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London, Friday, March 7.

IN SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE a writer undertakes to tell "how the boomerang is made." Charley Rykert has yet time to get a copy and study up the subject before Sir Richard Cartwright arraigns him for laying by Dominion timber limit proceeds for his old age. The member for Lincoln is in the soup, so far.

HAMILTON TIMES: The Legislature has indorsed the Ontario Government's Bill to give Provincial aid towards the establishment of county poorhouses or industrial farms. We regret that there is any need for such institutions, but the necessity is sure to increase so long as the Dominion Parliament frames its system of taxation to make the poor poorer and the rich richer. When a truly Liberal Government gets into office at Ottawa, the poorhouse population will thin out, for then workers will be able to save something out of their wages and make provision for their own old age.

THE Tory managers do not like the system of balloting pursued at the elections for the Legislature. This is to be regretted. But inasmuch as the system has been in use for years in this Province without a single scandal arising from it, and the same law has been enforced in Great Britain for sixteen years, with no prospects of a change being made, we are afraid that it will be some little time before the people of Ontario demand a change. The Ontario ballot is all right. If it is not so regarded by our Tory friends, will some responsible follower of Mr. Meredith tell us of a single authenticated instance in which a vote was proved to have been corruptly menaced by those charged with the administration of the law governing polling? We have asked this question before, but the critics of the Mowat Government have fought shy of it.

MINING LEGISLATION.

Two bills are now before the Local Legislature on the subject of mining. One of these deals principally with the health and safety of miners and other employes of mines, and appears to be very satisfactory in all its provisions. It is based on the British regulations, but embodies also regulations adopted in some of the Australian colonies; and although it may be said that the condition of the mining industry here is hardly yet on a scale to call for such legislation as this bill provides, we have to consider that the proper time for introducing laws for the well-being of miners is not when accidents occur, but before they have occurred. The duty of the Legislature is to make the employment of mine-workers as safe as law can make it, and so if possible prevent the occurrence of accidents. This is the wise and humane policy, and we think Mr. Hardy is to be warmly commended for the step he has taken. The bill also provides for the inspection of mines by a proper officer, as well as for the making of statistical returns yearly to the Government.

The other bill provides for the staking out of mining claims in certain districts of the Province to be defined by Order-in-Council. It is a liberal and sensible measure, simple in its provisions, and well calculated to serve the interests of that worthy class, the explorers and prospectors.

We hope to see both of these bills carry this session. They will serve a very useful purpose, and we do not doubt that they will greatly promote mining enterprise.

HEROICS IN OPPOSITION.

The Toronto Empire recently broadly asserted that Hon. C. F. Fraser, Commissioner of Public Works, had been guilty of corrupt acts in connection with the erection of the new Parliamentary buildings. This Tory organ is managed by Mr. Creighton, M.P.P., and Hon. Mr. Fraser holds him responsible for the charge. Mr. Fraser challenges the libeler to make good his allegations before a commission—if he dares. The Commissioner of Public Works has been sixteen years in office, and not one charge of corruption or of misappropriation of public moneys has ever been established against him. We believe that the honorable gentleman is now falsely accused; at all events, Mr. Creighton refuses to adopt means to establish his charges and that seems to be sufficient to vindicate the Minister, if he required any vindication.

We rather think the member for North Grey has profited by the experience of his leader, who on one memorable occasion—at Mount Brydges—arraigned the late Hon. T. B. Pardee "before high heaven" (and a Tory gathering) as a most corrupt administrator. Mr. Meredith promised to lay before the Legislature such evidence as would drive the Minister from public life; but from that memorable outburst to the dying day of the member for West Lambton not a word of the dreadful indictment was heard in the House.

Is it not reasonable to believe that foolish Mr. Creighton took a leaf out of Mr. Meredith's book, and stage-thundered through the subsidized organ for the sole benefit of the unreflecting readers of that paper? The Opposition leaders in the Legislature cannot rate the intelligence of the people very highly when they take it for granted that political capital so manufactured is worth anything.

ORANGE INCORPORATION.

