

London Advertiser
TWO EDITIONS DAILY - WEEKLY.
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LONDON, SATURDAY, SEPT. 30.

Liberation and Supervision of Convicts.

The chiefs of police of certain Canadian cities, who recently assembled at Toronto, and among other things, made a sweeping condemnation of the administration of the law for the conditional liberation of prisoners, do not appear to have had any good ground for their action. They claimed that the law was carried out in a partisan spirit, we learn from the Toronto journals, and they further asserted that the man who was paroled "in nearly every case became a public charge." These are strong allegations, but neither at this meeting, nor since, has the man who made them given any evidence in their support, so we are forced to the conclusion, in view of the facts that we have been able to obtain from reliable sources, that either the police chiefs were misinformed, or misinformed.

Our former fellow townsman, Hon. David Mills, was the author of this law. It was passed by Parliament, at his instance, in 1899, and it has been in operation, under his guidance, and that of his successors in the ministry of justice, Hon. Charles Fitzpatrick, ever since. The official returns show that the system has been operated in a most efficient manner by these statesmen and their officers, and that, instead of remaining criminals, or of becoming burdens on the community, as has been insinuated, the paroled convicts have been rehabilitated, and by sympathetic assistance and advice have been enabled to make a new start in life. What is even more satisfactory, the overwhelming proportion of the paroled prisoners have continued to live an honest life, and to provide for the maintenance of themselves and those dependent on them.

The best answer to the carping critics is given in the results of the administration of the law. From its adoption in 1899 till the close of the last fiscal year, 1,082 paroles were granted. Of this number of prisoners given their liberty conditionally on good behavior, 657, or about 61 per cent, have completed their sentences without license, without violation of the conditions imposed, while 325, or 29 per cent, additional, have thus far respected the conditions, though their licenses are still operative. Those who have forfeited their licenses by subsequent conviction, number only 24, or but 2 1/2 per cent. The remaining 7 per cent were recommitted for non-compliance with the very strict conditions of their license, but without any charge of criminality against them during the time they were at large.

Is not that a showing highly creditable to the administrators of this law? It certainly affords no justification of the change that the law is administered in such a manner as to provide for a general jail delivery of men who are unworthy of sympathy or aid in an effort to rehabilitate themselves.

But the hard-headed taxpayer has an interest in this matter, as well as the humanitarian. Last year, the state paid \$254 per head for the maintenance of the convicts in our penitentiaries. But the 222 men released on parole are no longer maintained by the taxpayers. They have, as the returns given above show, become producers. The state has been relieved of paying for their keep in confinement, and they have not only made a living for themselves, but in many cases have supported their families who, while they were in jail, were a public charge. In this way, instead of being burdens on the community, these 222 men have been earning wages to a total amount of probably \$100,000, and have themselves become taxpayers. How much better is it to have honest workmen in place of outcasts, preying upon society? Of such laudable work, even if mistakes were sometimes made, we would certainly decline to be severe critics.

It is a more or less prevalent opinion—too often strengthened by over-zealous police officers—that the best place for a man who has broken the law, whether he be a first offender or a repeater, is a long term in prison, and to be placed under suspicion ever afterwards. Such was not the view of the kindly-hearted David Mills when he prepared and introduced the measure for the conditional discharge of convicts. Neither was it the opinion of the present Minister of Justice when he made arrangements for radically improving the operation of the law by the appointment of Brigadier Archibald, of the Salvation Army, as parole officer.

