, infirm and starving people" out of their hovels into the roadway. Certainly it is not very soldierly work, and it is no secret that the officers have led the "protest," though not in a way to be interpreted as a mutiny. This is nothing new. The late Lord Clyde has told how, when a captain, and reluctantly engaged in the same dirty work, he found that the soldiers could scarcely be induced to "aid the civil power" in its work of ejection. Tommy Atkins was not as intelligent then as now, and the recent conduct of the military is certainly a sign of the times.

THE Methodist body has decided, by a large vote, to confederate their colleges in Ontario, thus affirming a desirable principle. Nothing can be more detrimental to the usefulness of university education than a number of petty degree-conferring corporations. This example may probably be taken to heart by those of the Anglican communion, who have been attempting to obtain a charter for some local college of their body in this city.

evil of this multiplication of such institutions is very forcibly seen in the United States, and the result is that degrees are neither respected or valued and mean nothing. In the State of New York a determined effort is being made to place the University of New York in the position it was intended to occupy—that of the sole degree-conferring corporation.

The later returns give Mr. Coultter a majority of 117 in Haldimand, only nine less than were cast as a majority for the late Mr. D. Thompson in 1882. The increased vote of Indians, which was expected to go solid for the Government, may or may not have done so. In all probability it did, or nearly so, as the vote lies in localities where Mr. Merritt obtained majorities. But it is in townships where other votes prevail that Mr. Coultter rolled up his majority, and this is the defection that is the main significance of the election.

MAJOR GENERAL TOTTENHAM is sending all over the Empire, which he desires to see confederated, copies of the Hobart (New Zealand) Mercury containing the scheme which he fancies would accomplish that end. In due course one has reached THE POST. Seeing the above that he has heaped on those who have proposed a very modest scheme of Home Rule for Ireland, General Tottenham seems to us to go to the extreme edge of boldness, and he may expect to be executed for high treason if tried by the canon of some critics. He demands nothing less than the practical extinction of the Imperial Parliament as at present constituted and the substitution of a Federal Assembly from every possession, and Home rule in local matters of the most absolute and uncompromising kind. The Federal ministry would consist of seven members. The General states that "no doubt the sinking in name of the present Imperial Parliament from supreme authority, though a severe wrench to its self-pride, is yet possible in the presence of a moderate initial demand on the part of the colonies for representative vote power in the Imperial Federal Assembly. Great Britain must now content herself with being the great central stem of the gigantic Banyan tree, &c., &c." Here's Home Rule with a vengeance.

PRINCE ALEXANDER is playing the part of a sphinx, but rather an injudicious one. In one breath he is reported to have said that he must keep his mouth closed for three months, and in the next to have made some very candid statements as to the reasons for his abdication. What can be the significance of "three months?" December is a bad month to open a campaign in the Balkans. So perhaps Alexander looks for an immediate settlement either by peaceful or other means. There is no doubt that Alexander expects to return, and his progress has shown that public opinion is with him. This is perhaps the most significant circumstance in connection with the case, and cannot be regarded with favorable eyes by Russia. It is evident that diplomacy is hard at work and high feeling becoming openly displayed.

THE Canadian Gazette points out that the new parcel post system is severely handicapped at the commencement of its operation. Parcels received here are subject to examination at the Customs, and under the law this examination can only take place in the presence of the person receiving the package. The Gazette says that, in view of the fact that there are only 125 collectors of customs in the Dominion, the system, as at present arranged, can, therefore, only be supposed to render anything like the anticipated benefit to that comparatively small portion of the people of the Dominion who happen to live within easy reach of these centres. It is suggested that "all parcels entering Canada might, with advantage to the Customs House officials, to the Post Office authorities, and to the public at large, be examined at fixed centres, such as Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal," the duty fixed and the parcel sent to its postal destination, the postmaster to collect. This is the only way out of the difficulty, in view of existing Customs laws; but we question whether the parcel post will be as much used as its admirers think.

