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IS THERE BLAME?

THESE titanic marine disasters bring to the mind first shock, then mourning, pity and horror, then a revulsion of indignation. Cannot some cause be found for blame? Is there someone guilty upon whom a horrified and injured public can vent its righteous wrath? Cooler judgment also demands a cause that might have been, and may be in future avoided. The aetiology is of vital interest and importance.

Certainly, in the present instance the arrangements on the Empress of Ireland appear to have been beyond criticism, and the conduct of her officers and crew up to the noblest British standards. The lesson of lifeboat accommodation taught two years ago had not been neglected. Life-preservers were there in plenty, but passengers were excited, in the dark, and had only been on the boat a day. All things considered, the passengers, as well as the crew, behaved creditably. Cases of splendid self-sacrifice are reported, while cowardice was inconspicuous.

Captain Kendall blames the Stord for recklessness, or stupidity, or error of some sort. If the Norseman can make no satisfactory explanation, he will stand, perhaps, in the sight of the world with that captain who was censured for failing to come to the aid of the Titanic, whose distress signals he saw. Headstrong stupidity, or indifference, are great sins in an emergency.

It is to be hoped that ill chance after all was mainly to blame, though there is small consolation in that. We hate to allow of the inevitable evil. We naturally seek something to punish or correct.

THE ONTARIO ELECTIONS.

THIS is a very important announcement, because an election for the Provincial Legislature is always full of meaning, and has a great effect upon the welfare of the people of the Province.

Speaking in 1893 at the Parliament of Religion at the Chicago Exposition, Cardinal Gibbons, of Baltimore, in his summing up of the good the Catholic Church had done, said: "She has founded asylums for the training of children of both sexes and for the support of the aged poor; she has established hospitals for the sick and homes for the redemption of fallen women; she has exerted her influence toward the mitigation and abolition of human slavery; she has been the unwavering friend of the sons of toil. These are some of the blessings which the Catholic Church has conferred on society."

When the long list of charities of the Provincial Government are examined they will be found to include all these and more. Sandfield Macdonald's Government established asylums for the insane, and the Mowat Government enlarged and maintained them, adding asylums for the deaf and dumb, granted large aids to hospitals for the sick, and homes for children and the aged poor, and towards charities of various kinds. At the time of the defeat of the Ross Government it had under consideration the establishment of a hospital for the cure of leprosy. It will be seen therefore that a very important part of the work of the Government of the Province is clearly charitable.

Social service is at present occupying a large place in the work of the churches. Our large cities have foreign elements of population, entirely unknown a few years ago, and if the foreign population is to be made the best of, the Government must, along these lines, work side by side with the churches as it has been doing in the charities referred to.

The principal issue at the election will be the abolition of the bar. Many will hold, that, in the presence of this question, all the other charities take a minor place, that the abolition of the bar will lessen the necessity for social service, now taking so prominent a place, that it is an advanced moral position to take on one of the most important home questions which the electors can be called on to consider. There are no real party issues in the Ontario Legislature, and the polls will decide whether or not public opinion on both sides is sufficiently advanced to abolish the bar, regardless of the consequences to the party to which they claim adherence.

THE GREATEST YET.

THE supplementary estimates brought down by the Dominion Government call for an additional \$17,455,912, which, with the amounts asked for before, make the appropriations for the year \$208,174,088. This, however, does not represent the whole amount. The Farmers' Bank bill adds \$1,200,000 more, while over a million will be required for Fenian raid grants. Last year was considered a record year for purposes of expenditure. This year will exceed it by nearly \$3,000,000. Nor is this the final word. There may be some railway subsidies passed before the session is over. Then there is the undeniably and uncertain indebtedness that will be involved in the Government guarantee

of \$45,000,000 for the C. N. R. In a nutshell, it means that the Dominion Government will spend this year out of the money it collects from our people between \$25 and \$28 per head for every man, woman and child in Canada.

During the last year of the Liberal Administration it cost \$87,774,198 to carry on the ordinary affairs of the country; while the total expenditure was \$122,861,250. And great volumes of Tory eloquence were outpoured in showing up this extravagance of the Grits. We have now had three years of Tory government. Have we seen any economy practiced? Has there been any reduction per capita in our expenses? The figures give the answer. Sixty-four million dollars more for ordinary expenditure. Nearly \$100,000,000 increase in total expenditure. This is the record of only three years. Next year the Government will be faced with the necessity of preparing for an election. And the way a government of this stripe prepares for an election is to scatter money freely through the constituencies, not alone for public works, but for everything reasonable or unreasonable, that will give an excuse for spending. If an ordinary year like 1914 shows an advance in its outlay of nearly eight million over 1913, what will 1915 show?

