

The Evening Times and Star

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DRIVING OUT THE TURK

The Review of Reviews for November points out that "the present Balkan war, whatever it may amount to or finally involve, is merely another step in the continuous process of the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire, going on ever since 1868, when Sobieski checked the advance of the Turk at Vienna." The Review of Reviews thus summarizes the detachment of province after province "since Byron swam the Hellespont to die in defense of Hellenic liberties."

Greece: Independent kingdom, 1830.
Algeria: French occupation, 1830; now a province of the French republic.
Serbia: Autonomous principality, 1830; independent principality, 1878; kingdom, 1902.
Rumania: Autonomous principality, 1859; independent principality, 1878; kingdom, 1882.
Montenegro: Independent principality, 1878; kingdom, 1910.
Bosnia and Herzegovina: Occupied by Austria-Hungary, 1878; annexed to Austria-Hungary, 1908.
Bulgaria: Autonomous principality, 1878; Eastern Rumania: Administrative autonomy, 1878; annexed to Bulgaria, 1882.
Cretan: Autonomous, 1898; now striving for annexation to Greece.
Tripoli: Occupied by Italy, 1911.
Albania: Now in rebellion.
Macedonia: About to be liberated by the Balkan States.

PRISON REFORM

There appears to be an impression on the minds of some writers that a prison farm is a cure-all, and that it transforms all rascals and vagabonds into good citizens. We may as well be right in our thinking on this subject. Not a prison farm nor any other institution will transform a man who has no desire to be transformed, and there is a fairly large percentage of these gentry in the world. It is no argument, however, against a prison farm that it does not perform miracles. An article in Canada Monthly for November tells a very interesting story of the prison farm at Guelph, Ontario, but the writer is quite too enthusiastic about "making a man of a convict" and his eulogy of the Hon. W. J. Haas forgets to pay tribute to those who were the pioneers in working out the prison farm idea. It may be quite true that Mr. Haas has been a leader in this reform in Canada, but there has been a prison farm in the State of Massachusetts for many years, and before the work was started in Ontario delegations visited the Massachusetts farm and others in the United States. Mr. Haas has done a great work, and deserves the highest praise, but in awarding him full credit it is not fair to overlook those who worked out the problem before an attempt was made to solve it in Ontario.

Mr. Will is of advantage in describing the benefits to be derived from a prison farm to claim more for such an institution than may reasonably be expected. Prison reform methods were introduced in the Michigan penitentiary, and the results were held up at prison congresses and other conventions as evidence that it was only necessary to treat convicts with kindness and they would be reformed by good conduct and would be restored to useful citizenship. This theory was delightful, but not very long since a mutiny broke out in the Michigan penitentiary, and before it was quelled it was necessary to call out the militia. Rhode Island furnishes another instance, where one of the worst prisoners was made a pet by the warden, and took advantage of the opportunity to run away. A still later and more striking instance was that at Rawlins, Wyoming, where a general jail delivery resulted in a battle between escaped convicts and armed guards, and the loss of some lives. These illustrations are given to show that reform may be carried to foolish extremes.

All of this, however, does not weaken the argument in favor of a prison farm for drunkards, vagabonds and other short-term convicts, and for some who at present are able to keep out of the clutches of the law but ought to be sent where they would be compelled to earn their living. The Times has already pointed out that a Halifax alderman, after visiting institutions of this kind in Ontario, Ohio, and Massachusetts, has declared himself strongly in favor of a prison farm for Nova Scotia. In the city of Ottawa there is at present an agitation in favor of a prison farm for vagrants and petty criminals. Apart from the prison farm at Guelph, the city of Toronto maintains one for its petty offenders. At the meeting of the Maine Conference of Charities and Corrections last week a strong plea was made for the purchase of a farm for inmates in Cumberland county. The advantage of having such an institution is two fold. It takes the reprobate off the streets, where he is anything but a good example, and it compels him to earn his living. Even if such an institution did not quite pay its way, it must not be forgotten that the community is at present supporting persons who would be sent there. The Halifax alderman says, however, after his investigations, that he believes such a farm would pay its way. In any case, as the Hon. John E. Wilson said at the meeting of The Associated Charities the other evening, the question of cost should not

stand in the way where the interests of the community are at stake.

Nor can it be successfully denied that in very many cases a term on a prison farm would produce results of a reformatory nature, which cannot be said of a term in the chain gang. Indeed the whole force of the argument is in favor of the adoption of this method of dealing with those who are not hardened criminals. In a well conducted institution the prisoners are divided into three classes—the trustees, the semi-trustees, and those who cannot safely be given an easy opportunity to get away. The Province of New Brunswick should not be the last to take action in this matter.