THERE will probably be many more floods in this city before the much talked of protection is found, that is, if more expedition and more of the practical is not brought to bear on the very urgent subject. We are credibly informed that a private meeting was held yesterday of the inundation committee for the purpose of dissolving itself, and leaving a recommendation to the council to appoint a special committee to consider the best means of protecting the city against the floods. In the event of nothing being done by Dec. 30,—and of course it won't be,—then an "appeal" is to be made to Parliament for money to enable the city to do something. This is not a pleasant prospect. We would advise the city to call for tenders from practical engineers setting out the requirements of the case and when the plans are seen and the cost is known the difficulties will be easily removed and the money can be raised by tax. We have in this office letters from engineers here and in the United States showing that the work is a comparatively easy one. But, as we have said, there will be many floods and corresponding loss of property and public inconvenience before the city is protected. If Montreal had only one year of Baron Haussmann, what a city she would be!

THE LABOR QUESTION. It has been an open secret for some time past that the Dominion Government has had the question of the establishment of a bureau of labor statistics at Ottawa under consideration. The matter has been trifled with for a

long time, doubtless in order that it may be utilized for political purposes. We learn that the Dominion Government has now determined to proceed at once with the organization, the first step taken being the appointment of a committee of enquiry, this committee to be composed of representative workmen. In all probability Mr. McKab, the chief of the Knights of Labor at Toronto, and Mr. Henke will be given places on the commission, and the leaders in the Conservative party in this city have been consulted as to the proper Montreal representation, but thus far without much result, as reported. Whoever is appointed, the labor interest demands that no political exigency must influence the matter. A strict investigation of the various points connected with the present labor movement is demanded, but it must be made without regard to political bias its purpose may be mischievously diverted. Those who have labor interests at stake will need to be vigilant on this point.

SIR REDVERS BULLER REPORTS.

The cable despatches indicate that Sir Redvers Buller finds himself somewhat in the position of the old Hebrew sent out to curse but who found himself compelled to bless instead. He was sent to Kerry with extraordinary powers to meet some extraordinary conditions of rapine, violence, conspiracy, bloodshed and iniquity generally. The soldiery were at his back—if truth be told unwilling agents. What is the result? The general has entered on his duties just long enough to be able to form an authoritative opinion, and his first report is that in the Western part of Cork and all Kerry he finds a less serious state of lawlessness than he expected to find. Why did he expect to find it? Simply in consequence of the fact that he has taken his ideas from the exaggerated tales of those whose interests have led them to propagate falsehood. General Buller finds, however, little more than "widespread demoralization among the peasantry." What a wonder! In the face of poverty, harsh treatment and terrorism it is hardly reasonable to look for placid contentment among the poor people suffering those conditions. Altogether the first report of General Buller is of a character to lead to the belief that his mission may be productive of much good. He is not the first who has had the scales fall from his eyes when the real condition of Ireland has been opened to his vision by personal inspection.

PROMPT ATTENTION NEEDED.

There can be no reasonable doubt that as the city grows as it is doing, and telephone, telegraph and electric light wires increase in due proportion, the demand will be made for their removal. As it is they are a disfigurement to the city, and in cases of fire a source of danger and obstruction. The mandate has gone out in New York and other large cities that the wires must be placed under ground. It would be wise policy for this course to be initiated in Montreal, while the operation would not present the difficulties it will if delayed for some years. As it is, the extension of wires is not only becoming a public nuisance, but it threatens the safety of that most necessary element of our street economy—the trees which grow or ought to grow along the streets. These are chopped and hacked at the sweet will of the post and wire monopolists and damage done in a few minutes that years will not repair. More than that, if Ald. Rainville be correctly reported in the columns of a morning contemporary, the trees are altogether at the mercy of the Philistines. That civic dignitary is alleged to have stated that he very likely advocated the destruction of the trees on St. Catherine west and they were a "serious obstruction to the erection of electric lights. It is time the citizens took this matter in hand. There is no earthly reason for such vandalism being encouraged. The most beautiful city on the continent, Cleveland, is brilliantly lighted with electricity—far more so than Montreal. But had it been suggested that any of the magnificent avenues of trees, which are so just a source of pride to the citizens of that place, should be sacrificed to the wire Moloch, there would have been a slight social storm in the municipality. Montreal need not be behind its republican neighbors.

