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LONDON, FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 1906.

License Legislation.

The Hanna bill represents the maximum of temperance legislation that may be expected from the Whitney Government. Mr. Spence, Dr. Chown, and other temperance leaders, say that the favorable features of the bill are outweighed by the provision that three-fifths of the vote polled is needed to give effect to a local option bylaw. In their opinion the temperance cause has received a setback at the hands of the Government.

It may be instructive to compare the temperance planks of the Liberal platform laid down at the provincial convention of 1904, with the performances of the present Government. The Liberal convention declared in favor of the local option act, amended so that a vote of the municipality must be taken upon the petition of 25 per cent of the ratepayers. The Hanna bill adopts this plan of initiating an appeal to the electors, but makes a three-fifths vote essential to the adoption of a bylaw. Instead of the simple majority required by the existing act, the Hanna bill authorizes a vote two years after the preceding vote, whereas the existing law prevents the reopening of the license question for three years if a bylaw is adopted, and for only three months if it is defeated. So far as local option goes—and it is the only door open to the prohibitionists—the Liberal platform was much more favorable to the temperance cause than the present Government's measure.

Another plank of the Liberal platform was this:

"That no new licenses should be issued in unorganized New Ontario for all time to come, the Government to take charge of the necessary sales for medicinal purposes. In granting land for hotel sites, it should be stipulated that no liquor is to be sold on them."

The Whitney Government promises that the number of licenses in unorganized New Ontario shall not be increased, but licenses may be transferred within the district.

In the Legislature, Mr. Whitney, while leader of the Opposition, defined his position as follows:

1. Decrease the number of licenses.
2. Maintain intact and allow no relaxation of the restrictions.
3. Remove the commissioners and inspectors from political and party influences.
4. Enforce the license law honestly, and with the whole power of the Government.

As to plank No. 1, the Whitney Government, so far from decreasing the number of licenses, has made that process more difficult by its amendment to the local option law.

As to plank No. 2, the Government proposes to allow liquor to be sold on steamboats, where it is now prohibited, and also permits liquor to be served with Sunday meals. The latter clause may lead to the same abuses as have attached to the Rains law of New York State. This ordinance forbids liquor to be sold on Sunday unless served with meals, but a Rains law meal is a standing joke. It may consist of a sandwich or a cracker.

Mr. Whitney's promise No. 3—to "remove the commissioners and inspectors from political and party influences"—has been travestied by the wholesale dismissal of license inspectors, for no other reason than to tighten the grip of the party machine on the license department. This branch of the public service has been chosen for the thorough-going application of the spoils system.

Whether the law will be honestly enforced, and with the whole power of the Government, remains to be demonstrated. The Government has not gone the best way about it by making the position of a license inspector dependent upon the continuance of his party in office.

Life Assurance Investigations.

The investigations of the royal commission, if properly conducted, will elicit the facts, and upon these the best judgment can be formed whether any, and if so what, amendments are necessary to make the laws governing life assurance as sound as they can be made.

The law as it now stands is on the whole fairly good. The inspector, Mr. Fitzgerald, and the actuary, Mr. Blackadar, are both men of much more than average ability. They have discharged their duties conscientiously and in the best interests of the public. The investigation, as far as it has proceeded, has shown this. Instead of regretting the powers of investment of life assurance companies they should be judiciously enlarged. Power in the hands of competent men is a

great source of profit. It pays the head of any establishment to put responsibility upon those under him. It develops the man so trusted. If the life managers of the large companies had been more confined in their investments they could not have produced the splendid results they did for their companies. Canada has several large companies becoming stronger every day, and several younger companies growing steadily. These companies are an element to be considered in the sum of prosperity which Canada confidently looks for in the future.