It is not necessary to criticize each individual item of expenditure. Some of them are quite justifiable. With a growing country like ours, we must look for increases in many departments of government. But there has been no growth in population, no development of business, no expansion of trade, no advance in the cost of living, that would justify an increase in expenditure of about 30 per cent a year for three continuous years.

Canada is prospering, but if she is to be a spendthrift then her prosperity will be very short-lived. Even if our prosperity in the future kept pace with our progress in the past we could not afford to waste our receipts nor our resources. But we are not growing as we have been. Our trade is increasing, but not nearly so fast as in the last few years. Our population is increasing, but not at the same rate, for the tide of immigration is materially less. At the same time the cost of living is going up faster than in the United States, or in Australia, or in Great Britain. But the Government continues with renewed vigor to milk the public cow. And what it gathers without pity or remorse, it scatters without wisdom or sense.

THE PLEA IN DEFENCE.

IN view of the approaching provincial election the Premier has issued his plea in defence of the Government's ten years' management of affairs. He talks largely and grandiloquently of what has been done, and wisely omits all reference to what he has failed to do.

We are told that they have "restored clean and honest methods in the conduct of elections." Those who have taken part in the elections held under this Administration have not noticed any alteration in the methods employed by unscrupulous ward heelers on either side. And if the reception of contributions to campaign funds from contractors with disputed claims, and the gerrymandering of constituencies, is to be taken as any criterion of the moral sense of a government, we need not have much doubt as to what practices will be forthcoming when required. The only legislation in this connection worthy of praise was the act of last session, which was only adopted after repeated urging by the Opposition.

We are told that a great deal has been done for agriculture. But therein it has only been following out the policy of its Liberal predecessors, who created the department of agriculture, opened the agricultural college, and spent freely for agricultural organization and the scientific education of the farming community. We are told that they have made the Provincial University prosperous, and "have taken advanced steps in educational progress." Money has certainly been freely expended on the Toronto University, though its authorities still claim that they have not nearly enough. Whether the aggrandizement of one University at the expense of those in the east and west, deserves praise is a question to which we, at all events, would give a decided answer. As to "educational progress" in matters of either legislation or administration, we suppose that is unintentional jocularity.

"We have more than doubled the provincial revenues," says the Premier. But an increase in revenue has been mainly due to the increasing prosperity of the country, and the development of its resources. It is difficult to see how the Government can claim credit for it. On the other hand, instead of administering the increased revenues economically, so that we could pay our way, the Government has not found them sufficient for its purposes, and has had to increase our debt, and raise the succession duties, and impose taxes on corporations.

Credit is taken for the hydro-electric system. But no credit is given to the preceding Liberal Government, which paved the way for its introduction by legislation as advanced as was possible at the time. No reference is made to the fact that the chief obstacles Mr. Beck had to overcome in his propaganda were the indifference and antagonism of his own colleagues. Nor would it ever be learned from the Premier's manifesto that while Liberal leaders and the Liberal press criticized what they considered the defects of the system, they were most earnest advocates of the principle of light and power for the people.

Credit is taken for the increase in local option territory, and the reducing of the number of liquor licenses by 1,200. But it is not mentioned that these licenses were cut off by the operation of the temperance legislation of the Liberal Government; and that the reductions would have been vastly more had it not been for the "three-fifths" clause of the

---and the Worst Is Yet to Come



C. H. Wellington

Whitney Government. Nor is there any apology for working in harmony with the liquor traffic, and opposing the temperance sentiment of Conservatives and Liberals alike, who are demanding that the bar be abolished.

Sir James intimates that much has been done for Northern Ontario, and he gives especial prominence to the fact that a special representative of that section has a seat in the Cabinet. We would never learn from his address that the Liberal Government before him had opened up that country; given it roads and railway communication, fostered its enterprises and developed its resources.

We are informed that a workmen's compensation act has been passed. But no hint is given that it was delayed for years despite the constant urging of the Liberals, that the act was finally drafted by Sir William Meredith, a gentleman outside the Government and outside the Legislature, and that the Opposition advocated the adoption of such a law, and supported the measure when it was introduced.

So the Government "points with pride" to its record, which it tries to cover with a veil of vain words, and hopes the public will not see the unsightly thing beneath.