PARNELL'S LAND BILL.

It is announced that Mr. Parnell will introduce his Land Bill to-morrow. It is one drafted by Mr. Healy and is not intended for legislative purposes. It simply embodies a principle which the National party assert and determine shall be the one which will hereafter rule in Ireland. It will put the government, and party, in the Imperial House of Commons between the horns of a dilemma. It is accepted by the House it practically means that it has confidence in the measure and also the mover, and by constitutional usage Mr. Parnell would have to take an important place in any government that would come into office. If it is rejected the very principle of justice which the government has, in a measure, promised to accord in its own method of dealing with the land question will be assailed. The "Union" vote of the Liberals, which is bound only to the Union and opposed only to "Home Rule," will be in a very embarrassing position, but we doubt whether Mr. Parnell's hopeful anticipation, that the bill will reunite the discordant elements of the Liberal contingent, will be realized. There is, however, no doubt of the correctness of the view of Mr. Parnell that the consent of the Government to the introduction of his land bill was the "turning point" of the question. Whatever measure may be brought in by the Government, it is clear from the concession that no bill will become effectual law which does not show the influence of Mr.

Parnell and his friends in every clause. So far the battle is won already and as the bill of the Irish leader is granted precedence and will be discussed at length, there is no doubt that the debate upon it will form the basis of any bill which the Government may introduce if they expect to frame one that will be anything more than waste paper or practicable in Ireland. Virtually Home Rule, in a certain sense, has come, and the "eighty-six" form, without being so styled, one of those "committees" so dear to the heart of John Bright, and we may rest assured that Irish legislation will be thoroughly leavened by it or else be useless. This wedge of Home Rule is being driven home and the splitting of the obstruction only a question of a very brief period, the paper unionists notwithstanding.

OUR BELLS.

How few people living in large cities seem to be aware that there is such a thing as campanology or that there is a science in bells and bell ringing. What is really a beautiful art is made repulsive by the horrible abuse of the instruments which in skillful hands can be made a charm. Yet, west of the German ocean at least, campanology seems almost to be a lost art. A person may stand entranced as he listens to the sweet tones of the chimes in some of the Belgian towers. Let him cross to London, and the twenty-four bells in St. Paul's Cathedral seem a discordant conglomeration of harsh harmonics, the keynotes all being befogged. So, also, for the most part elsewhere, though here and there may be found some old bells, from which even village booms bring musical changes. But what does the traveller find as soon as he gets to this side of the Atlantic and sits down in an American city, that peculiar depository of privileged noise and uproar. Surely enough to drive him distracted. Bells of all sizes and tones; ill-graded chimos, "cast" in a manner, and with regard to the scientific aspects of the case, that would do credit to a tinmith, and at ill-timed intervals a discordant clamor, making day or night hideous, and humanity vicious. One result of this is seen in the fact that in the city of Philadelphia injunctions have been obtained in the courts prohibiting the use of bells in certain localities. Men hate the sound of a bell, and not unreasonably condemn them as an obsolete and needless thing in our age of cheap watches and dollar clocks. In Montreal something might be said of the misuse of bells. Many a poor invalid is tortured by them, and all owing to ignorance of their proper use. If one of Michel's grandest organs were used after the style of our modern bells, men would hate the name of an organ. And a Broadwood piano is not a pleasant instrument when the keys are thumped by a child. So with bells, and if they are not to be regarded as a positive nuisance, some greater attention must be paid firstly to the science of constructing bells, and secondly to arranging them in accordance with the laws of sound and thirdly of ringing them. This is no new complaint, and we know, to go no further back, that, in Shakespeare's time, it was felt how odious were "sweet bells jangled out of tune." There's the rub "Sweet bells" they may indeed be made to be soothing, peaceful and calm. But, oh! the horrors of the other side of the picture. Will some musical priest take a little interest in the subject, and put forth some little manual on the subject for our instruction in this country.

