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LONDON, FRIDAY, NOV. 6, 1908.

REMEDYING ABUSES.

Our local contemporary states that the Government has been given a mandate to "reform abuses." When a statement of this kind is made, it is fair to demand that the abuses be named. Because such a remark must produce a rude jar to the reader, who has been led to believe that abuses in the Government were none, and that all talk to this effect was simply the production of the Slanderbund—London Free Press.

One may admit there are abuses at Ottawa without arraigning Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues as a gang of thieves, or swelling the chorus of the Slanderbund, as our contemporary did with its campaign slogan, "Turn the Rascals Out." The abuses to which we referred are inherent in the patronage system. It was not invented by the Laurier Government, which has taken at least one long step in the direction of reform by removing the inside civil service from party influence. The outside service should be brought within the scope of the new law. So far as possible the patronage system should be eliminated also in the purchase of supplies and all expenditures of public money. If our contemporary agrees with this, why not prod the powers that be at Toronto, as well as those at Ottawa?

The investigation into the department of marine and fisheries shows that some Government officials made a practice of secretly taking or demanding commissions on purchases. The Government would be responsible if it knowingly tolerated these abuses, but it has not been afraid to thoroughly probe a branch of the civil service in which its opponents have pretended to find most of the material for their scandal campaign. The patronage system, which both political parties have practiced since the beginning of responsible government, affords too many opportunities for unbusinesslike methods, or worse, and the people look for a remedy.

REMOVING THE SNOW.

The perennial problem of snow removal faces the city again. City councils have never had the courage to do what should be done—compel householders to clear their walks. This system might be unpopular for a time, but its benefits would be so apparent that it would be permanently accepted, as in other cities. There would be less discomfort in shovelling the snow off the sidewalks, as every pedestrian has to do in this city at periods during the winter season. Failing this common-sense method, why don't the civic authorities make the best of the antiquated plow system? Yesterday morning the plows were at work till nearly noon, and fully half the school children had to trudge through three or four inches of wet snow. Of what use are the plows if the walks are not cleared for early pedestrians going to work? This is supposed to be the one advantage of the present system, but there is inefficiency somewhere.

GERMAN MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

It is not unlikely that the question of ministerial responsibility to parliament will be raised in the German Reichstag, which opened its session yesterday.

The possibility of such a course is suggested by the popular resentment aroused against Chancellor Von Buelow and the secretary for foreign affairs, by the discovery that they failed to comply with the Emperor's command to examine and report upon the expediency of publishing the now famous interview with his majesty, recently given to the world through the medium of a London journal.

If, however, the Reichstag insists upon holding Von Buelow accountable for what is considered a grave blunder, nothing tangible can result, for, as a matter of fact, German chancellors, including Bismarck, have held themselves responsible to no one but the sovereign. Neither does the British parliamentary system exist in Germany. A hostile vote in the Reichstag will not force the chancellor to resign. On the rejection of a Government measure of vital importance, the Reichstag is simply dissolved, and the result of appeals to the electorate under such circumstances has invariably been in the Government's favor. Should the Reichstag refuse, as it has the power, to vote the chancellor his salary, the amount is made good by the Emperor out of the crown resources.

While no chancellor has ever resigned in response to a parliamentary demand, there have been instances where a minister of minor importance has been sacrificed to legislative clamor, and it would not be surprising if in the present case the secretary for

foreign affairs, who is held jointly responsible with the chancellor for the disobedience of orders may be relieved of his office to satisfy the demands of the Reichstag.

That Emperor William will yield to any demands for ministerial accountability is most improbable. Should he accept the principle in the case of the Reichstag, the Prussian House of Representatives would be sure to ask a similar concession. Prussian ministers are the servants of the crown, not of the chambers, and they are not subject to effective control of any kind on the part of the legislature. To grant such a concession to the parliament of the kingdom would be to essentially alter the structure of the Prussian monarchy and the position of the King.

THE BRITISH UNEMPLOYED.