LOOK FOR THE BEAUTIFUL.

OF a recent play, a play of dramatic intensity, exquisite symbolism and elusive charm that captured both heart and intellect—the supreme effort of a great poet—was so beautiful that it hurt, while another, who attended the same performance, dismissed it with a terse "totten." Which brings up the question as to whether appreciation of the beautiful in life is not largely a gift of the gods rather than an acquired mental state. And the different viewpoint of the two persons would seem to indicate that one is born with this quick appreciation of what is lovely, because the one who responded so instantly and completely to the beauty of the play has seen a bare score of years, whilst the other, who came away bored, is close to three score, and has had all the happenings of a varied life to help give play to the imagination. Travels, books, advanced education had developed a certain critical alertness, but his nature was still dulled to the solemnly beautiful expression of the stupendous and terrible truths of life. The other, lacking the experience that comes with the years, the sympathy that is born of sorrow and farewells, the breadth of mind that can only come from the knowledge of men and affairs, was affected to the point of poignancy as a poetic sense of birth and life and death was unrolled. This one probably could not analyse the feelings. She simply "felt" that it was beautiful. On this person has been bestowed the priceless gift of imagination in its highest form. To such a one there is an exquisite pleasure to be found in the life of a perfect metre, in those strange weirdly charming bars that are scattered through music, in the magic of flower, in the coming of spring and the passing of summer, in the glory of the sunset, and the fineness of friendship.

But if we haven't all been blessed with this unusual capacity, there are few of us to whom the beautiful, that is all around us, does not appeal in some degree; and this can be immeasurably enlarged by observation of nature, by listening to good music, cultivation of the poets, reading fine books and persistence in seeking for the reverse to the gloomy, harsh and cruel things of life. To see some of the beauty of life daily, to absorb it as we go along, will help sustain us, and lighten the pathway when the shadows gather.

Canada's pulse is not so strong under Dr. Borden's care.

These may be the dog days, but the nights belong to the June bug.

Speaking of devastation, have you ever noticed what a busy baby can do with a bottle of ink?

A New York man took a shock of twenty thousand volts and lives, which in-

dicates that he is cut out for the job of a professional gunman.

The entire civilized world will expect an investigation into the sinking of the Empress of Ireland as thorough as the one which followed the foundering of the Titanic.

If he wishes to make a grand stand finish by capturing the Mexican capital, Villa had better hurry up, as Ty Cobb will soon be back in the game and grabbing all the interest.

A vicar of Wardsworth, England, attributes the troubles of Ireland since 1868 to Gladstone's disestablishment of the Irish Church. So the troubles since 1868 had nothing to do with evils before 1868!

A Mr. E. G. Harman brings out a book to show that Bacon wrote poems of Spenser, as well as the plays ascribed to Shakespeare. Bacon was no eight-hour worker. He broke the rules of the union, that boy.

Welsh disestablishment has gone through the British Commons for the last time, and the exhausted Opposition hardly makes a dying kick. The one-man-one-vote act will nail up the coffin of old-line Toryism.

In the recent Grimsby election in England the Unionist majority was cut from 698 to 278, although for once a dead end was made by the Tories on the Ulster issue. Personal letters were sent by Sir Edward Carson to many individual electors. The English electors rebuked the Tory attempt to tamper with the army.

AMBIGUOUS.

(Judge.)
Frost—I don't like women to wear colors.
Mrs. Frost—All right, love. I'll gladly wear black for you.

BEST HE COULD DO.

(Boston Transcript.)
She (out for evening stroll)—Oh, dear, I'm very thirsty.
He (broke)—Take a look at the Big Dipper.

FASHIONABLE.

(Chicago News.)
If the women take to hoop skirts the street car people will simply have to put on additional vehicles.

TOO HOT FOR WAR.

(Ottawa Free Press.)
The home rule bill has passed the Commons and still there's no war in Ulster. The weather's too hot for fighting anyway, except in the case of Mexicans.

POEMS WORTH READING

TO THE MEADOW LARK.

Bird from whose dulcet strings
The early winds shake sweetest melody,
When tremulous summer sings
Her faint adieu to spring from grove
and lea.

Thou'rt heard, and still thy wings
Buoys the rare rapture of thy voice over
the autumn tree.

The nightingale has here forgot her fame;
The skylark, like a ghost from fairy
lore,
Weaveth a magic round her whispered
name;

Imagination conjures fruitful store
Of burning rose leaves, choice
And peerless peach-plush, summer's
charmed lispings.

