

of many that he would not, therefore, receive a large vote. The only conclusion to be drawn from his election and from that of Chief Justice Meredith is that the arts graduates will give their suffrages freely to men tried in public life rather than to those who are the exponents or advocates of "policies." To the well-wishers of the University of Toronto this is not without a suggestion of consolation, for the tendency henceforth will be to bring forward prominent public men whose broadmindedness will exercise a minimizing effect on any partizanship that may make its appearance in the Senate. The University is to be congratulated on the election of these gentlemen as inaugurating a new era. A regrettable affair is to be found in the issuing and circulation of "tickets" and unsigned circulars, but a decidedly lower note was struck when, as we are informed, a candidate in one of the sections industriously collected "plumpers" for himself and transmitted them to the Registrar. The re-election of all the seven arts representatives who offered themselves as candidates indicates how conservative, on the whole, the arts electorate is. Of the twelve elected by the arts graduates the only new representatives are Chief Justice Meredith and the Hon. A. R. Dickey, and yet there was no lack of candidates with "advanced" views. The number of the arts graduates who voted was large while the votes polled in law and medicine were, in comparison with the number of graduates in these faculties, few. It would be unfair to conclude from this that the medical and law graduates take little interest in the welfare of the University, but it is undeniable that they know less of its affairs and of its needs than do the arts graduates. The great majority of the members of the legal and medical professions have come in contact with the various universities only in examinations and it is not to be expected that the affection of a medical or law graduate should be very strong. It is to be hoped that the closer connection now existing between the professional schools and Universities may, in the near future, change the mental attitude of the two professions towards the Universities.

Concerning  
Aldermen.

The good people of Toronto are getting the Government they deserve. For years the Aldermen elected to the Council have been of a most shady description. Even in this year take up the list of almost any committee and how few names there are that commend themselves. The test ought to be: Is the candidate a man who would be put on the board of directors of a good loan company, or a bank, or a railway? Instead of that it has been: Is he an Orangeman, or a Knight of Labour, or a S.O.E., or a Mason, or a Past Worthy Grand, or Sir Knight Something? The more of these titles the man united in himself the more sure he was of election. Then when elected his uncles and his cousins and his aunts all had also to be provided for. What is the result? The city is taxed out of existence. Public positions are occupied by unqualified men. The most difficult engineering, legal, and social questions are decided by men who have absolutely no knowledge of what they are discussing. Until we get a better class of men to run for the Council we are helpless. The kind of man we really want is very unwilling to lose his time and neglect his business to serve the public. The notoriety furnished by a certain class of newspapers is also a deterrent. But on the same principle that shareholders of a loan company or bank serve on a board of directors so as to watch their financial interests so must the tax paying classes furnish representatives to the Council to prevent further robbery. They should unite and agree to take turns year by year to guard their property. Until that is done all schemes of reform are valueless.

The School Question  
in England.

The cause of the present crisis in the English elementary school affairs is the passage of the Act known as the Free Education Act which, in doing away with the "school pence," will greatly curtail the funds of the Voluntary Schools. Whilst the Board Schools are maintained by local rates and have in consequence abundance of funds at their disposal, the Voluntary Schools rely, as the name implies, partly on the voluntary subscriptions of liberally disposed individuals. These subscriptions are augmented pro rata by a Government grant, but this grant has been found to be entirely inadequate, and great efforts are now being made to have it increased. The principle of State aid for these schools having already been conceded, it is contended that an extension of the principle is quite legitimate. It is said by the well-informed that the Voluntary Schools can do their work just as well as the Board Schools, that they are cheaper and that they do not cost the local ratepayers a penny. The Board Schools, created by Mr. Forster's Educational Act of 1870, were originally established to supplement the Voluntary Schools, which, owing to the increase of population, were not always equal to the demands made upon them. The authorities of the Church of England made a mistake in not at once frankly recognizing the necessity of the Board School and accepting Mr. Forster's dual scheme with good grace and a determination to make the best of it. Religious education was provided for, but it was to be undenominational; no church formulas were permitted, and as this provision seemed specially directed against the Church Catechism, churchmen of that day set themselves steadfastly against the Board School. Hence the Anglican leaders were erroneously considered to be opposed to the education of children unless under the direction of the Church. Many Anglicans are now taking active interest in the Board Schools and the clergy are frequently to be found on the boards. But the Voluntary Schools are regarded by the Church as absolutely essential, and three schemes have been suggested for the amelioration of the position of these schools. In the plan of the Archbishop, the plan of the Roman Catholic hierarchy, and the plan of Mr. Spottiswoode there may be elements, as *The Times* says, which admit of selection and amalgamation. The Archbishop suggests that the teachers be paid by Imperial funds; the Roman Catholics ask for a share of the rates without the control of the ratepayers. Mr. Spottiswoode suggests two sets of schools, both alike, supported by the rates and controlled by the ratepayers, and to have every form of sectarian teaching given in both sets of schools alike—to provide for Church teaching in Board Schools and for nonconformist teaching in Church schools. These three schemes as they stand are for the purpose of practical politics incompatible, and it has been further suggested that a conference between representative members of the Church of England, the Church of Rome, the Wesleyans, and other Protestant communions, "who still regard dogma as the backbone of religion," and the Jews, be called together with the least possible delay and endeavour to agree in their proposals. It is reported that the leaders of the chief religious communions have been warned by Lord Salisbury and Mr. Balfour that they cannot expect the Ministry to act unless they can agree in advance among themselves on what they want.

"Prudes on the  
Prowl."

We learn from the cable messages that the campaign against certain London music halls, which a year ago attracted world-wide attention under the popular designation of "Prudes on the Prowl," has come to a sudden and ignominious end. It is said that every application for an amusement license was granted without restriction. The much-talked-about Empire