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London, Thursday, Jan. 1.

THE MAYORALTY.

Ald. Moulton has reconsidered the question of remaining in the field as a mayoralty candidate, and has finally decided that he will not accept the nomination. While he is assured that he has many friends in the city who are prepared to give him credit for the good work he has done, and while he believes that in a single-handed contest he could do either of the three candidates remaining in the field, he deems it prudent to withdraw from the contest. He informs us that his chief reason for retiring is that if he did get the position he would not be able to give sufficient time to the duties of the office without a great deal of self-denial.

It is to be regretted that Ald. Moulton has also decided to retire from the Aldermanic Board, at which he has done good service for the city. His ever-ready help will be missed by the aldermanic sods of 1891.

AFFAIRS IN CANADA.

The Toronto Globe recently published a four-column article from the pen of David McEwen, of St. Thomas, on the present condition and aspect of affairs in Canada. Mr. McEwen discusses the subject from several points of view, and all of them cogently and forcibly. His facts have been carefully prepared, and whoever will take the trouble to study them in detail as they are presented will find himself well furnished for the discussion of our Canadian politics at least the important subjects of trade, taxation and public debt.

Mr. McEwen recalls the fine promises made by politicians to the people in 1878, and shows how they have been realized at the end of ten years' trial. The annual expenditure of the Dominion has risen from \$24,465,281 in 1879 to \$36,917,835 in 1889, while the net public debt has increased from \$142,990,188 to \$237,530,042. During the same period the mortgage debt on private property, and particularly on farm property, has enormously increased, strong evidence of which we have in the fact of the chattel mortgage debt. It is well known, he observes, that chattel mortgage security is given only when every other kind of security has been exhausted; consequently there is no better index of the business situation than the statistics of chattel mortgages. Now, it appears that the total amount of this class of mortgages in the county of Elgin on the 31st of December, 1879, was \$72,295, while on the 31st of December, 1889, it was \$135,008, being an increase in ten years under the trade policy which was to make our country blossom as the rose of \$62,713. The chattel mortgage debt of the whole Province is given as \$6,991,223 in 1889, or \$5 33 per head of population, which at the same time for the whole Dominion would make an aggregate of nearly \$17,000,000, or \$9,000,000 more than ten years ago. But during eight years of that period the population of the rural districts of Ontario as shown by the municipal census returns was only increased by 13,653, of which more than 10,000 is credited to Muskoka, Parry Sound and Algoma. This shows that the older settled portions must be losing ground in many localities, and in fact is actually the case. A few of the towns and one or two cities have grown, but after making all allowance for increase in this direction it is obvious that a very large number of people have gone out to other lands.

Thus we have for ten years of the National Policy fruit the public debt of the Dominion increased 66 per cent, the annual expenditure 50 per cent, and the chattel mortgage debt 87 per cent. Add the further facts that the land mortgage debt has increased in the same period 30 or 35 per cent, while the value of farm property has decreased 30 per cent, and we see how much the Canadian people owe to the Tory party for ten years of office.

We have not space to follow Mr. McEwen through his careful examination of the subject of taxation under "protectionism" and revenue tariffs, further than to indicate his general conclusion that under the latter system a very large sum of money might be saved to the people after making ample provision for the public revenue. On the material required for the construction of waterworks in St. Thomas alone he shows that had Canada free trade with the United States they might purchase with \$103,473 what now costs them \$125,000. In other words, the ratepayers of St. Thomas are paying an extra \$21,527 to the Dominion Government in order to procure for themselves a supply of water. That is their contribution to the N. P. on one item of public enterprise.

—President Harrison has invited the whole world to go to Chicago in 1893. The Chicago Tribune reassures us when it announces that Mr. Jay Gould, the principal owner of the sphere, has so far interposed

THE SCHOOLS AND THEIR MISSION.

In addressing a meeting of high school masters of the Province in Toronto yesterday, the Minister of Education made a vigorous address on the school system of Ontario. In the course of his remarks Hon. Mr. Ross said:

In watching the progress of high school work he somewhat feared that there was a little danger that high school masters forgot that the high school was not a part of our national system for turning out teachers. It was a part of the people's college, or, to use a platitude, it was the poor man's college, and was intended to give a good practical business education. Of the 20,000 pupils attending the high schools to-day only some 2 per cent. matriculated. They should, therefore, not forget that the number of boys and girls attending our high schools who entered the learned professions was comparatively few, and that the solid education of the mass was going to be the greatest boon to the State. (Applause.) They should not forget the many in order to promote the higher education of the few. Was it worth their while to exhaust their energies to sub-divide their classes, in order to continue the matriculation work? He was sorry that he was not able to say that the wonderful progress made by our high schools was paralleled by similar progress in our public schools. Somewhat, perhaps, on account of the educational ozone in the air, our high schools had gone on with leaps and bounds. He thought not of their would sever that close connection between the high school and the public school which all educationalists sought to develop. He desired to see perfect unity from the kindergarten to the university. Educational forces did not work from the bottom. Everybody knew that they worked from above; they closed by expressing the hope that the steps they had taken to improve the high school work would be reached throughout the country. (Applause.)