The Orangemen stand a reasonable chance of getting incorporation at last. A narrow majority in the Commons was secured on the third reading of their bill, and now it is in the hands of the Senate. How it may fare there we shall know before long, but should it be thrown out in the chamber the brotherhood will know the reason why. It is not the first time Sir John Macdonald, having either not the power or not the will to defeat a measure in the Commons, has caused it to be knifed by the old gentlemen who are his personal representatives in the other place. It may have been on this understanding with Langevin, Thompson & Co. that the bill got through the Commons as it has; but we say again that if the Senators reject it, it is because their master has ordered them to do so. We cannot congratulate the Orangemen even on the measure of success that they have already attained. The order has been used by designing politicians to forward the Tory interests, and to support legislation that intelligent citizens, be they Protestants or Catholics, should be ashamed to acknowledge. Lord Durham called it a Tory conspiracy, and very many of the lodges have been used as if their directors were determined to admit the truthfulness of that Governor's assertion. These lodges have been permanent committees of the Tory party, always working for that party from one election to another, and for that reason alone they could not hope to get very cordial Liberal support for their incorporation. But apart from that consideration the society has done a great deal of harm in the country by keeping alive the animosities and the prejudices which are the fruit of centuries of misgovernment in Ireland. The relations of parties and races and faiths would have been much happier in Canada than they now are had we never seen an Orange regalia in our streets.

NOTHING TO DO.

Our city contemporary recently berated the Liberals in the House of Commons for wasting the time of Parliament in discussing the expensiveness and uselessness of the Dominion Franchise Act. May we direct the attention of the Free Press, seized with a fit of economy the moment the Liberals expose the wastefulness of its friends in Parliament, to the confession made by the Ministers on Wednesday evening? The hour was early, the Opposition were ready to take up Government measures, the House had been in session for nearly seven weeks, the Budget not yet brought down, and every important Government measure held back! Yet the Ministers in attendance asserted that they really had no work for the members to perform, and that they must wait for the return of Sir John Macdonald, who was reported to be sick, but who was really talking politics at a hole-and-corner dinner of civil service clerks and Government hangers-on. Is it not better that the Liberals should try and save the country a few hundred thousand dollars by exposing a useless and unnecessary expenditure than that they should consent to the policy of thumb-twirling which the Tory leaders have decreed?

The dilatoriness of the Ottawa Government is in marked contrast with the conduct of the Ontario Government, which has been rushing things along in excellent shape, as the daily record has proved. We do not wonder that Hon. Peter Mitchell lost patience with the Ministerial dawdlers, and called upon them either to go on with the business of Parliament or give place to the Liberals, who were ready and willing to undertake the duty.

It is much to be feared that it is the intention to keep the tariff changes and all important Government measures till a late day in the session and then try and get objectionable legislation rushed through without investigation. That is an old trick of Sir John Macdonald and his associates, but in the interests of the people it should be thwarted by the Liberals.

PUBLIC AND SEPARATE SCHOOLS.

Hon. G. W. Ross has introduced into the Legislature a bill to remove all doubts as to the provisions of the Public and Separate Schools Act so far as they relate to those citizens who desire to become supporters of separate schools. The following is the full text of the measure:

1. The clerk of every municipality shall forthwith after the passing of this act enter in a convenient index book, and in alphabetical order, the name of every person who has given to him or any former clerk of the municipality notice in writing that such a person is a Roman Catholic and a supporter of a separate school in or contiguous to the municipality, as provided by the 40th section of the Separate School Act, or previous acts respecting separate schools; the clerk shall also enter opposite to the name, and in a column for this purpose, the date on which the notice was received, and in a third column, opposite the name, any notice by such person of withdrawal from supporting a separate school, as provided by the 47th section of the said act, or any such other act as aforesaid, with the date of such withdrawal; or any disollowance of the notice by the Court of Revision or county judge, with the date of such disallowance. The index book may be in the form A to this act, and shall be open to inspection by ratepayers.