The humanitarian instincts of these statesmen moved them to recognize that all men who get into trouble, and come under the operation of the criminal law, are not hopelessly bad. They had learned that many an unfortunate who had sinned once and been punished for it very early in the term of his incarceration, honestly resolves to lead a new life when set at liberty. On the other hand, it is now generally conceded that there are many men and comparatively few women who appear to be incapable of doing right, who openly profess their liking for a life of crime, who spurn all assistance to lead a better life. These criminals even go to the length of declining any aid from the prison chaplains and philanthropists who visit our jails, and declare their intention when set at liberty, to return to a life of crime and degradation. They are almost, if not wholly, beyond redemption by human means. The parole act is not meant for them. It is not applied to them. But for the novice in crime, for the first offender, there is, as has been demonstrated

by the statistics we have given, much hope. What he needs is sympathy and a helping hand, at the critical time when he regains his freedom. Indeed, it is well known that many a convict has found his worst punishment, not in being deprived of his liberty for a time, but in getting a chance to begin a new life on his leaving prison. The average man or woman is so very suspicious of a person who has lost his good name, who has served a term and who has been dubbed a "jailbird," that it is often very difficult to obtain for such a one the opportunity to prove that he has reformed.

Now, with the aid of the parole officer, who is a man of magnetism and strong sympathies, a splendid service is being rendered in procuring employment for discharged prisoners, in which work, by the way, there is hearty co-operation by the prisoners' aid associations in the centers of population. And it is now very rarely that a discharged convict, who is willing to work at whatever his hand findeth to do, is long without employment. It has been recognized that what a man in the circumstances of the discharged convict requires is the earliest possible opportunity to engage in honest toil; and it has been with regret we have learned that at times inconsiderate police officers have, without reason, sown the seeds of suspicion of the bona fides of discharged prisoners in the minds of their employers. The parole law is not intended to be so operated, and as a consequence it has been a marvelous success in aiding in the reclamation of those who have offended against the law. It can be made still more effective in this laudable mission if the chiefs of police will refrain from paying attention to unfounded accusations against the Minister of Justice, and those charged with the administration of the law, and will, as opportunity offers, lend willing hands to aid in carrying out the act in the spirit of its author.

Artificial Languages.

From time to time the world hears of an artificial language contrived by some well-meaning savant, who cherishes utopian ideas of bringing the various peoples of the earth into closer touch and sympathy by providing them with an easy medium of communication. "Volapuk" had its votaries, some of them distinguished persons, in many countries, but it is overshadowed by a later invention, "Esperanto," which is said to be spoken by 250,000 people, mainly in Central Europe. An Esperantist congress was held recently at Boulogne, France, at which eighteen different nations were represented. The inventor is Dr. Zamenhof, a Russian Jewish physician in Warsaw. He tells an interviewer that he was haunted from childhood by the feeling that it was a lamentable thing for men to be kept apart by barriers of language which were a deplorable source of misunderstandings and stupid quarrels. "Esperanto" was framed out of different languages, so that a man of average education knew three-quarters of the Esperanto vocabulary before beginning to learn the new tongue.

The language of cultivated nations is in anything but a rational state, and only a genius can wield his own with any definiteness or certainty. Much less master another. The great sections of the civilized world are only approximately intelligible to each other, and then only at the cost of long study. The intricacies of grammar are not the main obstruction. Each language has its subtle shades of meaning, its nuances, its whims of idiom, and hoary archaisms, which present an almost insuperable barrier to one reared in another tongue. It is a favorite theory that one must think in a language to use it properly. All these peculiarities are its life and soul, and have their roots in the history and character of the race. Language is a living thing, a development growing out of the past and inwrought with the fiber of a people. It is the fatal defect of an artificial language that it can never express life. It may get rid of the anomalies and cumbersome forms of an historical language, but it will be void of its music and passion also, its vital qualities as an expression of individual character, its subtle capabilities of wit, its echoes of association and everything that gives it power over the imagination. The artificial language is a sort of patent, deodorized, sterilized device, but it is lifeless and mechanical. As a means of international communication it would not be useful unless it became almost universal, and it would have absolutely no cultural value, which is the chief object of studying a foreign language. It may very well be doubted, too, whether there would be less proneness to quarrel if all nations spoke a common language. There have been no wars so bitter as those between people of the same blood. However, English promises to forestall Esperanto, Volapuk or any other invention as an universal language.