The public are often told, as in yesterday's Toronto Globe, "that insurance premiums are trust funds, that speculation with those funds is a crime." Are they any more so than deposits in a chartered bank, in a trust company, or in a loan company? Any debt due by one man to another is a trust. What seems to be lost sight of is that the same principles should govern all, and yet, let anyone who knows examine the powers of each of these different kinds of corporations, and it will puzzle him to tell why the difference exists. Take a chartered bank with a capital of a million dollars. Is its power to take trust funds on deposit limited, and are its powers of investment narrow? True, chartered banks are the boast of Canada. They have succeeded, not because their powers are confined, but because they are broad, and exercised with good judgment. Take trust companies with comparatively small capital, say one, two or three hundred thousand dollars. Are they limited in the number or amount of trusts or deposits they may assume? It is true the class of security is defined, but what stands between their clients and loss except the good character and good management of the trust company? Then take loan companies of the permanent description. The tendency of legislation during the past 20 years has been towards enlarging rather than restricting their powers, because experience proved that their powers of investment were insufficient. In 40 years only one loan company properly so-called has failed. A trust company has all the powers of a loan company without its restrictions. We point out these distinctions because legislation should proceed on sound principles, and the principles which are safe run through each of the different kinds of financial corporations to which we have referred, although it is quite plain that the legislation of the past does not conform to them.

The Globe article says: "The stand taken by the Globe against widening the investment powers of the companies, to which such strong objection was made from Montreal, is finding its justification even in the preliminary investigation." It has been shown that large profits have been secured for the policyholders by reason of the wider powers of investment, and wherein the Globe finds its justification is not apparent. It is quite plain that the present system of inspection has been sufficient to protect the public. There is no inspection of chartered banks, trust companies, or permanent loan companies. Let the law regarding these companies and life assurance be based on similar principles, and little, if any, change in the law of life assurance will be necessary to safely guard the public interests.

Oh, for the good old summertime last January.

The Ontario Government will license bartenders. Perhaps it is the intention to provide a course of instruction in mixing drinks.

Torrey and Alexander will begin revival meetings in Ottawa in June. It is expected Parliament will prorogue at the end of May, otherwise two great moral agencies may come into conflict.

The Finance Minister of Canada can float a 3½ per cent loan at 102 3-8. The Finance Minister of Ontario gets only 98 net for provincial 3½ per cents. The security is as good in one case as the other, but there may be a difference between the finance ministers.

The numbered ballot, though abolished by law, reappeared in the Kingston bye-election. It is to be hoped Mr. Whitney and his colleagues will feel as indignant as they pretended to be when the numbered ballot was legally used.

Canada Twenty Years Hence.

[Farmers' Sun.]

It is expected that 50,000 immigrants from Great Britain will settle in Ontario this year. About an equal number of Ontario people will remove to the Northwest in the same time. The volume of the two human currents is likely to increase rather than decrease. It is quite within the range of possibilities that in the next six or seven years we may lose half a million of our own people to the Northwest and receive an equal number from the old land. Such great changes in a Province with a population of a little over 2,000,000 must produce important industrial and social effects. We are losing not only the young and progressive, but those of our own habits and customs; we are getting young as well as old from abroad, but these, whether young or old, are not as pro-

gressive as are the men and women we are losing, and their views of life differ in many respects from those held here. At a result of all this, Ontario of ten years hence will differ very materially from the Ontario of today. Those of our people who go to the Northwest will also be changed; they will find themselves developing in the business west a new point of view, and will be greatly influenced by surroundings formed by strangers from the United States, Great Britain and the four corners of Europe. If one could do the Rip Van Winkle act, he would not know the Canada in which he would awake 20 years hence.

Overheard at Palm Beach.

Mrs. Newrick—"Is your husband fond of piscatorial pursuits?"
Mrs. Madeitquick—"No; he spends all his time a-shin'."

Gamey Gets the Cold Shoulder.

[The Gallery Clock in Toronto Star.]
To tell the truth, the Clock believes that Gamey wears this smiling mask to save his own feelings. It is no secret that the man is undergoing a kind of ostracism. He is the only member of the Legislature who has never been asked to dine with the Lieutenant-Governor. He gets the cold shoulder from his own political associates—and now that Dr. Nesbitt is gone, the House must feel mighty lonely. Freder Whitney would be glad, no doubt, to treat Gamey as an extinct volcano, useful once in changing the face of the landscape, but now quenched and negligible.

