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THE THOUGHTS OF THEOBALD.

THE LABRADOR.

The letters which have appeared, written to draw attention to the labours of religious institutions on Labrador, while being true records of incidents, great, yet not uncommon, in the lives of our clergymen, have come from the writers as the result of a misconception. Dr. Grenfell was misquoted by the Montreal papers, and as he has said that he was not referring to Labrador when speaking of certain conditions thirty years ago, it seems unnecessary, if not unkind, to continue a defence of a position that has not been assailed. There has been no attack on people or religious work on the Labrador. It seems to me that we are allowing a fancied slight to blind our eyes to the good that Dr. Grenfell has been able to do. To read of all the hospital work that we owe to his efforts, we can forgive much that in his enthusiastic endeavours to raise moneys for his work, he may say about bleak Labrador. And perhaps truth is so strange sometimes that it seems exaggeration. Dr. Grenfell wants money for his work and his words may be strong and straight to drag the money from the rich. We don't like our ill-exposed, but are we, on the other hand, prepared to find a cure for them ourselves? Would we have had all these free hospitals and doctors on the Labrador if Dr. Grenfell did not come? Would we? We can criticize Dr. Grenfell as we like, but to my mind we cannot cover up the great work that he has done, and is doing. The more unselfishly a man proposes to act, the more will we scrutinize and criticize his smallest action. So then, let us rejoice that the Labrador has such institutions as Dr. Grenfell

has raised there, and is being cared for better than ever. Let not any feeling lead us to hinder even one sick man from obtaining the comfort of medical treatment. There may be, probably are, faults in the administration of the Grenfell institutions, and in what institutions we do not find them? I do not know Dr. Grenfell to speak to, and I write this simply as an outsider, who judges his work not from the standpoint of his relations with religious denominations, or other business interests on the Labrador, but from the view of all the misery and suffering that he must assuredly have lessened, and all the lives that must have been saved by the medical aid of himself and his assistants.

MUNICIPAL MATTERS.

At the present writing the only contest will be for the position of Mayor. The only Councillors offering are the Commissioners. The latter will do well to emphasize that they come as individuals, not as a body, and I should prefer that each of them should come with a separate manifesto. The Charter, as they state, contains many sections that are debatable. Then it is surely due to the public that each Commissioner should state his sincere opinion on these sections, so that public opinion may have an opportunity of expressing itself concerning these sections. It is not because I consider a man to be a good fellow that I should vote for him. I want his ideas to be good. For the Commissioners to come as a body with the Charter as their platform does not appeal to the community. A plebiscite on the Charter would be a vastly different matter. But when there are errors to correct,

when some changes must be made in the Charter, charges which the Commission evidently anticipated, but did not make themselves, then I submit that the Commissioners are not quite honest with the electorate in coming for election without taking it into their confidence and individually reporting to the public what changes they themselves would like to see made in the Charter. I have heard of more than one minority report and this is certainly the time for such reports to be publicly given. As it appears now, the man who is most popular and widely known will get the most votes, no matter what his views are. Frankly I should prefer a few new Councillors sandwiched in for these two years, so that the necessary changes in the Charter may be accentuated by their election and thus, we may be reasonably sure, such changes will be considered.

VERY CURIOUS.

I was shown documentary evidence the other day which revealed a very curious matter in connection with the petitions which were signed and which asked for the appointment of the Civic Commission. One petition set forth that such Commission should make a report that should be submitted to the people by means of a plebiscite. The other form of petition set forth that such report should be made to the Legislature. Both petitions were alike as to type, printing, etc., and both had been in circulation. I cannot tell if there were any more petitions circulated which were worded as the first I have mentioned, but this fact reveals, I should say, the first intention, which was to submit the Charter to a plebiscite. The withdrawal of this petition, for I presume it was withdrawn, was doubtless made because the report would more easily be put into shape by the Legislature. To some extent I agree with this if the plebiscite meant the absolute adoption or rejection of the New Charter. We need a New Charter, there is no doubt of that, but it is futile to imagine that we can get a perfect document from twelve men even if they have spent ten years at it. And that is why I have advocated publicity in the matter, and why the Citizens' Committee and the Unions which are discussing the Charter, are really the safeguards of the community, even if minor matters only are suggested by them. It is the lack of publicity that has bred distrust of the New Charter. Let us, keep it but let us make sure that necessary changes are made in it. What are they?

SOME CHANGES.

First, the housing problem is not by any means brought to a solution in the Charter. We have to consider first the class of houses which we now wish to replace by better, also the financial position of the men who occupy these dwellings. We find that these men are not able to save the two or three hundred dollars that they require before they can be helped by the scheme in the New Charter. These men must be helped in a very real sense. They must have decent houses, and all that can be expected from them is a reasonable sum each year which they will pay till the houses are fully paid for and they become the owners. The Charter provides for the Council to build all houses, but there are many handy men who can do quite a lot of work on their houses and save the cost of such labour. The root of the housing problem is approached by the abolition of shacks and houses uninhabitable first. Get the occupiers of these in decent houses, and a solution can be found. It is no solution to provide bonuses for those who can put up houses—they will put them up, bonus or no bonus. And the Council has no right to subsidize Building Societies. If there is \$25,000.00 to spend, as the New Charter provides, for rewards for building, let it be spent in putting up houses, or used to pay interest on a borrowed sum to put up so many houses each year. There is no necessity to make this problem an opportunity for money-making for building societies.

DUST, SAND AND SALT.

Our streets are plagued by three evils. Dust, Sand and Salt. There is apparently no overtime spent in trying to "lay" the dust. There are streets which do not see the watering-car for weeks. A motor truck could cov-er the city many times a day, or if the Council's horses are busy, why not contract with some man to supply horses when needed?

The Salt and Sand plague Water St. in the winter months, and I am surprised that the teamsters and cabmen, whom it directly affects, do not press the matter to a settlement. The Salt and Sand placed on the tracks to keep them clear are scattered all over the street by the sweeper-car. They prevent the snow from caking together and while the horses are up to their knees in the mixture, the slides are often scraping along the granite. What hard hauling this makes it is easy to imagine. The truckmen and the cabmen certainly cannot pursue their occupations in the free enjoy-

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Mrs. Alonzo B. Eisner, Billtown, King's county, N.S., writes:—"I was very low with nervous prostration and was about discouraged as I could not sleep nights and was almost crazy with the pain in my head. I had tried many doctors, but seemed to get little benefit from their treatments.

"A friend handed me Dr. Chase's Almanac, so that I might read about the Nerve Food. A single box of this treatment convinced me of its value, for I was better. I cannot tell how many boxes I used, but the results were so highly satisfactory that I cannot praise it too much. My health and strength have been restored so that I can do all my own work, and I recommend the Nerve Food to all who suffer from nervous prostration."
"This is to certify that I am acquainted with Mrs. A. B. Eisner and believe her statement in regard to Dr. Chase's Nerve Food to be true and correct." Rev. Arthur A. Whitman.
Some patience is required in the treatment of nervous prostration, but you will not be using Dr. Chase's Nerve Food long before you begin to find your strength and good cheer returning. You will then be encouraged to continue the use of the food cure until cured. 50 cents a box, all dealers, or Edmansons, Bates & Company, Limited, Toronto.

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