Life Insurance Investigations.
David Parks Packler, one of the most eminent actuaries of New York, in a letter to the Times advises that "when-ever the assets of a life assurance company shall attain the amount of \$500,000,000, it shall no longer be allowed to obtain new business for it, nor to issue, except to voluntary applicants, any policies, except to relate insurances that have ceased and cannot be revived."

This suggestion would appear to be a wise one. The assets of each of the three largest companies in the United States, it is claimed, will more than double during the next ten years, and will then amount to nearly one billion dollars apiece.

The laws of Canada restrict the investments of insurance companies, and the insurance department makes regular examinations of the assets in order to see that they are within the law. Are the companies in Canada are all comparatively small, there is no need for any more restrictive laws than we already have in Canada. Indeed nothing better can happen for the welfare of this country than a large addition to the funds held by life insurance companies. The investments made by them are permanent and largely in the nature of capital investment. The effect upon the financial condition of the country is to lessen the liability of panic. The stability and permanence of life insurance investments form a splendid support to the chartered banks, which are much more sensitive to the touch of good or bad times, and whose investments are more seriously affected by bad times. On the whole, there appears to be no need of much change in the laws here, unless in the direction of more liberality being allowed to insurance companies in making investments. Provided prudence is exercised in this respect—and publicity is a guarantee that it will be—the broader the law, the better for all. That course which will enable the highest profits to be safely made, is the one to adopt. It will be very many years before it is necessary in Canada to suggest, as Mr. Packler does, for the United States, restrictions upon companies whose assets exceed \$500,000,000. Not in this generation, or perhaps in the next, will the assets of Canadian companies reach such unwieldy proportions.

September expires in a blaze of glory, Canada would not exchange her autumn for any other samples of climate the world has to offer.

The managers of some fall fair take credit for abolishing fakes and questionable shows, and then stultify themselves by importing Gamay.

If the czar has really abolished the censorship of the press, Russian tyranny will soon be a thing of the past. A free press means a free country.

The tariff commission which is now in British Columbia, is rediscovering the fact that the average producer wants protection in what he has to sell, and free trade in what he has to buy.

The cotton manufacturers of the country have combined to press for an increase in the duties on British cottons. Mr. Chamberlain needs the sympathy which the Canadian cotton manufacturers, among others, were kind enough to convey to him.

The freedom of the city of London will be conferred by the corporation upon General Booth. The honor could not be more worthily bestowed. It is usually reserved for members of the upper crust, but it is the glory of General Booth that his work has been performed in the lowest depths of society.

Mr. Meekley and Miss Strong are actually to be married, eh?

"Yes, unless he gets scared and backs out. It makes him nervous every time she mentions the 'trousseau' she's going to wear. She pronounces it so much like 'trousers'."

Secret of His Savings.
[Augusta Herald.]
Mr. Edison says he does not associate with men whose lives are devoted to getting money. That's probably why Mr. Edison has been able to save something.

Wise Old Eben.
[Washington Star.]
"De man wif a clean conscience," said Uncle Eben, "feels mighty comfortable, but he doesn't do near de braggin' of de man wif no conscience at all."

Unlucky Thirteenth.
[Chicago News.]
Mrs. Biggs—Mrs. Divorcee tells me she has just declined an offer of marriage delivered in March, April, May, June and July of next year. These rails are of the heavy type, and the ones that have been supplied so far have had before leaving the mill to undergo a more severe test, according to the statement of a G. T. R. official, than any other rails that have ever been used anywhere over the entire system. This is an earnest of great things for the Canadian steel rail industry.

Not a Drug Store.
[Lawton (Ok. T.) Democrat.]
"I would like to get copies of your daily for a week back," remarked the clerical-looking stranger, as he approached the editorial desk.
"Try a porous plaster," suggested the editor.

