

AN OBJECT LESSON.

Those who are raising such an outcry in this city about the inestimable value of the civic franchise and the fearful wickedness of those who would permit civic electors to forego the exercise of it in the case of aldermen for a short time, would do well to ponder the result of the election held in Vancouver on Thursday.

Our Vancouver contemporary on the morning of the election said: "In view of the fact that a deliberate attempt is being made to deprive a large proportion of those who enjoy it of the civic franchise, it is to be hoped that the municipal electors will go to the polls in large numbers to-day as a protest against the retrograde step proposed by the Attorney General.

Being thus solemnly adjured by the News-Advertiser to go to the polls in large numbers, the electors of Vancouver were so little inclined practically to protest against the Government of Cities Bill and to exercise what they have been told is a privilege of incalculable value, they were so insensible to the impending danger and placed so light a value on the privilege of electing a Mayor and Aldermen that but a small fraction of them thought it worth while to cast their ballots.

The truth is that not only in Victoria and Vancouver, but in very many cities on this continent, intelligent people have begun to despair of having their city affairs decently managed under the present system.

TORONTO BOODLING.

The full text of Judge McDougall's report of his investigation into civic corruption in Toronto, is published in the newspapers of that city of the 4th inst. It is clear, calm and dispassionate. The story which the Judge tells is most damaging. He shows that many of the servants of the citizens of Toronto were steeped in corruption. These men were ready to betray their trust to anyone, at any time for a price. In their chairs in the Council Chamber they appeared honest and faithful representatives of the citizens, most zealous to promote their interests and to administer the public money carefully and to the best advantage.

"THE WORST ONE POSSIBLE." The St. Paul Pioneer-Press, one of the ablest and most respectable newspapers in the Western States, commenting upon a bill now before the Senate of Minnesota, says: "It is sufficient to say of it that the scheme of city government which it adopts is the very worst one possible—that it is government by city council—which has been condemned by universal experience. We have tried this at St. Paul once, and know how it works. To this single body of ward politicians is entrusted not only all the legislative, but pretty nearly all the executive powers of city government."

The case of Otto C. E. Guellich, of Detroit, who had tendered for paving, shows how the boodle aldermen did their bad business. Guellich had, as he believed, secured the contract. His was the lowest tender and it

had been accepted by the Council, and he had put in his security for the performance of the work to the satisfaction of the City Treasurer. The surprise of the contractor may be imagined when, while spending an idle hour in the headquarters saloon, he was approached by one of the innocent-looking aldermen and told that unless he paid him and several other aldermen the necessitous sum of \$15,000, the resolution declaring him to be the lowest tender and granting him the work would be rescinded at the next meeting of the Council.

The fact that 636 voters out of 4,300, somewhat less than one-sixth of the constituency, elected a Mayor for the city of Vancouver, is significant. Can a Mayor who is elected by less than one-sixth of the qualified voters be said with any degree of propriety to represent the whole constituency? The number of persons who voted for Mayor on that day were only 998. What were the remaining 3,317 voters about? Why did they disfranchise themselves? Can civic electors be said to value the franchise very highly when more than three-fourths of them voluntarily abstain from voting on the day of a most important election?

If the Government had proposed to disfranchise, for any purpose whatever, three-fourths of the electors of Vancouver or any other city of the Province, the proposal would be greeted by a burst of furious indignation, and the people would have good reason to be indignant. Yet we see that on Thursday that proportion of the electors of Vancouver voluntarily disfranchised themselves. We see very nearly the same state of things in this city when important by-laws are to be voted upon.

"It is manifest that no more effective method of securing aldermanic votes and influence can be devised than for contractors who tender for work to promise various aldermen in the Council the sub-contrivance for the supply of material needed by them in the performance of their contracts."

Judge McDougall's report is edifying reading to everyone who takes an interest in civic affairs. It shows that the electors of cities cannot be too careful in the choice of City Councilors. It makes it very clear that they should be men of tried integrity and also men who are not likely to be tempted by bribes to betray the interests of the city to contractors and others with whom it does business.