At the present time the British Government is taking steps of a practical character to attack the problem of unemployment. In a statement recently made in the House of Commons, Premier Asquith, while admitting the situation to be acute, considered it but temporary, and did not believe it involved any question of party policy. With this latter view Mr. Balfour, the Unionist leader, agreed, having admitted in a recent speech that a change in the tariff would not ward off periods of industrial depression, or oscillation in trade.

The plan of the Government is to push such public works as can be expedited, so as to furnish more employment. For example, men will be put on repair work at various naval stations, which, under ordinary circumstances, would have been delayed until next year. Admiralty contracts which it was not intended to close till January will be placed during the present month. Meanwhile the war office is preparing to enlist 24,000 recruits in the special reserve between now and March next. The Government is also indirectly loaning money to borough governments and other local authorities in order to promote public improvements which will incidentally provide work. Such loans made this year amounted to upwards of \$20,000,000. Among the works to which this money is to be devoted are waterworks, sewers, paving, etc. All these undertakings would in any event have been carried out later on, but it is manifestly sound policy to bring them on when hundreds of thousands of men are looking for employment. These men may find work at their regular trades within a year through the return of prosperity. To tide them over the period of depression is the Government's aim.

The measures taken to help the unemployed are merely temporary, and designed to meet an emergency, but the Government has promised to introduce next session legislation of a permanent nature which will go to the root of the problem. The speeches of cabinet ministers indicate that this legislation will provide for great national undertakings, such as afforestation and land reclamation, which will furnish a volume of employment, contracting and expanding with the fluctuations in the regular trade and industry of the country. It will be the most momentous social experiment of modern times.

The St. Thomas Times is a thorough-bred. It says the Pacific scandal was no scandal at all.

France's offer to arbitrate her dispute with Germany will put the Kaiser's pacific professions to the test.

The Conservative press had no fault to find with the Orange Sentinel manifesto before the election results were known.

Mr. Roosevelt gave vogue to a new word when he declared that the Democrats were "beaten to a frazzle." It may be expressive, but "frazzle" has a slangy sound.

It is quite true that the eastern division of the G. T. P. will run through a country that is practically uninhabited. That is one argument in its favor. It will help to put inhabitants there.

Morse, the inventor of the endless chain system of banks in New York, has been sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment. This is contrary to legal precedents, as he is reputed to be worth \$20,000,000.

LONGBOAT'S LATEST.

The announcement has been made that Longboat, the Indian runner, had turned professional. The question at once arises was the Onondaga really an amateur? It is claimed by his club, the Irish-Canadian Athletic Club, that he was, and as such his entries have been accepted in the chief races for amateurs. There seems something wrong with the framing of the amateur status. A man with no visible means of support travels around the country rather after the fashion of a theatrical star. He, of course, is managed, and the care with which he has been press-agented would presuppose considerable gain accruing to someone. Granted he gets nothing for his running except expenses, it is not a good kind of amateurism that lets his fine efforts to be taxed week after week in order that a man or a syndicate can make money out of him. The dividing line between professional and amateur seems to need clearer definition. More cash prizes for professionals and a corresponding decrease in valuable trophies for amateurs would probably help to

stop the veiled professionalism, and if amateurs could be got to run for the simple honor like the ancient Greeks for the laurel or parsley wreath, such a thing as veiled professionalism would cease.

FOWLER'S JUST FATE.

[Cowanville (Que.) Observer, Con.]
G. W. Fowler, of wine, women and graft fame, has been defeated down in New Brunswick. The defeat was deserved. He made charges against members of Parliament in an indefinite way, and refused to go further. He would not tell on the Liberals, because the Liberals did not tell on him. A man of that stamp should be given a job somewhere boiling soft soap.

WHERE THE OTHERS FAILED.