Good Word for the Corps.

[Kansas City Journal.]

There is a good old Quaker near Baldwin who has a practice through life of always saying something good of his neighbors. Not long ago a neighbor who hadn't anything to his credit died. The old Quaker attended the funeral, and while viewing the corpse, said: "Well, Ned, I will say this for thee, thee was a good whistler."

Eternally Indebted.

[Cleveland Leader.]

"Did you ever know Bilkins to keep his word?"
"Once."
"When was that?"
"I lent him \$5, and he said he'd be eternally indebted to me."

The County Council's Act.

[Ottawa Free Press.]

The opinion prevails among those well-informed in county affairs that a much better plan than that proposed by the Whitney Government would be to confine the membership to representatives of the county, and to give each, according to the population they represented, another proposal and perhaps a better one is to limit the representation of a council to ten members and have them chosen from among the reeves by a vote of the township councils combined.

Either of these proposals would be preferable to the system which the Whitney Government now proposes to adopt.

The New Explanation.

[Cleveland Plaindealer.]

The new stenographer—Here is the letter, sir.
The boss—Eh. But hold on. There are several misspelled words here.
The new stenographer—I beg your pardon, sir. Those words are not misspelled—they are simplified.

When Love Was New.

[Puck.]

When Love our toy was new—
The dainty winged toy—
So fresh, so fair its hue,
How great it made our joy!

We promised both, we two,
To treasure, not to destroy,
When Love our toy was new—
The dainty winged toy.

Who broke it, dear? Not you,
Not I. But girl and boy,
We parted of our own accord,
It by, Who guessed 'twould o'ert!

When Love our toy was new—
The dainty winged toy.

Hanna's License Law.

[Hamilton Times.]

So the barkeep must wear a tag; and, of course, he will have to demonstrate that he knows Scotch whisky from H2 SO4.

Unsentimental.

[New York American.]

"I'd die for you, Maggie."
"Yes, I know, Willie, but I'm lookin' ter a guy wot's willin' ter live and hustle around an' git de dough fer me!"

Reasonable.

[The Tailor.]

Marjorie—Daddy, it's raining.
Daddy—Well, let it rain.
Marjorie—Was going to, daddy.

A Shriek of Joy.

[Hamilton Spectator.]

'Rah or Hanna and good Boozel

Good Night.

[Mary Jeannette Allen.]

The world is very fair tonight,
Upon the soft, untrodden snow,
That gleams so pure and feathery white,
The stars cast down a golden glow,
Until each tiny crystal bright
Is sparkling like a precious gem,
While over all the moon's clear light
Is touching earth's white mantle's hem.

Each jeweled light of heaven, each star
Is shining in its place on high,
The silvery crescent beams from far,
Illuminating the azure sky;
The starry beauty of the night,
Its subtle charm and witchery,
Seal to my heart in lasting awe,
For love, my thought are all of thee.

Dear heart, if love could penetrate
That spirit world beyond the skies,
What solace in the sad, sad wait!
What vision to the longing eyes!
I wait to see your face in vain,
Forever hidden from my sight,
To clasp your hand in mine again,
My heart is breaking, love, tonight!

Sweet friend, in spirit world above,
Tonight, wherever you may be,
My heart speeds on the wings of love
And measures all the way to thee.
Love knows no distance or delay,
And love's glad vision is always light,
Across the world my heart will say,
Till death, dear heart, a fond good-night!

COPERNICUS
THE ASTRONOMER.

[Rev. Thomas B. Gregory, in the New York American.]

When the light of this world first met the eyes of the infant Jesus in his humble home in Nazareth, of Galilee, no one then on earth, outside of a paltry few, possibly, in Athens, and Alexandria, could have told, scientifically, whence that light came. The sun, the ruler of the day, shone then as he shines now, and all eyes beheld his splendor, but what he was, or what was his relationship to the earth, was, to all, save the handful referred to, a profound secret.

It was Copernicus, who first made the formal announcement of the Heliocentric idea—the idea that the sun, rather than the earth, is the center of our planetary system.