These sentiments will be echoed by the friends of education throughout the Province. It cannot be too well known that the chief reason for the establishment and maintenance of the collegiate institutions and high schools is neither the matriculation of students for the university nor the training of members of the teaching profession. In nine cases out of ten, the high school pupil becomes neither a university student nor a teacher, but goes out to take his place in the world as a breadwinner in the ordinary, yet highly honorable, avocations of life—in trade, commerce and the culture of the soil. The moral is that all education provided in the public and high schools should be pre-eminently practical, having for its object the enabling of the pupil to make the best use possible of his own powers in the life struggle upon which the overwhelming majority of the populace must enter, and which it is really good for them, physically and mentally, that they should enter. But woe to the man or woman that is not properly equipped for the battle. It is not always the strong who win, but in the great majority of instances the trained citizen with all-round qualifications gets on the top.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

—Instead of three million and odd pounds a year being the earnings of the Grand Trunk, as has been stated, we learn that the gross receipts now amount to about five million pounds a year.

—Some men have been making haste to get rich in the United States by circulating counterfeit gold coins in that country. They are said to be excellent imitations, and the suggestion is made that the inflationists should request the Government to "take them as good," and thus save the expense of making the new money so loudly clamored for.

—A man down in Maine has committed suicide to avoid marrying a respectable girl, of whom he considered himself unworthy. Modesty is to be commended, but this man's self-murder cannot be eulogized. If the woman in the case had any sense she would have willingly released the self-condemned lover from his vows, and he could have lived to repent and reform. No girl with a spark of self-respect would wish to marry a coward, and the suicide is nothing else.

—When eight of the jurymen who tried Eyraud, the Paris sensational murderer, can be got to sign their signatures to a petition for a commutation of his sentence, it may well be asserted that the guillotine has fallen into disfavor in the French capital. The murder of Gouffe by Eyraud and his female accomplice had not a redeeming feature. The depraved couple lured their victim to his doom, and then fearfully mutilated his body. Eyraud deserves capital punishment if ever a murderer did.

—It is suggested that a colonial lawyer of eminence should be appointed to the vacancy in the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Why not? Our Blakes, our Thompsons, our Oslers and our Stronges are lawyers who can take their rank for judicial acumen with the fraternity of the old world. Why should the premier colony of the empire not be recognized in the selection of a man to fill a vacancy in a body that has so much to do with questions affecting the relations of the Dominion?

—What are the Bad Lands, of which so frequent mention is made in the telegrams about the United States Indian uprising? asks a correspondent. The Bad Lands of Dakota are composed of white clay, which, by the action of rains, has been cut into hillocks. They are not high, seldom more than 40 or 50 feet, but it is up one and down another the whole way. There are no water courses, the nearest approach being a gully 40 feet deep, with a foot and a half of mud at the bottom. At every few yards you must stop, and with spade and shovel, cut a path down the side of a hill in order to descend, and then up the side of the one opposite in order to get up again. The mud is as sticky as tar, and in going a few yards the wheels of a wagon become

solid round cakes, and all the mules you can hitch to it will not be able to pull it a foot farther. Then the spades are brought and the wheels cleared, the operation being repeated two or three times in 100 yards. The extent of the Bad Lands in Dakota is probably 100 miles from north to south by 15 to 20 miles wide. The district is a good one for a crafty foe like the Indian warrior to hide in, but as a location to make a living it has not a redeeming feature.

—The Established Church of England is a Tory preserve when appointments come to be made under the regime of Lord Salisbury. He has promoted several old-time Liberals to good positions on the bench, but they earned the advancement by differing with Gladstone on his Irish self-government policy. In the dispensing of church patronage, however, no such liberality is expected from the Tory leader. The death of Dr. Thomson, archbishop of York, gives him an immensely profitable office to dispose of. The salary is \$50,000, and there are many valuable perquisites that will bring it up to the value of probably \$75,000 a year—an outrageously large sum to give to any one man, while so many of the minor clergy are underpaid. But that cannot be remedied until the Church is radically reformed. The question that agitates England now is who the fortunate Tory will be who will get the plum. He will be a high churchman, no doubt, but not extremely so, for the Cecils are moderate churchmen, with one exception—a son of Lord Salisbury—who leans strongly to ritualism. This proviso will exclude from promotion the ables of the Tory churchmen—the Bishop of Peterborough—as he is a low churchman. Then, in the present temper of the Tories, Dr. Magee's nationality is against him—he is an Irishman. It has been pointed out that Gladstone set an example of magnanimity when he took Dr. Benson, who was head of an obscure Cornish see, and made him Archbishop of Canterbury without inquiring as to his politics. But the recent clerical appointments of the present Premier show that he is not likely to emulate the example of the Grand Old Man.

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