[New York Times]
A young man in quest of a situation entered the apartment of a high bank official, and made known his errand. "Well," kindly said the official, "there's an opening in the bank for the right young man, and there have been several applicants for it already. Are you energetic and willing to learn?" "Try me, sir," said the young man. "That's good for a starter. Do you gamble?" "No, sir. I have a mother to support, and can't risk my earnings that way." "Ahem! Now—here the great man squandered himself before his applicant, in indication that the most important question was now to come. "Do you ever go fishing?" "Yes, sir," replied the young man, without hesitation. "Was fishing ever your hobby?" "Ah! and what kind of a catch did you make?" "Only one little perch," smiled he. "Good! You're the young man I've been seeking. All the others answered up all right until I put that last question, then they lied!"

POLITICIAN DIED. POOR.

[Ottawa Citizen, Conservative.]
That Hon. Thomas Greenway died a poor man is no less a tribute to his innate honesty than it is a contradiction to the charge that graft is the goal of Canadian politics. For the sake of those whom he leaves immediately to mourn his loss, his lack of this world's riches is perhaps to be deplored, but no more flattering epitaph could be inscribed upon his tomb than that, with all his opportunities he left this world poor in this world's goods.

IN SOBBY FLIGHT.

[Montreal Herald.]
It seems rich people may be poor. Lord Curzon spent so much of his time and money when in India that they were dreadfully hard up when they got home, too poor to live in their magnificent town house. Lord Curzon's health may have succumbed to the strain. At present Lord Curzon and his children are worrying along on \$60,000 a year, plus the interest on \$1,700,000. Their misery is that they have to associate with people who are well-to-do.

THE PROFESSIONAL LINGO.

[Boston Globe.]
The late Bishop Potter once in his early days had occasion to officiate at a christening in a small fishing village on the Massachusetts coast. The proud father, a young fisherman, awkwardly holding his first-born daughter, was visibly embarrassed under the scrutiny of the many eyes in the congregation, and his nervousness was not decreased by the bewailing of the infant as they stood at the font.

When the time for baptism of the babe arrived the bishop said that the father was holding the child so that its fat little legs pointed toward the font. "Turn her this way," he whispered, but the father was too disconcerted to hear or understand.

"Turn her feet around," the bishop whispered again; but still there was no response.

The situation was fast becoming critical, when an ancient mariner in the back of the church came to the rescue. Putting his weather-beaten face and hoarse voice to the wind, he roared across the room: "Head her up to the wind, Jack!"

WHOLESALE ADVICE.
[Branford Expositor.]
Mr. John Sharp, of the Democratic contingent in the House of Representatives at Washington, is quoted as saying that a political party which has no constructive policy deserves to die.

The admonition should be heeded by Mr. R. L. Borden. The words of his plan of campaign in the contest just brought to a close was that he placed too much emphasis on destructive criticism, and insufficient emphasis on constructive criticism.

AN ENGLISHMAN'S STRANGE WILL.

[New York Sun.]
Much interest was aroused recently by the publication of the will of Col. Pilkington, an Englishman of large estates. He devised his landed estate to his sons on condition that they and their successors should not permit any public house or establishment of any kind for the sale of intoxicating liquor to be built or carried on upon it during the lives of any descendants of Queen Victoria living now and 21 years thereafter.

Many people thought that this ardent teetotaler was eccentric in the form of time limit he instituted. It was even suggested that he might have invigorated his will. But as a matter of fact the somewhat cumbersome phrase "during the lives of any descendants of Queen Victoria now living and 21 years thereafter" is almost common form.

The English law does not allow the dead hand to retain its grip on property in perpetuity. The estate of a deceased property may leave it as he pleases at his death, and direct it to be employed in almost any way, however fanciful. But he may not wither it into conditions in perpetuity. Any restriction he may place upon the "uses and disposition of his land" is void unless it comes to an end after the life of some person living at the testator's death, with the addition of 21 years after that person dies.

Now the living descendants of Queen Victoria are legion. Many of them are babes, of whom some will surely live some fourscore years. They are convenient lives to select, as their careers are public property, and the dates of their birth and death easily to be ascertained.