PROHIBITION IN THE STATES.

In the Eastern States of the Union, where prohibition has been in existence for years, or at least supposed existence, the comical spectacle of the principle as a "plank" in the presidential election is seen. An anti-room ticket has now been formed by the Republican party for use throughout the other States. This is said to be a guarantee of the success of the Democratic party at the next election. In fact, one organ of the Republicans asserts flatly that the whole thing is a "device of the enemy." Whether the prohibition vote is enough to seriously affect the coming election must be more than doubtful, and the result of Mr. St. John's meddling at the recent one can scarcely be deemed encouraging to the party. Nor can the official returns of the United States Brewers' Association, now in session at Niagara be regarded by the Prohibitionists as comforting. The report presented shows that the sales of beer for the year ending Aug. 30, 1886, were 1,072,499 barrels in excess of the previous year. At the same time seems that the statistics of drunkenness show a decrease which seems to show that the use of light beers and wines is, as has been so often asserted, one of the best preventives of the disease of inebriation. The tendency of the American people seems against the principle of total prohibition, and the cry may very probably be only raised for political purposes. The courts have recently seemed to indicate that there must be a check put upon the attempts to enforce prohibitory laws tending to destroy the value of property in which legitimate investment has been made. A recent judgment has asserted that "the State can prohibit the defendant from continuing the business of brewing, but before it can do so it must pay the value of the property destroyed." The use of the cry in the approaching presidential election is certainly not easily accounted for.

JUSTIN MCCARTHY.

It must be the duty of our Irish societies to see that this eminent author and champion of Irish rights visits Montreal during his approaching visit to America. Although less demonstrative than some of the members of the National party, his services have been priceless, and his work on behalf of the Irish

cause second to none. Those services are fully appreciated by his leader, and at the dinner tendered to the distinguished Irishman at the Charing Cross Hotel on Wednesday night, Mr. Parnell expressed in becoming terms his appreciation of his lieutenant's efforts. In proposing his health Mr. Parnell said, "after telling how eight years ago, he first met Mr. McCarthy at a small Irish meeting at the Westminster Palace Hotel, at a turning point of Irish politics and in a season of great discouragement, when the question was, 'How best to help our country,' we put Justin M. McCarthy in the chair, because he was not a politician in the ordinary sense, but a cool, calm thinker. I remember how he gave encouragement to us and how I recognized his added value to our small ranks. I was not mistaken in recognizing in his language that day, nor since, his truth and sincerity. He had the belief, he had the high literary and social position. These he bravely risked, indeed for a time was boycotted. Boycotting did not originate in Ireland, but in London society. He then joined us as M. P. for Longford, and has since taken a great part in our work—indeed, so much that he is tired of being in an English Parliament and wishes to become a member of a Dublin one. For eight years he has been one against whose honesty and ability no man can utter a syllable. Ah! what triumphs those eight years have brought him! We lend him for a time to America. He is literary, he is distinctly an Irishman, and he is a most true exponent of Home Rule and our nationality. We hear just now much about Bulgarian nationality from the Tory papers that plead for it and deny it to Ireland. Is the latter less than the former? Why, then, is it denied! Because the English people do not understand fully what we mean. But we are educating them. They now say we talk treason; they say we use the harp without the crown; but the ceiling of the Commons is studded with harps without crowns, and this is so even in the halls of Tara. We simply wish to see our country's greatness based on government for the people, of the people, by the people."

THE HALDIMAND ROUT.

