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LONDON, FRIDAY, JAN. 8, 1909.

"OLD-FASHIONED" SPELLING.

The Globe has been interviewing Toronto businessmen on spelling reform. There is something ludicrous in the utterance of Mr. W. R. Brock, ex-Mr. P., as follows:

"I am old-fashioned," said Mr. W. R. Brock, of the W. R. Brock Company, "and I stick to the old style and the 'u.' I was taught to spell such words as 'favor,' 'harbor,' 'honour,' with the 'u,' and I have heard no good reasons advanced why I should make a change. Let us not forget the good old Latin and Greek roots. I have yet to learn what is to be gained by leaving out the 'u,' either in regard to sound and expression or to the saving of time. Mr. Brock is evidently a little rusty in etymology. The good old Latin roots of the words which he spells 'favor' and 'honour' are 'favor' and 'honore'—precisely the same as the up-to-date English spelling. The word 'harbor' is not derived from the Latin at all, but is of Saxon origin. The old English spelling of it was 'harbour.' 'Honour' and 'favour' got their 'u' through the French, and 'harbour' picked up the same letter during the period when the English language was in a state of chaos and every man spelt it according to the dictates of his own conscience. Mr. Brock's 'old-fashioned' spelling is not even old, compared with the age of the words he mentions.

The ruling of the Ontario education department in favor of the 'u' termination has neither philology, simplicity nor common sense to commend it. It is supported merely by prejudice, as illustrated in the attitude of Mr. Brock.

THE MINIMUM WAGE.

The present British Government has moved far from the Liberal creed of 50 years ago, when the rigid doctrine of the Manchester school held almost undisputed sway. The iron law of wages, the theory that the remuneration of labor is fixed by supply and demand, and that any permanent improvement in the condition of the laboring classes would be prevented by the increase of their numbers, which would be stimulated by prosperity, has given place to a more humane and hopeful conception. It is no longer recognized in legislation, and even the political economists have discarded it. It is now admitted that the law of supply and demand is not as inevitable as a law of nature, and that competition should be controlled, like floods, or electricity, or other great natural forces.

An illustration of the change of thought in the sphere of economics is the growth of the idea of the minimum or living wage. In the name of humanity and national efficiency, it denies the right of any employer to use up workpeople like over-driven, under-fed and ill-bedded horses. The other day a deputation, headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and composed of representatives of all parties, waited upon Premier Asquith to protest against the sweating system, and to ask for the appointment of a wage board to fix minimum wages in the sweated trades. Mr. Asquith told the deputation, that subject to certain precautions, the Government was entirely in sympathy with their objects, and that so far as he himself was concerned he was willing to establish wage boards, as the only way the problem could be attacked to insure satisfactory results. He expressed the hope that it might be possible to devise machinery of that sort, prompt and effective in its work, with the minimum of friction and the maximum of consideration to all concerned.

Already it has been shown in the organized trades by the reciprocal interaction of employers and employed that the fixing of a minimum wage is not a difficult matter. The Postmaster-General of Great Britain has taken steps in the same direction by inserting in some postoffice contracts, clauses providing for a specified wage, and any payment below that is to be deemed a breach of the fair-wages clause of the contract. This reform is similar to that adopted by the Canadian postal department ten years ago.

The Government's sincere desire, Mr. Asquith told the deputation, was to devise some simple method of dealing with the subject. To the objection that the establishment of a wage board might lead to evasion—such, for instance, as that the giving out of work should be called a sale of raw material, and the handing it back by the employee should be called a sale of finished product—Mr. Asquith said, he thought the courts would be strong enough to deal with that sort of thing. "If," said the Premier, "the Government brings any legislation in it must proceed cautiously, considerably, and with an all-round view of the delicacy

of the problems with which it has to deal."

It looks as though the principle of the minimum wage will be universally accepted within the next 50 years. To raise the level of wages does not imply a corresponding increase in the price of all commodities in these days when machinery is constantly tending to cheapen the cost of production.

THE HINDUS IN CANADA.

