

The Daily Planet

S. STEPHENSON, PROPRIETOR.
TELEPHONES
Business Office 33. Editorial Room 102.
THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1907.
PUBLIC OWNERSHIP.

The following from the Mail and Empire, bearing upon the London, England, elections, will be read locally with great interest. The people of this city are much interested in the question of municipal ownership, and the experience of others along any line is always interesting and should be profitable.

"Excessive faith in policies and measures is a weakness of present-day reformers. The abstraction of the dead letter can do little to make good what was bad, or to make better what was good, unless there is virtue in the human agents to whose hands the carrying out of programs and laws must be committed. Great principles can do nothing without the support of earnest majorities and the service of honest, competent adherents. Britain's capital city put its trust in public ownership, and behold the result—unlicensed squandering of the people's money, enormous additions to the civic debt, losses on nearly every enterprise ventured upon, the sinking of great masses into a state of pauperage, wretched public utility services, crushing burdens upon the poor, capital discouraged, and scandals abounding. The citizens who had placed their unreserved confidence in public ownership rose in their might on Saturday and swept from power the party that had made public ownership its guiding policy. It is probable that London will want no more public ownership for years to come. Yet it was not the principle that was to blame. There is nothing in the nature of public ownership that inclines to extravagance, or to any of the vices of government. It was the men, not the policy, that wrought the mischief. These same men, had they been commissioned to carry a Government within the narrowest lines of general municipal action, would have similarly abused the advantage the people's confidence and their own large majority gave them, and their incapacity or dishonesty would have produced evils similarly calling for punishment at the polls. Public ownership is not a charm against incompetence or dishonesty. Every extension of it, so far from making the task of government easier, increases the responsibilities of the men in office. Hence, it ought never to be extended except in communities whose general affairs are admirably administered. If a city is badly served by its Municipal Council in respect to its fire protection, sanitary requirements, the condition of its streets, and in respect to the public business generally, it should not think of adding to the municipal business the conduct of enterprises capably carried on by private corporations. London's example shows that public utilities can be as badly administered by a municipal corporation as can the regular municipal business. If a city wants good government, however much or little of public ownership may be included in the sphere of that government, it must elect men fit to govern.

"Municipal ownership, like everything else, needs regulating. If it is to accomplish all that is expected of it in this province, it should be subject to the strict scrutiny of Government auditors. Hon. Mr. Matheson's warning against the growth of municipal indebtedness might well be followed up by the institution of an audit service to examine all municipal ownership accounts. If it is properly watched over, municipal ownership in Ontario will never be in danger of falling into the discredit in which it now lies in England."

Commenting upon this same subject the Toronto News says:

"It would be easy to attach undue importance to the London municipal elections. Every movement has its seasons of reaction, and there seems to be no doubt that many unwise and extravagant things were done in London in the name of public ownership. In the main the energies of the community will proceed from individualism, and private effort can best direct the general activities of the nation. In so far, however, as the services which provide water, lighting and transportation are concerned, we believe they can be most satisfactorily managed by direct action of the municipality or the State, and progressive reformers should not permit their faith to be seriously disturbed by such a verdict as London has recorded, and which a few years hence may be absolutely reversed."

The March number of The Canadian Magazine contains eleven articles, six of which are illustrated, five short stories and seven poems. Perhaps the paper which will be of most interest to Canadians will be Newfoundland and the Dominion, by F. A. Wrightman, which is a strong plea for annexation.

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AT ALL DEALERS.

F. A. Robert, Agent, Chatham.

Now that Municipal Ownership is receiving so much attention in all parts of America, The Municipal Ownership of Railways in Germany, by Edward T. Heyn, which appears in the March number of Review of Reviews, will be read with much interest. Some of the leading articles which appear in the same number are, How Much if Any, Should We Smoke; Spain and the Holy See; The Tunnel from England to France; Richard Strauss and the Music of the Future; Canada's New Immigrant; The Possibilities of Latent Life, and The Effect of Climate on Character. These subjects, which are picked at random from amongst the many which appear in this number, are enough to show how versatile are the questions which are treated each month.

JUST A LITTLE BIT OFF THE TOP

Thaw says that his trial bores him. He should not get discouraged over a little bit of monotony, like that, however. If the jury should decide against him, the prospects of passing in his checks in the electric chair might prove exciting enough.

Mr. McArthur, of the Board of Education, talks of doing away with the monthly charge made to pupils at the C. C. I. A. We cannot vouch for how the innovation will take with the ratepayers, but it looks quite feasible in any case.

Old Father Thames may be expected to do his usual spring stunt any day now.

Rockefeller is talking of making more gifts to educational institutions. The wise man will buy his coal oil now before the price goes up.

The revolutionists pelted the police with snowballs in St. Petersburg the other day. Sort of a blank cartridge bomb practice to keep their hand in, most probably.

WHAT HE WANTED.
The victim in the barber's chair. Thus spake in brief rotator:
"Your conversation and my hair—
Alike you may cut short."
—Montreal Star.

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Then probably you know the evils of indigestion, fermentation and irritation that accompany digestive troubles. Next important is to know how promptly Nervine cures. Quick as wink it relieves bloating and feeling of fullness, puts the entire digestive apparatus in perfect order, makes you feel fit and fine all over. For internal pain Polson's Nervine surpasses every known remedy. Keep it in the house always, it's a source of comfort in the hour of emergency. Large bottles for 25c at all dealers.

He has never known true courage who will sacrifice principle for popularity.

There are musical plays and musical plays, but the number of real operas

THE STAGE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supplied to The Planet by Press Agents.

At the Brisco Opera House—Moving Pictures—All week. Sergeant Kitty—March 11.

The Moving Pictures and Vaudeville at the Brisco this week are attracting good crowds. The pictures are new, and the Edwards-Hamilton Co. in their new act, "Repentance," is worth seeing. Five cent matinee every day. Price of admission at night only ten cents.

"LOVERS AND LUNATICS."

"Lovers and Lunatics," the bright and sparkling comedy that introduces Joe Morris will be the offering at the Brisco Opera House on Tuesday, March 12th, and should appeal to the appetite of those who are hungry for a musical comedy. Walter C. Isman Parker is the author of the piece, and instead of turning out a mere vehicle for the in-



JOE MORRIS.

In "Lovers and Lunatics."

roduction of numerous specialties and singing numbers, he has furnished an extremely funny and said to be well written farce, which more than answers the purpose intended. The singing portion of the comedy, which introduces forty people, is said to be one of the strongest and best drilled choruses ever carried with a road production. The costumes are said to be strikingly original both in color and general effect.

There are musical plays and musical plays, but the number of real operas

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GEORGE MASSEY,

MANAGER.

is comparatively limited. "Sergeant Kitty," which will be seen at the Opera House next Monday evening, is one of the limited number, for it has a plot and a good one, music and clever attractive music, that lingers with an auditor long after the lights have gone out on the last act. Not only is the material offered in this opera good, but we are promised that it will be served to us by a company of unusual excellence headed by petite, vivacious Helen Byron, an entertainer of the highest order. The other members of the company are most capable, and the costumes both picturesque and elaborate. Miss Byron is well known in Ontario, as she was long identified with the Cummings Stock Company in Toronto, of which she was the leading lady—when the company was in its heyday. She was later the feature with the cast of "The Wizard of Oz." Miss Byron and her company in "Sergeant Kitty" are just returning from the Canadian Northwest, which opened the new theatre in Winnipeg on Christmas Day, conceded to be the finest house in America.

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It neither sounds well nor does it appear well to call others ugly names.

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