The Government organs will, no doubt, generally say that the election in Haldimand is of no importance whatever, and that the constituency has always been Liberal; that the Thompsons, father and son, represented the riding in the Legislative Assembly since 1841; that the late member was elected to Parliament in 1867 by a majority of 369, and at each successive election by good majorities, and that, therefore, the return of Mr. Coultter was all that was to be looked for. This probably, with a few of the customary hints at corruption and a moral victory thrown in, would be the wisest line of argument for the Conservative press to follow preparatory to sitting in silence and obsequy. But we observe that one prominent journal, the Gazette, goes further, and accepts the result of the election yesterday as a direct Government defeat. True, it says, the result was "not unexpected," but it proceeds to express such bitter disappointment at the result that it is clear the event was regarded in Government circles as a direct test vote. We are officially told that "the Government candidate and his friends thought, not unreasonably, that the enlargement of the franchise and the success which has attended the administration of public affairs in recent years, would have produced a majority in his favor, but it is manifest from the outcome of yesterday's contest that the new electorate preserves the balance between parties. The Riel question, it is needless to deny, was also expected to work to the advantage of the Ministerial candidate, not because the law was allowed to take its course in the case of the leader of the rebellion, but because of the use that has been made in this province of his execution, and the inference is that the hard-shelled Liberals of Haldimand have not been affected to any extent by this issue."

This is then why the great army of missionaries of all sorts and conditions, from ministers down, invaded the riding. This is why the result is "disappointing." The "enlargement of the franchise," &c., and the Riel question have, it seems, not "worked to the advantage of the ministerial candidate." Concerning the "use" made of the Riel question the organ had perhaps better have been silent, but, beyond doubt, the decision of the electors of Haldimand, in view of the "use" made of the execution during the contest, cannot be very agreeable to the defeated Government. All that the Government could hold before the eyes of the electors as a testimonial to themselves and their own deeds while in office proved of no avail, and therefore it is not hard to appreciate the "disappointment." The moral is plain. The Government went out to win a great victory which, gained, would unquestionably have been a very great victory. It returns utterly discomfited. Not only has the old county stood fast to its traditions and elected a comparatively unknown man, but the returns show that in Rainham and North Cayuga there has been a large revulsion of feeling against the Government since the last general election and a corresponding change in the vote. That is mainly due to the Irish Catholic electorate, and the significance is clear. The election, however, is doubly significant. Under the circumstances it proves that not even the gerrymander, the new franchise, the anti-Riel platform, nor its "priceless services" are likely to stem the growing tide of popular disfavour, which threatens to sweep the present Government from power. It may read the handwriting on the wall in yesterday's vote in an unmistakable manner. Ontario has fired its first gun at the administration, and the utmost effort the

latter could put forth was baffled. It has been seen that the Government, concentrated all its forces in the riding. It is not difficult for our readers to understand what all the forces of a Government are in such a contest. The result is known and the lesson taught. It is the political worth which is the forerunner of the political Sedan. There is weeping and wailing at Ottawa, and no doubt reorganization. The result will have a demoralizing effect on the Ontario supporters of the Government, and the number of offices that will be promised and the jobs jockeyed between the present time and the coming session will be numerous.

MR. DOW'S COME DOWN.