If the Dominion Government follows the advice of the governor of British Honduras, Col. Swayne, who has been on a mission to Vancouver in connection with the Hindu problem on the Pacific coast, the Sikhs and others who are still there will be left alone. In his opinion any attempt to deport them would almost certainly lead to trouble.

The Hindus are as much citizens of the British Empire as are Canadians. Of course, if swarms of them were to descend upon British Columbia there would be cause for protest and resistance, but immigration from India has never been very large, and is not likely to increase. It must be remembered, too, that many of the East Indians now in British Columbia are Sikhs who have rendered valuable service to the Empire, and, as Col. Swayne points out, are authorized to cover their breasts with medals in attestation of the fact. The Canadian Premier risked popular displeasure in the Pacific province on the eve of a general election, in the performance of what was clearly his duty to the British Empire. He has done everything that statesmanship can do to remove any legitimate grievance of British Columbia. Mr. King was sent to England to solicit the co-operation of the Imperial Government in preventing Hindu immigration to Canada. He met with encouragement, and it is probable that the influx of these Orientals, which is now scarcely noticeable, will entirely cease.

Would the spelling fogies write it "labourious" or "vigourous"?

The alienists in the Haina cave have coined a new phrase, "impulsive insanity." It will be classified as "brainstorm," "cerebral explosion," and other euphemisms for murder which were given a vogue by the Thaw trial.

The Ontario Government will appoint an inspector of licensed premises and has issued another order that licensees must "keep hotel." Evidently the license department has not accomplished such wonders in the past four years as has been advertised, but better late than never.

A number of Conservative newspapers are sneering at the Lemieux act for want of other topics. The Lemieux act has been the means of settling nearly 50 labor disputes, involving thousands of men, and the possible loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars. If it has done that and nothing else, it has justified itself. The attacks upon it are sorry exhibitions of peanut partisanship.

THE WASTES OF PEACE.

[New York Times.] While the loss of life in the earthquake is inexact by thousands of lives, precision in monetary loss is unimportant as well as inexact. One on the spot has hazarded the guess that the loss is a million dollars, say \$200,000,000. Although that is a fairly large figure, meaningly \$1,000 a family. It is right, Nova Scotia should be well up among the people of Canada who are growing rich.

UNCONDITIONAL.

[Buffalo Express.] To the credit of Mr. Carnegie let it be recorded that he gave \$10,000 for the relief of the earthquake sufferers without providing that they must build a library with the money.

HOW IT SEEMED.

[St. Louis Times.] Barber—Razor all right, sir? Customer—My dear man, if you hadn't mentioned it I'd never have known there was a razor on my face. Barber—Thank you. Customer—I thought you were using a file.

RUSSIA'S ANTI-KISSING LAW.

[Ladies' Pictorial.] Russia is ruled by rigorous laws. The irony and humor of some of them come home to the foreign onlooker, while of course the Russians feel only the whip hand. The latest victim of an anti-kissing law in public law is a famous and all too impetuous Russian actress, Mlle. Tropoff, who actually had the temerity to kiss her mother in a tramcar. One would have thought even a magis-

trate or judge, or whoever administered cases of law-breaking of that kind in Russia, would be melted by the beautiful picture of the reunion of a mother and daughter celebrated by a chaste salute, but the Russians understand no jokes; the fine of 10 roubles (\$25) for a kiss in public conveyances, such as railways and tramcars, was vigorously enforced. A kiss in the street is penalized to the extent of 7 roubles (\$17.50), and a declaration of love made by postcard if anybody is brazen faced enough to do such a thing, is punished to the extent of 5 roubles (\$12.50). One would like to know if insult is heaped on injury and the fair recipient mulcted in damages if the declaration is sent without any address to identify the sender.

THE GOSSIPERS.

