

## THE SENATOR.

AN ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY.

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### OURSELVES.

In these days of promiscuous journalism it is well nigh impossible to discover a field not already covered by existing papers. We venture to think that, as far as Ottawa is concerned, The Senator will find for itself a sphere of usefulness which it will be our endeavor to widen and develop, and this without encroaching materially on the ground so ably covered by our city dailies. At least such is our purpose. We would direct the attention of our subscribers and readers generally to the advance in appearance made in this the second number of The Senator. We shall continue to improve along the lines laid down, until we have reached that perfection in style of work and literary matter calculated to please the readers we have in view.

We have every reason to be satisfied with the reception accorded the first issue of The Senator, the sales of which greatly exceeded our own expectations at the start. Subscriptions have come in during the first week at a lively rate, thus encouraging the publishers to greater efforts. We recognize the fact that to stand still is to go back and we have no intention of doing that, even when we have reached what we now would probably consider perfect on. The tributes of appreciation we have received encourage us in the hope of placing before the people of Ottawa an illustrated weekly of superior merit and one which will permanently establish itself in popular favor. The Senator may be had at the book-stores and news stands in the city.

### GOOD MEN WANTED.

**WANTED**—in the city of Ottawa, at the dawn of the Twentieth century, twenty-four honest men and one *very* honest foreman to take charge of the establishment devoted to the management of the affairs of the aforesaid city. Duties not onerous, but requiring backbone, ability and the strictest integrity. Steady employment guaranteed for a year at least. Wages to be discussed later on in the columns of the city press. None but reliable, competent and public-spirited citizens need apply. The foreman must be a man of spotless character, having the confidence of his fellow-citizens together with the magnetic power of holding his men to the lines of public duty. To a man who has studied and practised successfully economy and who would have the same salutary regard for the public purse as he has for his own pocket, a liberal salary will be paid, to be supplemented by the esteem and gratitude of his fellow-citizens in proportion to the worth of his services. Citizens of Ottawa aspiring to represent this city in the Local Legislature or in the House of Commons, citizens desirous of a seat in the Cabinet or in the Senate, would do well to consider the advantages to be derived from a year or two's hard work in the vital interests of their city. Here is the chance of a life

time for some able business man to make his mark by rescuing the finances of the city from the desperate condition into which they have been allowed to drift and to aid Sir Wilfred Laurier in his praise-worthy design of making Ottawa the Washington of the North.

### THE COMING CIVIC ELECTIONS.

It may be true, as frequently stated, that Canada is a much governed country; it is certainly true that the system, as it now stands, embracing Federal, Provincial and Municipal government, is admirably adapted to the conditions and needs of the people. Few people would care to see any serious change made in the Constitution, though there are many who, from time to time, think that there could be better administration of affairs under existing forms. There is, probably, more need for reform in civic administration than in any other department of government, on account of the constant demands due to the growth of urban territory and population. If we may trust public opinion as reflected in the columns of the press, there is hardly a city in the Dominion, whose affairs are managed to the satisfaction of the majority of its citizens. Corruption, jobbery, "ring" rule, the reckless squandering of the public funds, "botched" work, incompetency and the constant necessity for excessive taxation are the charges most frequently to be met with. Not very long ago Goldwin Smith was reported to have described Toronto as a city governed by a village council. The force of the remark though plain might possibly not be very complimentary to many a village council. Judging by opinions freely expressed, from the nature of the criticisms appearing in our daily papers and election manifestoes, Ottawa is in much the same position as Toronto. It is frequently argued as a cause of this unsatisfactory state of things, that the right men do not seek election, and that the electors themselves cling to those who, though apparently not lacking in experience, fail to fulfil the expectations formed of them, so that it appears to be more difficult to obtain efficiency and economy in the conduct of the business affairs of a city than in those of a province or, indeed, of the Dominion. It is, of course, generally speaking, easier to pull down than to build up, to criticise adversely than favorably, to point out defects than to suggest remedies. The beginning of every civic year is marked by bright anticipations of service to be rendered by the newly-elected aldermen, but at the end thereof, there is the same old wearisome wailing of disappointment at the incompetency displayed, at the mistakes made, at the deliberate or neglectful dishonesty in the administration of the affairs of the city. Is there a remedy for this unsatisfactory state of things, and if there is, how is it to be obtained? The remedy lies in the public spirit that should prevail among the citizens and in the choice of competent and trust-worthy men by the rate-payers. To have a city council unable to manage the affairs of the city in a creditable and successful manner is an acknowledgment that the city is either lacking in business men of ordinary ability, or that capable men are so wanting in public spirit that they will not seek election. The time to secure a capable council for next year is

now and not after the elections. The necessity of such a council has been made plain to the people time and again and it rests with the rate-payers to bring out and elect men who will have the interests of the city at heart,—men competent, independent and honest.