2. The clerk shall enter in the same book, and in the proper alphabetical place therein, all such notices hereafter from time to time received by the clerk.

3. It shall be the duty of the clerk to file and carefully preserve all such notices which have been heretofore received, or shall hereafter be received.

(2.) In the case of a municipality in which there are supporters of a Roman Catholic separate school therein, or contiguous thereto, there shall be printed in conspicuous characters, or written across or on the assessor's notice to every ratepayer, provided for the 47th section of the Assessment Act, and set forth in schedule B to the said act, in addition to the proper entry heretofore named, to be made in the column respecting the school tax, the following words: "You are assessed as a separate school supporter," or "You are assessed as a public school supporter," as the case may be; or these words may be added to the notice of the ratepayer set forth in the said schedule.

(3.) Where the list required by the first section of this act is prepared, the assessor is to be guided thereby in ascertaining who have given the notices which are by law necessary, in order to entitle supporters of Roman Catholic separate schools to exemption from the public school tax.

(4.) The statement made under the second sub-section of the 48th section of the Separate School Act, or the fourteenth sub-section of the Assessment Act, means, and has always meant, a statement made to the assessor on behalf of the ratepayer, by his authority, and not otherwise.

(5.) In case of its appearing to the Municipal Council of any municipality after the final revision of the assessment roll that, through some mistake or inadvertence, any ratepayers have been placed on the wrong school tax column, either as supporters of separate schools or supporters of public schools, it shall be competent for the Municipal Council, after due inquiry and notice, to correct such errors if such council sees fit, by directing the amount of the tax of such ratepayers to be paid to the proper school board. But it shall not be competent for the council to reverse the decision of the Court of Revision or the County Court judge as to any ratepayer.

2. In case of such action by a municipal council the ratepayer shall be liable for the same amount of school tax as if he had in the first instance been entered on the roll properly.

SCHEDULE.

Form of index book for Roman Catholic separate school supporters.

Names.	Notices claiming exemption from public school tax, when received.	Remarks.
Allen, John.....	3rd Feb., 1889.	Notice of withdrawal received 1st Jan., 1890.
Ardagh, Joseph..	3rd Feb., 1889.	Disallowed by Court of Revision, 1st June, 1889.
Armstrong, Robt.	3rd Feb., 1889.	

These amendments do not make any changes in the Separate School Act, which always provided that a taxpayer had to give notice when he desired to become a supporter of a separate school. They are simply measures to prevent mistakes by either assessors or municipal clerks, or to enable municipal councils to remedy these mistakes, when made, as speedily as possible. It is probable now that the law has been made so clear that but few errors will occur, but when they do happen it will be an easy matter for the aggrieved taxpayer to set himself right. It is made plain by such amendments to the law as are here set forth that the Ontario Government has only one desire: to do justice by every class and creed, and to sustain the Confederation Act compromise by laws that are fair to all and reasonable.

The "Grip" Was Only a Transient Guest.

[Chicago News.]

Young William of Germany may have noticed that Socialism is even more prevalent than the grip in his steel-riveted empire.

Sour Grapes, Eh?

[New York Tribune.]

Speaking of spelling reform, many persons who are wise in their generation express the opinion that it will not be long before Chicago will spell World's Fair this way: W-h-i-t-e-e-l-e-p-h-a-n-t.

The Grip is the Beginning.

(La Minerve, Montreal.)

There is in Rome, in the convent of St Philippe de Neri, a nun aged 82 years, to whom Father Bernardo Claudi, of the Minimes order, told 40 years ago on his death bed that she would see a proof of the wrath of God in the year 1890, and she adds that influenza is only the beginning of this.

Rev. Carrie Bartlett's Pulpit Garb.

[Minneapolis Tribune.]

Miss Carrie J. Bartlett spent yesterday in the city visiting friends. As the pastor of the First Unitarian Church at Kalamazoo, Mich., she has been very successful, and is deeply interested in her pastoral work. She has adopted a peculiar and very pretty ministerial garb of black, which is very becoming to her.

The Victor's Crown

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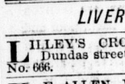

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