[Peter McArthur.] In his hour of pain and shame, In his prison house of flame, When revenge the devil sought Little tongues of fire he wrought, Tongues to lie and twist and turn, Tongues to scorch and sear and burn, Tongues to slay the high and holy, Tongues to slay the poor and lowly; Then to earth the tongues he sent, And to work his fell intent; To whisper, hint and smirch and sneer, To rub the world with fear; Evil with gossip that can kill, Evilmore to work his will.

THE PITY OF IT.

[Chicago Record-Herald.] Most of the women who know best how to manage husbands don't know how to get them.

HER WAY.

[Chicago Record-Herald.] "Mrs. Ka Flippe is down with double pneumonia." "That woman always did go to extremes in everything."

A MEAN MAN.

[Brentford Express.] The Duke of Westminster, one of England's richest men, has decided not to bring cheer to certain aged servants who have drawn pensions of from \$1 to \$1.50 per week from the estate which he controls. As it is now possible for these pensioners to draw a Government pension of \$1.25 per week, he sends Christmas greetings and the announcement that the pension on his estate will now be withdrawn. Considering that the duke inherited from his grandfather an estate valued at \$30,000,000, he may easily lay claim to being the meanest man in the British Empire.

SNOW.

[Archibald Lampman.] White are the far-off plains, and white The fading forests grow; The wind dies, and the height And denser still the snow. A gathering weight on roof and tree, Falls down scarce audibly.

The road before me smooths and fills, And all about The fence and the hill Are blotted slowly out; The naked trees loom spectrally Into the dim white sky.

The meadows and far-sheeted streams Lie still without a sound; Like some soft minister of dreams The snowfall hoods me round; In wood and water, earth and air, A silence everywhere.

Save when at lonely intervals Some farmer's sleigh urged on, With rattling runners and sharp bells, Swings by me and is gone; Or from the empty waste I hear A sound remote and clear;

The barking of a dog or call To cattle, sharply pealed, Borne echoing from some wayside stall Or barnyard far afield; Then all is silent, and the snow Falls settling soft and slow.

The evening deepens, and the grey Folds closer earth and sky; The world seems shrouded far away; Its noises sleep, and I, As secret as you buried stream, Pied dumbly on, and dream.

AMERICA'S WEALTHY CHURCH.

[Montreal Gazette.] The corporation of Trinity Church, New York, has issued a statement showing that it has an income of \$750,000 a year. It spends the money in the maintenance of ten churches and in other religious work. It also makes loans without interest to other churches. The church came into possession of New York real estate, whose development and increase in value made it worth many millions. Trinity has been in the list of rich institutions which it was the fashion to criticize, but the people have been told what it does with these funds. These are the days when the rich men to place their money in the hands of the church, but who is not.

WHY MEDICINE HAT IS MAD.

[Calgary Alberta.] Medicine Hat is very much vexed because some senseless United States physician, in a misguided, rambling, irresponsible fashion, just at Medicine Hat as the place where all the cold winds come from. We know that the Hat has as good a winter climate as Calgary, which is as good as there is, and some say even a shade better, which is impossible. Hat should commission John T. Hall to pick out a few lasty, hitting, straight-shooting Mad Hatters and make a call upon some of the alleged funny and mad people of this town. That would be good publicity business.

SPLENDID RESCUE WORK BY BRITISH.

Sailors of Fleet Acclaimed by Survivors of the Earthquake.

Naples, Jan. 8.—Dispatches received here state that severe earthquake shocks occurred at Monteleone and Palmi last evening. The ruins of the houses were shaken down and the people were thrown into a panic.

Villa San Giovanni, Jan. 8.—Via Regio.—The first train crawled into Villa San Giovanni shortly before noon today, re-establishing the link with the outside world for the distracted people who have for the past ten days been in complete isolation. British ships, however, were here yesterday, and put ashore enormous stores of food, and distributed to the sufferers. Many persons were killed at this place, and practically all the houses were overthrown, and the survivors have suffered greatly because of lack of shelter from the cold and rains, and lack of food.

The Anglo-American Club of Rome is represented by a small party of rescuers, camped in the vicinity of Villa San Giovanni, where they have erected a camp hospital.