Waited No Longer.
[Philadelphia Ledger.]
"You may refuse me now," said the persistent suitor, "but I am waiting. All things come to him who waits."
"Yes," replied the dear girl, "and I guess the first thing will be father; I hear him on the stairs."

Secret.
[Chicago News.]
Oswell—Say, pa, how do they raise 'political plums'?"
Pa—By grafting, my son.

Rare Shopping Possibilities.
[Houston Post.]
Marshall Field is said to be supremely happy with his new bride, and won't she be happy to think that she can invade the greatest store on earth and call for all the goods on the list? It isn't a case of 'does,' but 'is.'"

Mightier Than the Pen.
[Knoxville Journal and Tribune.]
The Portsmouth treaty was written on a typewriting machine. The typewriter is greater than the sword or the pen.

Right in His Line.
[Philadelphia Press.]
"Oh, no; he doesn't mind people talking back. He likes it."
"He does?"
"Yes; he's an auctioneer."

At It Again.
[Chicago Record-Herald.]
"Ah," said Mr. Henpeck, suddenly straightening up. "I was lost in thought."
"Well," she replied, "you don't have to go very far in to get lost."

A Witty Moralist.
"Mrs. Poultny Bigelow," said a New York woman, "is a favorite in English society. At Cannes, in London, and in the country, she is equally popular. Mrs. Bigelow is a moralist—a witty

moralist. A millionaire whisky dealer showed her one day a photograph of a new house that he had built in Hertfordshire.

"Tell me what to call it, won't you?" he said. "I am hesitating between Gore Hall, Page Hall and Stanley Hall. What do you advise?"
"Mrs. Bigelow said calmly: 'I would advise Alcohol.'"

He Knew the Sex.
[New York Press.]
When the American woman met the distinguished German professor he said to her:
"You need not speculate with me in Deutsch. You sprechen English. I very well understand your meanness."

Stuck.
[Cleveland Plaindealer.]
"How did he come out of that glue company?"
"He didn't come out. He stayed in and got stuck."

Papa's Fault.
[Exchange.]
Mrs. Westende—You never think of the future. You live only in the present.
Westende—Well, your father is to blame for that. He gave us our house for a wedding gift.

Still Has Them.
[Chicago Tribune.]
"I understand Mrs. Vick-Senn and her husband had some high words yesterday."
"It's true so far as it relates to her. He may have had a few words also, but he didn't get a chance to use them."

Failure.
[Milwaukee Sentinel.]
"Oh, George, I don't think that new safety razor of yours amounts to anything at all."
"Why not, dear?"
"Because I tried to use it today and I couldn't do anything with it."
"What were you trying to do with it?"
"I was only trying to sharpen a pencil and it wouldn't cut a bit."

Ominous.
[Philadelphia Press.]
"Mr. Meekley and Miss Strong are actually to be married, eh?"
"Yes, unless he gets scared and backs out. It makes him nervous every time she mentions the 'trousseau' she's going to wear. She pronounces it so much like 'trousers'."

Knew His Congregation.
[Philadelphia Ledger.]
Bishop Ames tells a story of a slave master in Missouri in the olden time of negro vasallage, who said to his chaplain:
"Pompey, I hear you are a great preacher."
"Yes, massa; de Lord do help me powerful sometimes."
"Well, Pompey, don't you think de negroes steal little things on de plantation?"
"Yes, massa; 'fraid dey do, massa."
"Then, Pompey, I want you to preach a sermon to de negroes about stealing."

After a brief reflection Pompey replied:
"Yes, massa, dat wouldn't never do, 'cause 't would throw such a colosse over de meeting."

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188 Dundas St., London.

C.P.R. WILL FIGHT WITH HARRIMAN

Latter Declares War on the Jim Hill Lines in the Far West.

