

Attention is directed to an article on the present position of the Woman's Suffrage movement printed in another part of this issue of TRUTH. The article is from the pen of Mrs. S. A. Curzon, President of the Woman's Suffrage Association of this Province, a lady well informed on the subject of which she writes. Whatever views readers may entertain in regard to the propriety of female suffrage, all are interested in knowing just what is being accomplished by those advocating the movement. The present article will be followed by others in regard to the present position of the movement in the United States and elsewhere. It will be seen that a good deal of actual progress has been made during the past few years in giving women the full rights of citizenship.

It will be remembered that prohibition prevails in the North West Territory except as regards permits that may be given to individuals to take in some liquor, which is principally for beer only. An intelligent correspondent of *The Week*, writing from Calgary, thus refers to the state of things there in connection with the law as it now stands:—"Nowhere in Canada can you find a saloon or a bar-room without the liquid stock-in-trade. The conventional bar-room is here, so is the bar-keeper. Beer is the most intoxicating beverage. Not a great deal of this is sold, considering the embargo that is laid upon the more exciting alcohols. The loungers sit around the bar-rooms, smoke cigars, and talk about bears and the Rockies. No one is seen intoxicated on the street, though a person suspected of having too much "permit," as it is put here, is met at odd times. It is an orderly community. Nothing like it east or west, a civilization peculiar to itself, and quite original too. It will pass away, no doubt, with the advance of "civilization," but it will be regretted by those who have enjoyed a life where temperance, if not practised from choice, has, at all events, been observed from necessity."

Toronto will soon be well supplied with swimming places, and it is well that this is so. Bathing in the warm summer days ought not to be a luxury for the rich only as it is in too many localities. The health and happiness of men, and women too, often depends much on their body cleanliness, and many of them—none but the well-to-do—have bathing facilities in their own homes. Added to the Wiman baths at the east end of the Island, and the free baths in the harbor, next the city, there are to be new bath houses erected at the west end of the Island, in the immediate vicinity of Hanlan's hotel. A large two story building will be erected there at once, so as to be utilized as soon as the weather becomes warm enough to make swimming desirable. The people are to be congratulated on these additional luxuries.

Degrading the Press.

Surely the leading party journals in this city are doing all that lies in their power to bring party journalism into contempt, and themselves into disgrace. There can scarcely be lower depths than

they have already attained. The former insinuations of both the leading papers here have been something really disgraceful, but probably nothing lower and meaner has appeared than in connection with the late case of dynamite finding at the Parliament buildings. In connection with the announcement of the discovery of the dynamite cartridges in the walls of the building the *Globe* gave an implied intimation that the Tories connected with the Conspiracy Case probably had a hand in it. Stress is laid on the fact that one of the cartridges was found immediately under the apartments of the Speaker, and the other under the safe containing important documents both of which could have been destroyed had the case gone on at the Assizes! What intelligent man in Toronto entertains for one moment the idea that the defendants in the Conspiracy Case would have been parties to getting rid of witnesses and documents in that murderous and savage way?

The *Mail*, not to be outdone by its rival, even in mean insinuations, comes out the next morning with two or three articles in which it is boldly intimated that the whole thing was the work of the present Ontario Government, or of some parties under the immediate control and direction of the Ministers. It says that "the prevailing opinion among those who profess to know a thing or two is that the cartridges were placed where they were found under the instructions of the government." It insinuates that the boy who made the discovery was probably inspired to do so, and that the *Globe* reporter was there under instructions at the time, and probably several others about the premises would not have been there then but for the very purpose of making the most out of all the pretended discovery." In a leading editorial article on the same subject it plainly says that Mr. Mowat and his colleagues "are not men above a little dabbling in ineffectual dynamite and unconnected fuse if any purpose could be served by the experiment on the tide of public opinion."

There has been more of this disgraceful sort of writing in both papers. Surely if we have a law in Canada for the suppression of immoral and debasing literature it is not likely to reach any cases of more debasing literature during an entire year. What a sin and shame for journals aspiring to reputations for reliability and decency to use their opportunities in trying to convince the young men of the country that our leading public men are among the lowest, most deceptive, and most heartless creatures to be found outside of prison walls!

Why not now go the full length and let the *Globe* come out with the insinuation that the same Tories are hand in hand with the Fenian dynamiters in an endeavor to blow up the Speaker, the Government, and every Grit in Canada, and let the *Mail* follow with the deliberate announcement that the Provincial Premier and his Cabinet have all combined to blow up the Parliament buildings and destroy all the public property they possibly can

and then attribute the whole crime to their opponents simply to injure the reputation of the Tory leaders in the public estimation? For shame, gentlemen; have some better respect to the reputation of the press than to allow any more such unworthy matter to appear.