The Ptolemaic theory, which had remained practically unchanged and unquestioned for fifteen hundred years, taught that the earth was the center around which all the heavenly bodies revolved.

The Ptolemaic idea is, in a way, the most natural thing in the world. To the unscientific mind, nothing appears truer than the statement that the earth is the center around which the sun revolves, and that the moon and stars are but the embellishment of its "firmament."

Such is the idea taught in the Book of Genesis, and such was the idea in which all Christendom firmly believed in 1473, the year of Copernicus's birth. The work that forced men to substitute the Heliocentric for the Geocentric idea was Copernicus's immortal book, "The Revolutions of the Heavenly Bodies," published in 1543, with a groveling preface and cowardly apology by Copernicus's friend and literary executor, Olsander.

It was the 24th of May, 1543, and Copernicus was on his deathbed. For more than 40 of his three-score years and ten he had thought of his book! The mighty discovery had lain in his mind for a whole generation; the work itself had been ready for the press for many years, and now at last it was printed; printed with that mean apologetic lie of Olsander that its great author had propounded his doctrine, not as a fact but as a hypothesis.

On his bed, Copernicus lay dying; the eyes that had so gloriously swept the heavens were closed in death; the imperial brain that had made one of the most amazing discoveries of all time was almost unconscious; approaching footsteps were heard, and a messenger entered the sick room with a printed copy of the book that was to make a greater stir in the world than book had ever made before.

Copernicus touched his book, seemed to realize what it was, closed his eyes again, and died.

But the truth had been proclaimed; and as soon as men should once fairly see that truth, they would be obliged to admit it.

In a way it was a humiliating truth. The result of the discovery of Copernicus was to bring the earth to her real position of subordination and inferiority. So far from being the universe, the earth was soon to appear at her true value, as being but one of the smaller satellites of the sun, the sun himself being but one of the millions of other suns, all of them, perhaps, the satellites of some as yet undiscovered mass.

How big is a man, anyway? Well, he is bigger, somewhat than a mosquito, but he is not so big an elephant, and the elephant is small in comparison with a mountain, and the mountain is a mote beside the earth, and the earth is but a speck in the Solar System, and the Solar System is as a single leaf in a mighty forest compared even with that which is revealed by our present-day telescopes!

The great Hegel is said to have openly regretted the overthrow of the ancient astronomy, "because it was more dignified for Man to occupy the center of the universe."

Be that as it may, the fact was shown pretty conclusively by Copernicus that man did not occupy such position; that his earth-home was but an insignificant member of the hierarchy of worlds, and that his high-sounding theories about his importance and his unquestionably been woven out of his own immeasurable self-conceit.

POEMS THAT LIVE

Cleopatra.

[William Shakespeare.]

(From "Antony and Cleopatra," Act II, Scene 2.)

The badge she set in, like a burnish'd throne
Burn'd on the water; the poop was bent,
With the sails, and so performed, that
The wind was love-sick with them; the oars were silver,
Which to the tune of flutes kept stroke,
And the ship which they beat to follow faster,
As amorous of their strokes, for her own person,
He begg'd all description: she did lie
In her pavilion (cloth of gold, of tinsel),
O'erlustr'd that Venus, where we see
The fancy-out-work-nature; on each side her
Stood pretty dimpled boys, like smiling Cupids,
With diverse-shar'd fans, whose wind did seem
To glow the delicate cheeks which they did cool,
And what they undid, did.

Her gentlewomen, like the Nereides,
So many mermaids, tended her i' the eyes,
And made their bends adornings; at the helm
Stood diverse mermaid steers; the silken tackle
Sweet touch'd the touches of those flower-soft hands,
That wove frame the office. From the barge
A strange invisible perfume hits the sense
Of the adjacent wharfs. The city cast
Her people out upon her; and Antony,
Enthron'd in the market-place, did sit alone,
Whistling to the air; which, but for vacancy,
Had gone to gaze on Cleopatra too,
And made a gap in nature.

Ace cannot with her, nor custom stale
Her infinite variety; O'er her
Cloy the appetites they feed; but she
Makes hungry.

Where most she satisfies.