### THE STEPS THAT COST.

It is almost a pity that a compromise was effected between the city and the proprietress of the house with the wonderful steps. Had the case gone to court on its merits, in all probability it would have rivalled the famous suit of "Bullum versus Boatum." If we may be permitted to outline the facts the bull stepped into a boat tied to shore by a hay band and the expected happened. The bull ate away the hay band with the result that the boat with its bovine freight drifted down stream and was lost, that is, the bull, or the boat, or both, it hardly matters which now. The great difficulty was to determine whether the bull ran away with the boat or the boat with the bull. The case of "Steps versus Street," which has occupied so much space of late in the Ottawa papers and so much attention on the part of the people, presented an exasperating difficulty in the shape of an uncertainty as to which was the aggressor, the street or the steps. With all due respect to the city council we are inclined to think that the legal view taken by City Solicitor McVeity should have been acted upon, else what is the use of having a City Solicitor, or why was he appealed to at all? The first thing to have done was what Solicitor McVeity suggested, to find out whether the steps actually rested on the street, where they had clearly no right to be, or whether as one, perhaps an extremist, avers, the street ran through the house, where it as clearly had no right to run. Had this been done, even if, for justice or prudence' sake, a compromise entailing the expenditure of public money to the extent of \$400 had been effected, the people of Ottawa would have had the satisfaction of knowing at least the right and the wrong of the case. As it is the steps taken to have "the steps" taken away seem to have been grounded on the weak but costly policy of peace and safety at any price. The Board of Works for 1900 will be able to boast that it has settled one great and burning question at any rate, and done so for the paltry sum of \$400.

### THE SPIRIT OF SPORT.

More space in the average city newspaper is devoted to athletics and sport generally than to any other department of journalism. The love of sport is ingrained in the British and American character, so much so that nothing short of a sharp and sanguinary war struggle can supercede it in the columns of the press as well as in the minds of the majority of men. It is doubtful if a French invasion of England on Derby Day would detract much from the attendance at Epsom. There are two sides to sport, two elements to be considered. There are the performers and the spectators, two correlated influences; for if there were no performance there would be no spectators, and if no spectators, but an indifferent performance. The performers may also be divided into two classes. There are

those who practise athletics for the worthy purpose of developing their own physical powers, for the pleasurable excitement there is in it, or for the fame attending success, but who look for no pecuniary reward. In such we recognize the Amateur. On the other hand, there are those who, on account of exceptional skill and success in competition, elect to convert sport into a labor and a consequent means of gaining a livelihood. These are the professionals who, although generally admitted to be most proficient, nevertheless lose caste in the estimation of the votaries of amateur sport, which is apt to be looked upon as being free from the sharper practices of professionalism. Whilst it is impossible to over-estimate the physical benefits derived from moderate and systematized athletics, the evils of over-training and over exertion should not be lost sight of, especially in the case of youth of an age when the growing body calls for the greatest amount of nutrition and the conservation of energy. As far as the spectators are concerned, they are actuated by motives in which physical exercise has no part. Sport generally implies contest of some kind and the pugnacious element lying dormant in man is aroused and pleasurably appealed to. Then there are too the natural love of excitement, the contagious spirit of an animated or enthusiastic crowd the pleasure of individual, partisan or patriotic sympathy, and one other fascinating influence, regarded generally as the greatest evil attaching to sport, namely, betting. The English and American people are perhaps more given to sport of which wagering is a prominent feature than are Canadians, who though just as ardent in the field as either, strive to adapt themselves to the spirit of public opinion and go into it for what can be gotten out of it in a wholesome way, rather than for what there is in it from a pecuniary standpoint.

President Robertson of the Ontario Hockey Association cuts the line severely between the Amateur and professional sport as follows:

"Our creed is to encourage the amateur and discourage the professional sport. The former has the first place in our list of friends. He has not only our good-will, but our endorsement in all the forms within our power to give. He is as welcome to us as the weather on a zero morning. The latter is our enemy. He prates and preaches, but he never practises. An open foe one may watch, but the pretended friend, the spurious amateur, the man who skates under false colors, the professional who tracks in a disguise of hair dye and false whiskers, is the curse of all true sport in this Dominion."

The Toronto Globe protests against the indecency of some of the plays that are presented at the Grand Opera House in that city. "Last Season," says the Globe: "several protests were made in this journal against placing on our stage productions of the nature referred to, but the Syndicate that controls the bookings at the Grand seems inclined to defy public opinion in this matter."

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