Portland, Oregon, Sept. 29. — The Oregonian today says: Retaliation upon the Hill lines for building the Portland and Seattle Railroad to reach Portland by the water-level route along the Columbia River will come in the form of new traffic agreements, by which the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company will admit the Canadian Pacific into the Columbia basin, through the Spokane gateway. It is said, and through such an arrangement use it as a weapon to combat the Northern Pacific and Great Northern, their most aggressive competitors for northern traffic. By such an adjustment the present traffic agreement with the Great Northern will be abrogated, and the Harriman lines will be in the advantageous position of offering northern routing where desired, either for freight or passenger traffic, and prevent either of the rival competing roads sharing in earnings derived by such service. It is claimed that Harriman interests have found it possible to enter into a sort of offensive and defensive alliance with the line across the border, and will keep the conditions by means of the link now building, and known as the Spokane International.

BANK IS PROSPERING
B. N. A. Has a Very Successful Half Year.

The half-yearly statement of the Bank of British North America has just been prepared, and shows that in relation to the very strong position it occupies in the financial world of the half-year, including \$5,000,000 brought forward from last account, amount to \$40,418. From this sum the directors have been able to pay a dividend of 30 shillings per share, being at the rate of 6 per cent, and still retain \$5,500 to be carried forward.

The dividend warrants, which are payable on Oct. 6, will be issued on Oct. 2, with the following proportions: The profit and loss account have also been made: \$513 1/4 to the officers' fund, and \$513 1/4 to the officers' pension fund.

New branches have been opened at the following places: Helley, B. C.; Belmont and Oak River, Man., and a sub-branch at Hamilton, Ont.

MONTEITH ON TOBACCO
Agriculture Minister Will Do All Possible to Aid Industry.

Toronto, Sept. 29.—Hon. Nelson Monteith, Minister of Agriculture, returned to his office today, after spending yesterday at his country seat.

Mr. Monteith had a motor tour through the southern portions of Essex and Kent, where tobacco is grown, and said today that he was greatly impressed with what he saw.

"I was convinced," he said, "that the tobacco industry has a future in this Province, and we propose to do what we can to help it along."

"I am informed that tobacco is now being cultivated in Wisconsin in a more northerly latitude than in Ontario, and I believe that the acreage in this Province can be very greatly increased."

"I am assured that we can grow just as good tobacco in Ontario as they can anywhere in the States, though we may not be able to equal some of the Havana brands."

The crop, though hard on the land, is a very profitable one to the farmer, who often clears, after all expenses, as much as \$100 an acre.

"I propose to make investigations regarding the seeds, cultivation, and methods of curing, with a view to placing as full information as possible before the farmers of the Province."

BIG FRUIT EXPORTS
Not Enough Steamers at Montreal to Handle Shipments.

Ottawa, Sept. 29. — Mr. McNeill, chief of the fruit division, in communication with the fruit inspectors at Montreal, has received word that the shipments of apples during the past two weeks have been the heaviest of the season.

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C.P.R. WILL FIGHT WITH HARRIMAN

Latter Declares War on the Jim Hill Lines in the Far West.

Portland, Oregon, Sept. 29. — The Oregonian today says: Retaliation upon the Hill lines for building the Portland and Seattle Railroad to reach Portland by the water-level route along the Columbia River will come in the form of new traffic agreements, by which the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company will admit the Canadian Pacific into the Columbia basin, through the Spokane gateway. It is said, and through such an arrangement use it as a weapon to combat the Northern Pacific and Great Northern, their most aggressive competitors for northern traffic. By such an adjustment the present traffic agreement with the Great Northern will be abrogated, and the Harriman lines will be in the advantageous position of offering northern routing where desired, either for freight or passenger traffic, and prevent either of the rival competing roads sharing in earnings derived by such service. It is claimed that Harriman interests have found it possible to enter into a sort of offensive and defensive alliance with the line across the border, and will keep the conditions by means of the link now building, and known as the Spokane International.

BANK IS PROSPERING
B. N. A. Has a Very Successful Half Year