American Lynchi Law

The terrible Cincinnati riots have drawn a good deal of attention to the loose manner in which criminals have been dealt with in the American courts for some time past. The facts are truly astonishing, and go to show that the administration of justice, so far as murderers at least are concerned, has been shamefully slack for some time past. In an able article in a recent number of *Century Magazine* it is stated that during 1893 there were no less than 1,517 murders reported to have been committed in the United States, and it is not then at all probable that reports were received of all the cases. The year previous the number of which there was record amounted to 1,276. The figures show an increase of murders of no less than 1.41 within the year, and the increase grows gradually on.

One great reason for all this is that so few of the actual criminals were punished. While there were 1517 murders reported during 1893, there were but 93 criminals legally hanged. The chances, therefore, appear to have been nearly seventeen to one in favor of murderers escaping capital punishment for capital crimes.

Statistics have recently been published showing the average number of murders committed per year in proportion to the population, in a number of the leading countries. According to these figures the proportion of murders in the United States was something like three times as great as in England, double as many as in Ireland, and greater than in any of the European countries of which any record has been obtained.

No wonder that under such circumstances determined men are sick of legal delays and technicalities, by which justice has been so often robbed of its due; no wonder that they so often take the law in their own hands lest the criminal should make good his escape. Last year, the *Century* says, that there was record of 118 men being lynched in the country against 93 being legally executed! There is something truly startling about such figures as these, in connection with a highly civilized country. There can be no doubt whatever but that much of the blame of all this shameful state of things lies at the doors of the inefficient officers of justice—if some of the officials deserve such a title at all. Lynching is a terrible and a desperate remedy, but there have been many occasions where it has had a most salutary effect, and where any less heroic measure did not seem adequate.

There can be no doubt whatever but the Cincinnati riots have had some good effects. It is now well understood the judges and juries in that city are quite likely to do their duty pretty thoroughly so far as the trial of criminals is concerned. There is a danger, under the

circumstances, that some innocent man may become a victim to over zeal. At the time of the riots there were over a hundred men in the jail charged with murder. Last week one of them hanged himself, because, it is thought, he saw little chance to escape under the circumstances. The jury law has been already remodeled somewhat, so as to secure more able and efficient men for that work. One of the greatest evils of the American courts has been that intelligent, upright men were seldom found on the juries when criminal cases were to be tried. The task is an unpleasant one, and many are glad to get relieved if possible. The habit has been to accept almost any excuse of a respectable man, and then the lawyers for the criminal would challenge almost every other man whom they suspected of being at all likely to be fearless in the discharge of his duty. The jury boxes were often filled with the very lowest and worst, under such a system—with men often more in sympathy with the criminal than with justice, and so the guilty ones slipped through such an ineffectual grasp. All these things are being thoroughly ventilated by the press and by the legislators, and a more efficient administration of justice may be looked for in the future.

The Governor-General Bills

There can be no mistaking the fact that our Governors-General in Canada are pretty expensive luxuries. The official figures in connection with the public accounts go to show that, beyond all shadow of doubt. The annual salary of the Governor-General is fixed at \$50,000, but that is, after all, a small item of the amount paid each year in connection with the office. During the last five fiscal years, the tax payers of Canada have paid in salaries to the Governor-General and his immediate officials the large sum of \$945,390, and to this sum was added, during the same time, for official travelling expenses, \$72,411, and for contingencies, \$199,652, making in all nearly a million and a quarter, or about a quarter of a million dollars a year. Surely the people of Canada ought to be pretty well governed, so far as this department of the government is concerned.

The matter of salaries and travelling expenses are not the only items of account in connection with this high office. Rideau Hall, the official residence of the Governor-General at Ottawa, is maintained at the public expense, and there, too, things are run on a pretty liberal scale. It is an out-of-the-way and somewhat antiquated establishment, and it is but a part of the time occupied by a Governor-General, though it is pretty well occupied by flunkies of one class or another. Since the commencement of the Confederation regime, in 1867, about three-quarters of a million have been paid out of the public treasury for repairs, maintenance, and the like in connection with that residence and its surroundings. The foregoing figures will show where two millions of the public money have gone. There are men in Canada, with neither generosity nor loyalty enough to suppose that the country has had the full worth of the money.

Added to all this, there are in the Dominion, all liberally cared for out of the