

laughter at the ridiculously funny absurdities said and done. When George Robey, dressed as an old woman, came running on to the stage pursued by the villain, turned and shouted, "Oh, you cow-yard, you!" the Frenchman said that men and women laughed like children—they laughed until they wiped the tears from their eyes. He laughed, too, and enjoyed it as much as they. Many other instances he gave and little incidents he picked out from the performance to prove how mistaken he had been. I have often wondered at his erroneous idea of English people. The reason for it may be that the Englishman adheres more nearly than the Frenchman to the maxim that there is a time and place for everything.

I am afraid that it is time for me to bring this article to a close, but cannot do so without saying that all our real happiness comes from the Source of all Good. We must remember that the over-laden mails, the Christmas hampers, the anxiety that not one shall be forgotten, the family reunions, the overwhelming desire to give happiness, all have their origin in "Him" who "went about doing good." He spent His life doing good. And we? Well, some of us make one big effort because it is the custom, and then forget all about it until the time comes to make another, which is not doing all we might. Better that, however, than to be like old Scrooge and do nothing at all. If there be any Scrooges in British Columbia, may all the ghosts of the Dead Past haunt them until they pour out their wealth upon the needy, and may the Phantom of the lonely Future so affright them that they will call out in their extremity, as their soul is at last being born, for their neglected friends to take them into their hearts. Do I hear you say you would not open your heart to your particular Scrooge? Surely not, especially at this season of the year. The words "peace and goodwill" haunt you at this time as the ghost of the Dead Past haunted Scrooge. The spirit of the words fills your heart, brightens your countenance, permeates the very atmosphere. You would not, you could not, deny your hand, your heart, your home to your Scrooge, whatever his faults may have been, if he would only come.

Spend Christmas Day as you will. Go to church if the bells call you; go to the football if your thoughts be there; go to the theatre or the dance if they attract you; but wherever you go, take the big, broad spirit of the Son of Man with you. Be generous, not necessarily in presents, but always in love and sympathy, in kind thoughts and tender feelings. Eschew pride and selfishness, ill-will and harshness, and enter into the fuller meaning of what the birth of the Christ means. Arise on Christmas morning with that glorious, tingling sensation that tells you something grand has happened; arise, with that happy buoyant spirit that cries out:

"Christians, awake! Salute the happy morn  
On which the Saviour of mankind was born."

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## **The Wayside Philosopher** **Abracadabra**

### **THE PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS.**

With close results in two or three constituencies, so that the real standing of parties cannot be known until after the absentee vote is counted on December 22nd, it is not fitting that any analysis should be indulged in. From present indications the Oliver Government is sustained. Next month this matter will receive due attention.

### **PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS ACT—ABSENTEE BALLOTS.**

One thing may be noted in passing, and that is the proven excellence of the present Provincial Elections Act. The outstanding weakness would appear to be the lack of proper safe guards as to the absentee ballots. In some cases no scrutineers were allowed to the booth where these were polled. After the polls close on election day there is every chance for "switching" the ballots cast. Opponents of the Oliver Government will probably be both surprised and pleased if the counting of the absentee votes in the present election should suggest that there had been no manipulation of these ballots. Such a matter should be placed beyond all possibility of any crookedness affecting honestly voted ballots.

### **CIVIC ELECTIONS.**

And now, ere the Provincial election has sped, come whispers of approaching civic and municipal elections. Vancouver citizens must not allow their civic nominees to be like weaklings to their Provincial nominees. If they do, the results will be unfortunate. We need a change in the person of our Mayor, but no "revision downwards" please.

### **STEADINESS WANTED.**

We are passing through changing times and conditions. Some matters, such as the unemployment question, threaten the peace of mind of a number of our people. These are but superficial and external things. Everywhere matters are slowly settling down into brighter, better channels. Beneath the surface a slowly moving flood makes its way toward proper and inspiring future conditions. Let us be smilingly steadfast, confident in ourselves and in the great directing forces of the universe, and in Him who directs and controls even these.

### **SUGGESTED NEW BOOKS**

Kissing as a Premier (e)'s Art. Hon. John Oliver.  
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