SURE, MOTHER KNOWS.

[Los Angeles Express.]
Nobody knows of the holes to mend.
Nobody knows of the buttons lost.
Nobody knows of the babies to tend.
Nobody knows what the groceries cost.
Nobody knows of the socks to darn.
Nobody knows of the patching done.
Nobody knows—here we'll end this yarn—
Nobody knows, but mother.

THE VATICAN.

[New York Sun.]
The Vatican is wholly the palace of the Pope, and he naturally has access to all its parts should he wish. The palace covers about 132 acres, of which six acres are occupied by the twenty courts. There are about 1,000 halls, chapels and apartments. The account of 11,000 apartments is a grandiose fable. Since the Italian occupation of Rome, the Vatican, the Lateran and the villa of Castel Gandolfo enjoy extra territorial rights as the surviving remnant of the States of the Church. The Vatican has been the permanent seat of the Papacy since the healing of the schism of Avignon.



A Sterling Attraction.

Since the theatrical season opened, Manager George S. McLeish, of the Grand Opera House, has given his unequalled indorsement to four shows. They were: "The Rogers Brothers in Panama," "The Gay Musician," Elsie Janis, and "Girls."

The first three came, and were seen, and the indorsement approved. The last of the quartette arrived last evening, and in the opinion of a large audience it was as big a success as any of the preceding attractions. Of this there is no question. "Girls" is as bright, breezy, wholesome, and clever a play as ever was staged here. And there have been a legion of good ones.

The first act shows the apartments of three young ladies, stenographers, for the most part. They were looking for situations, with none too much success. They chat for some minutes and prepare for bed. While so doing a young man bursts into the room, and the young ladies are embarrassed. They all claim to be confirmed man-haters, but somehow show an unwelcome interest in the young man. However, he gets away, and the girls obtain situations the next day. By a freak of circumstance the young man, who is the firm of which the young man is a junior partner, and the most amusing complications ensue. Of course, he is in love with one of the girls, but she is loyal to her vow to be a man-hater, and she repels the advances of the young gentleman. The attentions of the senior partner of the firm, a gay old dog, are directed to her, and she is in a fit of temper most of the time with her admirers. The other young lady succumbs to the wiles of a woman-hater, a clerk in the office, but he holds out manfully.

At last both girls quit, as the attentions showered on them might prove embarrassing, and begin to look for other situations. The young man, however, is pained to see the girls' ancestors to get money. However, the young men come around just in time, and the girls capitulate, and all ends happily.

The play is in Clyde Fitch's best vein. Swift and with a mild satire that was most refreshing, it kept the audience on the qui vive from start to finish. There was not a moment when there was not a laugh. One man counted 543, and that may be exaggerated, but the laughs are obtained legitimately. The dialogue, the real Fitchian dialogue, is extremely clever at all times, and in the hands of a capable company is bound to produce results.

And it is a last night. Mr. Fitch is a master-hand at sketching women, and in dealing with the stenographer class, as he did last evening, he hit the dear girls off admirably. And they're not a bad class, after all.

The company is one of the best; in fact, there are few companies on the road that are its equal. The leading male role, that of the junior partner in the law firm, a young man with a fine dash of devilry in his composition, was taken by Charles Cherry. This man is an actor of great possibilities. He has the appearance, the voice and the temperament. His style is convincing, and in his part last night won instant favor. He has a future.

Miss Florence Gordon as Miss Pamela Gordon, secretary and stenographer, a young woman full of business and with no time for the sentimentalities, was immensely appreciated. She was the part to the life. There is no higher praise than that.

Miss Ruth Maycliffe was hardly a whit less enjoyable in her role than Miss Reed. As a sweet, wholesome, sentimental little miss, she was worth the price of admission. Her acting was excellent. And the men in the house were talking about this little girl when they got home, which caused some discussions in the family, it is said.