Several ships have passed along the coast, leaving supplies, and retaining only sufficient to reach the nearest port, where further supplies are to be secured. Before his departure yesterday the British admiral landed and was frantically acclaimed by the survivors, who presented a pitiful appearance.

WESTERVELT IS NEW CHAIRMAN

Board of Education Honors a Painstaking and Efficient Trustee.

ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

Chairman Refers to the Fact That This Year's Board Has to Pay Overdraft for 1908.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Chairman—J. W. Westervelt.
No. 1 Committee—G. N. Weekes, chairman, and Trustees Teasdale, Dr. Muggan and Rev. D. S. Hamilton.

No. 2 Committee—W. W. Gammage, chairman, and Trustees Dr. M. R. Graham, W. T. Strong, Dr. Wyckoff and J. M. Gunn.

Audit Committee—J. M. Gunn, chairman, and Trustees Hamilton, Westervelt, Weekes, and Gammage.

Treasurer—City Treasurer Jas. S. Bell.
Solicitor—Mr. T. G. Meredith, K. C.

Sergeant-at-Arms—Harry Merritt.
Representative on the Library Board—Rev. Dr. Ross.

Representatives to the Western Fair Board—Chairman Westervelt and Trustee C. M. R. Graham.

At the inaugural meeting of the board of education held last evening, Mr. J. W. Westervelt was selected as chairman of the board. The choice was unanimous.

When the board was called to order by Secretary McElheran, Trustee Weekes proposed the name of Mr. Westervelt. He remarked that he had had the honor a year ago of proposing Mr. Westervelt's name, but he was not selected. Mr. Graham being the choice. As predicted, Mr. Graham made an excellent chairman. There was no doubt that Mr. Westervelt would do honor to the position. He had had a great deal of experience on the board and had always shown himself alive to the educational interests of the city.

As there were no other nominations, Trustee Westervelt was declared elected and was escorted to the chair by his nominees.

The New Chairman.

In accepting the position as chairman of the board, Trustee Westervelt thanked the board for the honor done him, and declared that in accepting it he realized fully the increased responsibility, but hoped that with the assistance and co-operation of the members of the board the year might be one of great good, educationally, at least, to the citizens of London.

The chairman referred to the circular issued by the department of education a year ago, stating that many complaints had reached the department that the education in the second-ary schools was sadly deficient in the essentials of a practical education. Spelling, penmanship, reading, letter-writing, and, in the elementary operations of arithmetic, lacking in speed and accuracy. Mr. Westervelt declared that in visiting the London schools, he had no hesitation in saying that the work of the London schools was an exception to that mentioned in the circular. He declared that the board should not be satisfied with past achievements, but should strive to secure a higher efficiency, if possible.

Visit to Buffalo.

Mr. Westervelt spoke of the visit of the teachers to the Buffalo schools, and declared that it was of benefit to the teachers who were privileged to attend, and also to the few of the board who made the trip. He thought a wider acquaintance with educational matters in other cities would be of much benefit to the members of the board.

Manual Training.

He advocated manual training. "If we are to meet the proud position of being in the very front rank of Canadian cities in educational matters, we cannot any longer delay the introduction of manual training in some of our schools," he said.

In view of the fact that the Government apportions a fixed amount of \$350 upon the establishment of a manual training room, provides 20 per cent for equipment each year for five years, and allows 10 per cent towards teachers' salaries, while actually engaged in teaching the subject, should be sufficient inducement for this board to take up the matter and install a manual training plant in one or more centres of the city.

Mr. Westervelt declared that the basements of several schools—Simcoe street, St. George's, Aberdeen, and others—could be utilized for such a purpose. Principal McRoberts had taken a course in manual training and was in a position to teach the work, he stated.

The chairman advocated improving the lighting, seating, heating and ventilation of a number of the schools. Some work had been done along these lines last year, and it should be carried on further. He spoke of many changes he had in contemplation.

Larger Playgrounds.