CAUGHT IN THE ACT

The Montreal Witness throws some light on the methods by which a war scare or a navy campaign may be worked up in Canada. It says:—

"Who pays fourteen cents a square inch for the insertion of the jingo articles that appear as paid matter in the French-Canadian papers is a question the 'Devoir' has been insistently asking. Here is another question of the same sort. Who in England paid for the free despatch by cable and telegraph of Lord Roberts's notorious jingo speech to what print? If anyone had any doubt that the jingo campaign had financial interests back of it that are loading the wires in its favor there is no longer any secret about it except as to who the parties are who are supplying the funds in England, and how the propaganda is being run. As it is known who stands to profit by the war scare the terms are easy that they are giving their money to work up the agitation and to help over the wireless anything that supports their cause. The manufacturers of guns, of small-arms, of army uniforms, of officers' equipment; the builders of naval ships and dockyards and the manufacturers of ship chandlery; the officers who stand to gain promotion. This is a superficial and probable enough surmise that has been much harped upon, but behind it is the much more serious one of the tariff reformers as they call themselves, who will be able to get such privileges as they may seek should they be able by such appeals to jingoism to replace a government they hate like poison by one of their own making. With them are all forces of wealth and privilege."

The by-election in Hochelaga is expected to be a vigorous contest.

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Premier Fleming and Mayor Frink are active members of the Boosters' Club.

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The strike on the Canadian Pacific is declared to have been a failure. Apparently the leaders were misinformed as to the real sentiments of the men, which makes it all the worse for those who went out.

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The powers have decided that the "sick man of Europe" needs a little more medicine. They will not intervene at present.

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The man on the street says that the prospects for a steel plant and a sugar refinery for St. John look good to him.

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Lieut.-Col. H. M. Campbell advises farmers to raise more sheep and better grades. He believes sheep ranching on a large scale would prove very successful in this province.

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The people of Moncton are considering the adoption of a new form of city government and are said to favor a board of control. Some cities which have a board of control are now winking they had a commission. St. John has adopted the commission plan and likes it.

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The Montreal Shareholder, in an interesting article on the tendency toward fewer and larger banks, points out that in 1900 there were thirty-nine banks doing business in Canada, and six years ago there were thirty-four, while today there are in reality but twenty-six; and after the amalgamation of the Banks of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick there will be but twenty-five. The Shareholder explains the change by saying that the rapid increase in population, resources and business in Canada has made stronger banks a necessity, but it adds that in merging the banks are simply following the tendency of the times as shown by the merging of railroads and manufacturing plants. Referring to the fear of some people that there will be less chance for the small man among the big banks, the Shareholder does not see any real reason for such a fear. The bank act is fairly satisfactory, as a safeguard for the small depositor or borrower, and the Shareholder believes that in the forthcoming revision amendments will be made to further guard the interests of farmers and small business men. It is interesting to note that the tendency to merge banks is shown in the United States, and to some extent in Great Britain.

H. Wallace, secretary of the Liverpool office of the Scottish Prisoners' Institution, was found dead outside his residence at Birkenhead. Whilst opening his garden gate one of his arms became impaled on a spike and an artery being severed he bled to death.

To increase the attendance at his mid-week prayer meetings, Rev. Chas. L. Goodrich of the Congregational Church, Plainfield, N. J., decided to serve cold lemonade at the services.

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A TRAVELER'S LYRIC.

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Whom the weary traveler loves

Is the man who puts his knee in

The back of the seat and shoves.

HOW HE SOLVED IT.

Dyer—I have no trouble keeping awake

during the sermon. Rye—How do you

manage it. Dyer—By playing golf.—Life.

REASON.

Daughter—Mother, why do people think

business will be better after election?

Mother—Because then men will have more

time to give to it.—Judge.

TIME TO GO HOME.

"Well, dear, I guess the honeymoon is

over."

"Why do you say that?" pointed the

bride.

"I've been taking stock and find I'm

down to \$2.63."

MEDDLING AUTHORITY.

One would have thought that any effort

to brighten up our parks and to provide

free amusements there would have been

encouraged by those in authority. Last

week, however, the Willemsen magistrates

imposed a fine of half a crown on a Mrs.

Smith, who chased her husband round

a public park with a halpin.—London

Punch.

HIS VERDICT.

"What reason have you to think my

daughter loves you?"

"She says she is willing to make any

sacrifice for me."

"That's no sign she loves you."

"What is it then?"

"An indication that she's crazy."—Chi-

cago Record-Herald.

PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY.

"What makes you think that man has

a melancholy disposition? His remarks

are always highly optimistic."

"That's the point," replied Miss Cay-

enne. "Only a person of melancholy ten-

dencies would have to go to so much

pains to cheer himself up."

A FALSE MISSION.

Now Joe takes a head-on attack on a

rail. And both scramble over the moss-covered

rail.

The woodpile is near and the walnuts

are plenty—

But she is sixteen and Joe just turning

twenty.

A glorious day with a bright smiling sun;

Now over the dry, frosty pathway they

run.

The tree spreads its arms and the wal-

nuts lie thickly.

But Joe does not see—he just kisses

Sue quickly.

A deep, silent forest; a clear Autumn

day.

And manifold treasures to carry away.

But never a walnut will change its

position.

For Sue and Joe have forgotten their

mission.

—Lurana Sheldon.

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