The other roles, in the hands of capable people as Amy Appleton, Herbert Standing, John Cumberland, Zelda Sears and others, could not help but be well taken.

The company will play a return engagement here during the season, and there will be nothing short of a bumper house.

John Griffith.

Considerable interest is manifest, especially in social circles in the approaching engagement at the Grand of Mr. John Griffith, who will appear tomorrow in the elaborate revival of Shakespeare's love tragedy, "Othello," at the matinee, and Goethe's "Faust" in the evening.

The version of "Othello" presented by Mr. Griffith is that used by Edwin Booth, with whom he was associated many years, and closely followed the text of Charles Knight's standard edition, which is based on the folio of 1822. It will be found by the student of Shakespeare to differ somewhat from other stage copies of the piece; to present certain novel features of treatment which are thought to be improvements; and to be a full, adequate, correct and satisfying presentation of Shakespeare's magnificent work.

Thomas Jefferson.

Thomas Jefferson's masterly portrayal of "Rip Van Winkle" was seen at the Grand on Thanksgiving Day, and will present the play in a manner said to be more elaborate than ever given before. Thomas Jefferson has already established himself a favorite with theatre-goers of this city, who now look upon him as an artist of rare ability and well worthy of the name he bears, Jefferson, a name which has stood for all that is best in theatricals for five generations. He is happily endorsed by nature to succeed his great ancestor. He gives a splendidly sustained characterization, which possesses certain elements of strength and power that belong to the Jefferson individuality alone.

Star Theatre.

Mr. Swinick, manager of the Star Theatre, has at an enormous expense, secured for next week, the great vaudeville feature entitled The American Choir Girl. This is not a moving picture, but a beautiful stage setting.

Saturday's Specials

At Chapman's Popular Store

The bright star of economy points to unusual values. Thrifty people who study ways and means to the judicious expenditure of money will find in this store big measure in quality and value. Make sure of the bargains advertised specially for Saturday by shopping early.

Line Up the Boys for This Clothing Bargain Tomorrow

Boys' 2-piece Suits, good strong tweeds for winter wear; nicely made and well-lined. Sizes 6 to 12 years. Worth up to \$4.00. Saturday \$2.95

Men's Furnishings

Men's Plain-Knit Undershirts and Drawers. A table of odd sizes. Special Saturday 39c

Men's Wool-Lined Mocha Gloves. All sizes. Special 75c

Men's and Boys' Black Wool Gloves, worth 50c. Saturday, special 39c

Men's All-Wool Socks, assorted greys. Worth 35c. Saturday, special 25c

Ladies' Coat News

Important winter coat news is contained in these specials for Saturday's selling. The savings are big. Don't miss them if you want a coat.

25 only Ladies' Touring Coats, full and semi-fitting styles. Striking looking models. Both medium and dark colors. Worth \$12.50. Special, reduced to... \$8.50

Ladies' Long Beaver Coats in black, navy and brown; full box and semi-fitting backs; fancy sleeves and velvet collars. Marked specially, at \$7.45

MISSSES' TWEED COATS, dark and medium effects; full back; nicely trimmed with straps. Odd sizes of our regular \$6.00 and \$7.50 lines. Special \$3.45

CHILDREN'S COATS—A table of little girls' Tweed Coats, double-breasted styles, 27 to 33 inches long. Regular \$3.50 to \$4.50. Saturday \$1.95

Hearth Rugs, Saturday, 98c

Saturday morning from 9 to 12 o'clock, full-size Hearth Rugs, including Tapestries, Velvets and Smyrnas. Worth \$1.50 to \$2.50. Special 98c

J. H. CHAPMAN & CO., 126, 128, 128½ Dundas St.

with brilliant electrical effects, and is without exception the highest class feature ever placed in the Star Theatre. It is something everybody should see. Mr. Swinick feels confident that his patrons will appreciate his efforts to introduce the best possible attractions that can be obtained, regardless of cost. Prof. Stevens' orchestra in attendance.