The cause of what is generally but erroneously called "Temperance" has received what is probably its death blow during the recent campaign in the State of Maine. For years the great rock of the professional advocates of prohibition has been that State. It has been held up to the admiration of the world, and if all the woes attributable to the abuse of liquor were not unknown within its borders certainly the supposed advocates of the existing law did not fail to lead the public to believe that they were. But now it seems they have another tale to tell. The recent election has brought to the surface some evidence of falsity. To quote the words of Mr. Blaine:—"General Neal Dow, who has for the last quarter of a century stood for two continents as the great witness of the value and effectiveness of prohibition, now declares that for thirty years it has not done a bit of good in the suppression of the liquor traffic of Maine. This is certainly a remarkable confession from one who has been considered the greatest advocate of the peculiar legislation prevailing in the State of Maine and elsewhere. But it is the natural and only conclusion. The extraordinary acknowledgment of Mr. Dow ought to go far to prove the utter hopelessness of attempts to remedy the curse of the misuse of drink by summary law. Such an attempt is immoral to some extent, apart from the evil it does in fostering hypocrisy and fraud. It is beginning at the wrong end, and is simply an empirical treatment of a serious disease. Mr. Neal Dow has been agitating the question for years and obtained legislation after his own design. The result is seen to-day. We have no hesitation in saying that Father Matthew did more for the cause of sobriety and real temperance in a month of his work than has been accomplished by all the trading advocates since they began to take the stump. But the practical surrender of his long contested position by Mr. Dow is a sign that anyone may interpret."

FANATICISM.

It is clear that the age of fanatics is by no means past, and that in spite of the loud talk of public education and the wonders it has accomplished for humanity in general, ignorance is still rampantly stalking around. The following letter is a choice specimen of literature and exposes to perfection the spirit which animated the covenanting and persecuting Scotch Protestants of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, and which is evidently not wholly laid yet:—

"THE SCOTCH PROTESTANT ALLIANCE, No. 31 ST. GEORGE'S PLACE, GLASGOW, SEPT. 7, 1886."

"To Right Hon. Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL, &c. :—

"My LORD—I have the honor to inform you that at a meeting in Glasgow yesterday of the directors of the Scottish Protestant Alliance the recent appointment of a Roman Catholic to the Cabinet office of Home Secretary was considered, when the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—"That as the Papacy claims universal supremacy over all sovereigns, its subjects, as Roman Catholics, can no longer render an undivided allegiance to Protestant Princes, and as the avowed aim of the Papacy is to reduce Great Britain to subjection to the Vatican, this meeting protests against the elevation of Roman Catholics to positions of power and trust in the British Empire."

"I have the honor to be, my Lord, Your Lordship's most obedient and very humble servant, "JAMES KERR."

But it is to the credit of Lord Randolph that he had courage to administer a fair, open-handed snub to the ignorant and narrow-minded clique who have exposed themselves by their representative "James Kerr." The Chancellor of the Exchequer wrote as follows, with no beating about the bush:—

"TREASURY CHAMBERS, WHITEHALL, SEPT. 9, 1886."

"To JAMES KERR, Esq. :—

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter, enclosing a copy of a resolution passed by the directors of the Scottish Protestant Alliance, and in reply to it I beg to remark that I observe with astonishment and regret that in this age of enlightenment and general toleration persons professing to be educated and intelligent can arrive at conclusions so senseless and irrational as those which are set forth in the aforesaid resolution.

"I am yours faithfully, "RANDOLPH H. CHURCHILL."

Small comfort these senseless and irrational people have received from Lord Randolph Churchill. But the lesson has evidently been lost on these Yahooes. The cables this morning state that they have sent a bullying reply to the letter. But it contains, apparently, no argument.

THE HUNTINGDON FAIR.

This fair, which will be held on the 15th and 16th instants, is always an important event for the neighboring counties. Among other attractions this year will be an address by Prof. Brown, of the Ontario Agricultural College. A special train (tickets single fare) has been arranged for the 15th, leaving the Bonaventure depot at 8.40 a.m., and other stations along the line as follows:—Point St. Charles, 8.55 a.m.; St. Lambert, 9.05 a.m.; Brossard, 9.20 a.m.; Laprairie, 9.25 a.m.; St. Constant, 9.37 a.m.; St. Adolphe, 9.46 a.m.; St. Regis, 9.57 a.m.; St. Martin, 10.12 a.m.; Howick, 10.25 a.m.; Bryson, 10.37 a.m.; Ormstown, 10.46 a.m. Arrive at Huntingdon, 11.10. Returning, leave Huntingdon 6.10 p.m.