The enlargement of the playgrounds of several schools, such as those at St. George's school, Empress avenue and Lorne avenue, was of decided advantage to those schools, and should be continued to other schools. He advocated the opening of the grounds after school hours, so that the children of the neighborhood might use them.

Mr. Westervelt also advocated telephones in the schools, especially in the larger schools. As for enlarging some of the schools, this matter must also

Chapman's Annual Mid-Winter Clearing of Ladies' Coats

We have inaugurated our annual mid-winter clearance of Ladies' Coats. This is one of the most important sale events of the whole six months, and is planned to completely rid us of all winter garments preparatory to stock-taking. Prices are deeply reduced all along the line—the savings averaging one-half.

Hundreds of wise women wait for this reduction sale, knowing that a new Coat or Wrap can be bought at astonishingly low cost.

Ladies' Coats at Half Price

LOT ONE—Ladies' Winter Coats of fine quality satin Broadcloth, 50 and 52 inches long, in tight and semi-fitting styles; beautifully trimmed, in a number of styles. Choice of navy, green and brown shades. Former price, \$18.00; clearance sale price **\$9.00**

LOT TWO—Ladies' Winter Coats of handsome quality imported Worsteds, in plain-tailored and richly-trimmed styles; some with braid and others embellished with fancy buttons. Double-breasted, semi-fitting styles. All imported models. Former price, \$16.00. Clearance sale price **\$8.00**

LOT THREE—Women's and Misses' Coats, of dark and medium fancy imported Tweeds. Three-quarter length models, in semi-fitting and loose full box back styles. Single and double-breasted; mannish and stylish garments. Former prices, \$9, \$10.00 and \$12.00. Clearance sale price **\$4.50**

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

An Overdraft for 1908.

He pointed out also that the financial part of the board's business was becoming a very serious matter. While he could not state definitely the result of last year's business he was confident that there would be a considerable overdraft. The charges on the debt-enture issue, amounting to about \$2,000, had not been provided for, and there was also an item of \$2,500 for lavatories at Princess avenue school, not provided for in the estimates. There was no doubt that there would be a considerable overdraft to be carried by this year's board, and he hoped that ample provision would be made in the estimates for it.

In conclusion, he thanked them for their support, and asked that the deliberations of the year be characterized by goodwill and fair play.

Mr. Bell is Treasurer.

Trustees Teasdale, Weekes and Hamilton were appointed the nominating committee, and after some deliberation the following committees were drafted: No. 1—Trustees Weekes, Teasdale, Hamilton and Muggan.

No. 2—Trustees Gammage, Graham, Strong, Wyckoff and Gunn.

The committee met and Mr. Weekes was selected as chairman of No. 1 and Trustee Gammage of No. 2.

The audit committee was then appointed, with Mr. John M. Gunn as chairman, and Trustees Hamilton, Weekes, Westervelt and Gammage as the committee.

Owing to the death of the late Mr. John Pope, it was necessary to appoint a new treasurer, and Mr. James S. Bell, the present city treasurer, was given the position. Mr. T. G. Meredith, K. C., was again chosen solicitor, and Mr. Harry Merritt was selected again as sergeant-at-arms.

Secretary W. O. Carson, of the Public Library board, notified the trustees that the term of Mr. E. Manigault had expired.

Trustees Gammage and Hamilton moved that Rev. Dr. Ross be appointed. Trustees Graham and Teasdale nominated Mr. E. Manigault, but when the vote was put Dr. Ross was selected by a vote of 6 to 3.

A Smallpox Case.

The secretary read a letter from Mr. W. D. Mills, complaining that his son had contracted smallpox from a student at the Collegiate Institute whose physician had diagnosed the case as chickenpox, when in reality it was smallpox, and he asked that an investigation be held, as he had been put to a lot of expense and inconvenience on account of the outbreak of the disease.

Trustee Graham moved that the communication be filed. The outbreak was to be deplored, but there had been no carelessness nor negligence on the part of either the board, nor any of the officials, he said. Every precaution was taken to prevent a spread of the disease, and as Trustee Teasdale seconded the motion, stating that there was no evidence that there had been any neglect on the part of any one in the matter, and it was very difficult to state just where the boy contracted the disease, Dr. Muggan supported the motion, and it carried without a dissenting voice.