RUMORS OF WAR RISE ONCE MORE

Report in Serbia and Austria Are Making Preparations for Conflict.

London, Nov. 5.—The Balkan situation has taken on an alarming aspect in the last day or two, owing to renewed rumors that hostilities are imminent between Serbia and Austria-Hungary. The Austrian troops are said to have been intruding on the Serbian frontier, while Serbia has been making hasty preparations for war and the removal of the seat of government from Belgrade to a less exposed city.

It is difficult to ascertain the truth of these reports, which are believed to be greatly exaggerated, though doubtless both countries are preparing for possibilities. At the Serbian legation it is asserted that the rumors are unfounded and that Serbia is maintaining a correct attitude pending the proposed international congress.

A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Belgrade reports that the heights around the town are occupied by 16,000 troops, and that the bulletin in the National Bank will be removed to Kragjevat, together with the general staff of the army and the bulk of the war material.

Despite these military measures, says the Mail's correspondence, all danger of immediate hostilities seems past. The national assembly sat for two days in secret session and as a result of its deliberations there was an immediate relaxation in the tension.

BRYAN WILL NOT QUIT POLITICS

"Could Not Get Out if I Wanted To," His Remark When Questioned.

Lincoln, Neb., Nov. 4. — "I'd rather have Lincoln go for father than all the rest of the country put together." Those are the words Bryan Leavitt's sentiments as expressed after a careful scanning of the election returns, and in fact those of the whole Bryan family.

"Father slept like a baby last night," was Mrs. Leavitt's report of the way the candidate took his defeat. Mr. Bryan told the newspapermen that he would rest at home for a few days and was not prepared to say what his plans contemplate beyond that. He declared, however, that his failure to be elected would make no difference as to the work he has been engaged in.

"Holding office has been an incident and not an object with me," he stated. "I had definite plans outlined before I ever went to congress, and I have adhered to them at all times since. I could not get out of politics if I wanted to. I have been in politics as much when

SPECIALS!

For The Next Ten Days

One Buffett, ¼-cut oak, 20x48, bevelled British mirror, swelled front, one lined drawer. Regular price, \$50, for \$35.00

One combination Sideboard, ¼-cut oak. Good value at \$50. Price for the next ten days, only \$38.00

One Buffett, royal oak. Regular price, \$26, for \$20.00

One Buffett, royal oak. Regular price, \$23, for \$16.00

One only Extension Table, ¼-cut oak, 54 inches wide. Extra heavy table. Regular price, \$45.00. For ten days, only \$30.00

One only Extension Table, ¼-cut oak, pedestal. Good value at \$40.00, for \$28.00

One only Leather Couch, tufted. Good value at \$35.00, for \$25.00

One only Leather Couch, tufted. Good value at \$40.00, for \$28.00

One Spanish Leather Couch, early English. Regular \$35.00, for \$27.00

The above prices are good for ten days only. Goods stored till Christmas without extra charges.

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GRAY'S Syrup of Red Spruce Gum

Used over 40 years as a Specific for Coughs, Colds, etc.

Never Neglect A Cough

Besides the actual distress you are suffering from a cough, there is always the danger of it developing into something serious. Every case of Consumption started with "just a cough." If that simple cough had been cured, there would have been no consumption. Cure your cough NOW with Gray's Syrup. 25c and 50c a bottle. At all drug stores.

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not a candidate as when I was and as much when holding no office as when I was." A number of telegrams from personal and political friends all over the country have reached Mr. Bryan. Some express condolence in defeat, while others felicitate him on the result in Nebraska. No word from Chairman Mack had reached Mr. Bryan up till evening.

Thanksgiving Rates. For Thanksgiving the Canadian Pacific will sell return tickets at single fare, good going Nov. 6, 7, 8 and 9. Good returning up to and including Nov. 10. City ticket office will be open Saturday evening. Call for tickets and full information, 161 Dundas street, corner Richmond.