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Ladies' Spring Coats

Saturday special in Dressy, Hip-Length Covert Coats, tight-fitting back, lined throughout with satin, fancy flat collar, full pleated sleeve and turn-back cuff. Remarkable value at \$6.50.

WHITEWEAR
35c, 50c, \$1.10.
Corset Covers, made of cambric, full front, with two rows of lace insertion, lace edging, finished with beading and ribbon. A bargain at35c
Drawers, umbrella cut, made of good cambric, deep flounce of embroidery. Special50c
Slip-Over Night Gowns, good cambric, daintily trimmed with embroidery, at\$1.10

EMBROIDERY WASH COLLARS
Special for Saturday and night, 30 dozen Embroidery Wash Collars, finished to perfection, to withstand constant washing. Extra at 20c Each.
New Neck Frilling. White and colors, at, yard.....25c

"PHONAC" CORSET
Crompton make of imported cuttill, gray and white, bias cut, with long hip; hose supporters on front and side; suitable for medium figures. When you are getting a new gown is the proper time to get corsets. Try these this time. Price\$1.00
Vests—Ladies' Swiss Ribbed Vest, sleeves, half sleeves, and long sleeves, for spring, at25c

The Biggest Day of All

Saturday will be the biggest day of the opening. Those who have not been, will come for certain tomorrow and tomorrow evening. None wish to miss it, nor yet do we wish anyone to miss seeing this exhibit of spring and summer millinery. Come and bring your friends.

Strong Suit Values

Already we have secured bargains in Men's New Spring Suits. Lines that were made to sell for more, came our way at special prices—that's why we made the statement strong suit values. The following are for Saturday.

Men's Spring Suits, made of all-wool tweeds, nobby long coat, single-breasted styles, choice patterns, all new goods, with the addition of a line of Progress Brand Suits. These are all \$10 values. Full range of sizes, choice.....\$8.50

Men's and youths' all-wool Tweed Suits, two patterns, splendidly lined with extra quality mercerized saten. You should see this line of \$8.50 values, at.....\$6.95

Our special Tweed Suits, made of solid dark tweed, well-lined, French facing, men's and youths' sizes. Special value.....\$5.00

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MASTERS' CERTIFICATES

Commons Discusses the Measure of Mr. Lancaster.

Ottawa, March 22. — The House discussed at some length today Mr. Lancaster's proposed bill to amend the act respecting certificates to masters and mates of ships, which has for its object the confining of certificates for the great lakes and coasting trade to British subjects. Sir Wilfrid Laurier informed Mr. Ward that the Government had not yet arrived at a decision relative to the southern outlet to the Trent Valley Canal.

Mr. Zimmermann introduced a bill regarding investments of certain loan companies, which, he said, was a copy of one passed in 1890, but by error not presented for royal assent.

A long list of questions was then gone through. Sir Wilfrid Laurier told Mr. Monk that the transcontinental railway commission had not yet expatriated or taken possession of any land for the purpose of the railway in the Province of Quebec.

To Mr. Bennett the Premier said that \$12,543 had been expended on dredging at Port Colborne, \$12,000 on submarine rock excavation, \$22,125 on breakwater, and \$38,908 on Government elevator.

Col. Sam Hughes was informed by the Minister of Militia, that Canadian boatmen or voyageurs of the Red River expedition under Sir Garnet Wolseley in 1870 received no recognition from the Canadian Government. It had been decided by the Government of that day that those men were employed as civilians, and were not eligible for medals or scrip. They had been, in fact, treated precisely as teamsters employed at the same time. "It is not intended to depart from that decision," the minister added.

LOOTS THE LOOTERS

Chinese Pirates Raid a Standard Oil Launch at Canton.

Hong Kong, March 23. — A launch owned by the Standard Oil Company was seized and looted by pirates near Canton yesterday.

The pirates secured a number of Winchester rifles and a thousand rounds of ammunition. The United States gunboat Callao is proceeding to the scene of the piracy. Canton, in the vicinity of which the launch was attacked, is near the mouth of the west river in the Province of Kwang Tung, is the great seaport of Southern China.

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