And hears that far still voice.
When burgeoning spring forgets
To sound thy prelude, may her streaming
veins
Congeal, her violets
Fall in blanched languor from their purple
stains.

Paint for the dewy jets
That ceased to glimmer when were spent
thy mellowing refrains.

Now for a breath the choristers are still—
Thou sing'st thy cavatina to the sky;
Sweet-throated winds, sonorous o'er the
hill,
Or fluting through the silvery poplars
high,
Playing on reed and wood,
Are the orchestral chords harmonious,
subdued to thy rapt mood.

Thou art our visioned priest,
In tabernacle of the air dost dwell
From celestial fancies released;
With heart-throbs we implore thy
oracle.
For it from heaven's feast,
Melodious optimist, has stolen the bliss
thy notes do tell.

—Mary Cornell.

GEO. McBROOM, Inspector.
R. T. HARDING, General Agent.
R. P. PEARCE, Superintendent Industrial Branch.

SYMBOL OF BYGONE DAYS.

(Charles H. Meiers, in Judge.)
I saw a sight this morning
That made my fancy fly
Back over the years, in visions
Of blissful days gone by.
'Twas but a tiny symbol,
But, oh, how it did grip!
A bow of gaudy ribbon
Tied on a buggy whip.

QUITE SO.

(Kansas City Journal.)
"This magazine invite suggestions
for furnishing a girl's room."
The usual procedure is to sneak all
the desirable articles to be found in
the rooms of mother, father and
brother.

THE WIG.

(Minna Irving, in Judge.)
Now, why did I buy it, I wonder?
I must have been crazy, I know!
But the papers are full of the fashion,
And the saleswoman flattered me so!
I read for my husband to see it—
He's certain to grumble and scold.
He used, in the days of courtship,
To liken my tresses to gold.

How Madge and Louisa and Gladys
And the rest of the women would
stare,
If I should appear in the tango.
Oh, caramels! out of my hair!
But I'll bet they would go in convul-
sions
Of jealousy over my rig.

I guess, after all, that I'll wear it
To spite them, my new purple wig.

PUZZLE.

(Washington Herald.)
A Cambridge girl admits she is going
to marry a certain Harvard law
student, but insists they are not en-
gaged. If the law student figures that
out satisfactorily he ought to be gradu-
ated with honors.

From Western Ontario Press

BERLIN FLAG INCIDENT.

(Guelph Mercury.)
Some one tore down a German flag
in Berlin, Ont., that had been in use
for years, and considerable feeling has
been aroused. After each incident of
this kind we are always more certain
than ever that the asylums of the
province should be materially en-
larged.

BOOZERS RUNNING AUTOS.

(Chatham News.)
No man in an intoxicated condition
should be allowed to drive an auto-
mobile. The law on this point cannot
be too strong, and the authorities can-
not be too industrious in enforcing it.
A warning should be issued to all
people who own cars, and who are in
the habit of drinking to excess while
in charge of their machines, that they
will have to discontinue the habit or
forfeit their licenses.

In the state of New York there is a
law which states that no man who is
even an occasional drinker, or who is
known to take a single drink, shall be
allowed to run a motor car. That is
probably a little stringent to be en-
forced literally, but the principle of
that law is excellent.

THEATRE PRICES.

(Guelph Herald.)
The Billboard, the able organ of the
amusement world, declares that the
prices of seats in theatres will have to
come down "if the theatre is ever to
re-enter its own." "This impression,"
says the Billboard, "has long existed
among our leading theatrical managers,
and it is rapidly deepening into con-
viction. Furthermore, the ranks of
those who opposed the idea are dwind-
ling steadily." The Billboard makes a
good point when it says that first class
theatre seats ought not to be higher
than the price of a good novel. But
that price is no longer a dollar and a
half. Very seldom now, is a novel
put on at that price. In this day of
"net" and "fixed" prices, the best novels
sell, largely according to size, at \$1.25,
\$1.50, \$1.75, and rarely \$1.49. So even
novels have come down—perhaps be-
cause of the competition of magazine
fiction. It is a condition and not a
theory, that confronts the theatre.

FLY SWATTING IS USELESS

Our Dominion Entomologist says: "I
am convinced that the practical results of
the fly swatting campaigns that have
been carried on by some of our news-
papers are useless as fly reducers." But
the fact that one ten-cent packet of
WILSON'S FLY PADS is capable of kill-
ing a bushel of flies proves them to be
the best of all fly killers, and recommends
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