Reception and Reunion.

Trustee Graham suggested that a reception and reunion of the board members and teachers of both the public schools and Collegiate Institute be held at the end of the month, at the Collegiate. The expense would not be more than \$10, and he thought it would be a good idea to have something of that nature.

Other Matters.

Mr. E. E. Gibbs, principal of the Chesley avenue school, asked for a substantial grant towards a piano. No. 1.

Trustee Graham moved also that No. 2 committee be empowered to purchase electrical fixtures for Lorne avenue school. It carried.

Principal McCutcheon reported that there were 533 on the roll at the Collegiate for November, with an average

MONEY SAVING

Begin the New Year right. "It is not what you make, but what you save." And you can save more than half when you buy your goods at the

BANKRUPT SALES

100 Dundas St. Opp. City Hotel

Inspector Edwards' Report.

Inspector Edwards reported that all the departments and rooms in the public schools were opened on the 4th inst., and with but three teachers absent, from illness.

There are in operation at present, 124 rooms, in which grades I. to VIII. are taught, and 18 kindergarten classes, making a total of 142 classes.

All the rooms were opened in Lorne avenue school on Monday morning, with a good attendance. He suggested that a formal opening be arranged.

The total enrolment in the public schools for December was 5,820, while the average attendance was 4,888, showing a decrease of 119 in enrolment and 94 in attendance, the causes for which were that Lorne avenue was not fully opened, and the enforcement of the regulation respecting vaccination.

The domestic science department of the Collegiate will be opened on Friday, Jan. 15 by a luncheon to the board at 12:15 o'clock.

Those present were Chairman Westervelt, Trustees Graham, Gammage, Gunn, Wyckoff, Teasdale, Hamilton, Strong, Muggan, Weekes, Inspector Edwards, Principal McCutcheon and Secretary McElheran.



The Partello Stook Company.

One of the strongest repertoire company's travelling, both from a scenic and acting standpoint, is the Partello Stook Company, which comes to the Grand for a week's engagement, beginning Monday evening next. The company is headed by that clever little comedienne, Miss Alice Kennedy, and her support this season is said to be much stronger than that of last season. The plays to be presented during the company's engagement in London

will be selected from the company's repertoire, which includes the following well-known successes: "The College Girl," "A Jealous Wife," "Lena Rivers," "The Girl of Eagle Ranch," "The Devil," "When the Harvest Days are Over," "Under Two Flags," "The Opening play on Monday night will be that great success, 'The College Girl'."

"The Gay Musician."

There was a good house at the Grand last evening when "The Gay Musician" played a return engagement. As on its former appearance here, the comic opera pleased immensely, with its dainty music and excellent cast.

There is no need of going into the details of the production, as it is sufficiently well known to Londoners. One is safe in saying that there are few musical shows that could come back within so short a time after its first visit and draw a capacity house.

The cast, practically the same as its previous visit, is very strong—one of the very best that ever played here. It is headed by that charming little lady, Miss Amelia Stone, who sang and laughed her way into the hearts of Londoners. She is not only a good singer, but an actress as well. Bubbly with good humor, she is as good as a tonic. Miss Stone can come often, and there will be always a crowd to see and hear her.

The other roles are in good hands. Miss Carroll McComas, as the soprano, is a charming little girl, who sings well, dances gracefully, and is generally clever. She's good. Miss Lottie, who scored especially in her song, "The Saucy Sparrow."

Joseph C. Miron, the great basso, with "Princess Chic," the "Chaperones" and other well-known operas, was just as good as ever. There can only be one criticism made of the play, and that Miron is not made enough use of. His voice is just as fine as ever, and with a couple more songs, the opera would be immense.

Templar Sax, the possessor of a glorious voice, was excellent in his role, and again made a dandy score. Harry Short did some eccentric dancing that was praiseworthy.