FAITHFUL OFFICIALS.

We are glad to see that Messrs. Hayward, Saunders and Lovell have consented to serve again as School Trustees. They have during the last two years done their duty faithfully and efficiently. The schools have prospered under their care, and if they are retained in office will continue to prosper. The citizens of Victoria are under a debt of obligation to Mr. Charles Hayward. He has been now for a long time Chairman of the Board of Trustees. He devotes a good deal of his time to the duties of the position, and we are quite sure that the great majority of those who have had the opportunity of seeing how he does his work are convinced that he does it faithfully and well. The public spirit which Mr. Hayward displays in looking after the schools deserves public acknowledgment. His work is, as our readers know, a labor of love, yet if he had been paid a high salary he could not have been more diligent or more careful in its performance. We hope to see the three trustees we have named returned without opposition.

THE POLICY OF DEBIT.

Another illustration of the weakness of the Times for suiting allegations of fact to argument, in preference to basing argument upon facts, appears in its issue of yesterday, in which the following untruthful but characteristic paragraph appears:

Our friends, the Liberals of the Dominion Government in this city are trying to make the people believe that all the claims of the post office clerks have been conceded by the government. But the government were not going to admit that they were entirely in the wrong and so decided to remit \$40 of the back allowance, leaving the fine at \$10. The announcement by the COLONIST, which our unreliable contemporary has deliberately misrepresented, appeared on Friday morning, in these words: Messrs. Earle and Prior, M's P., have been zealously at work in their behalf, and yesterday they learned that their labors had not been vain, a telegram from Hon. Mr. Daly conveying to them the information that the four months' withheld pay of both clerks and carriers would be paid as they had demanded.

having the seeds for a frightful harvest of corruption and extravagance. It will be seen from this that government by City Council, which is prized so highly by some persons in this city, has fallen into disrepute in the United States. The people of Victoria are already beginning to reap some of the bad harvest it has produced in St. Paul and other cities in the United States.

VANCOUVER'S ELECTION.

The fact that 636 voters out of 4,300, somewhat less than one-sixth of the constituency, elected a Mayor for the city of Vancouver, is significant. Can a Mayor who is elected by less than one-sixth of the qualified voters be said with any degree of propriety to represent the whole constituency? The number of persons who voted for Mayor on that day were only 998.

There can be no good city government when the majority of the electors are careless or apathetic. The representatives of the people in the City Councils need looking after. If the bulk of the electors show little or no interest in the city's affairs the Councilors will get it into their heads that they can do exactly as they like without being called to account, and then the city's business gets into a pretty mess.

But, say some of the citizens: "What is the good of bothering our heads about city matters, one city council is as bad as another. It seems to us that they are all the time getting worse. It is impossible to get enough good men who understand business to run the Council to offer as Councilors, and the good men who are persuaded to tender their services are often rejected. The city's affairs are in a muddle, and the city is kept in a backward condition no matter what we and a few others may say and do.

This is what a good many say, and what a good many more, to judge by their practice, think. This is, no doubt, a very bad state of things, and one that makes anything like permanent reform difficult if not impossible. Yet when it is proposed to establish a system under which cities can be improved and properly governed in spite of the apathy of electors, the very men who care so little about their privileges and powers as citizens as to disfranchise themselves whenever an election of any kind is held, get into a dreadful state of mind and declare it an outrage to save them the trouble of exercising the franchise for three years which they do not value highly enough to use when their duty requires them to do so.

We would very much like to know how many electors there are in this city and in Vancouver who have not voted for either a City Councilor or a by-law for the last three years. If the number were known it would, we venture to say, surprise most people.

THE NEW YORK SUN'S "FRIENDS."

The New York Sun patronises the Liberals of Canada. But it is a very injudicious patron. If it knew how Canadians generally feel towards annexationists it would not so loudly and so confidently as it does assert that Canadian Liberals are its co-workers in the interest of annexation, and are ready to take advantage of any accident or any domestic calamity that in their opinion will advance the cause they both have at heart. For instance, passages like the following are not likely to raise Liberals and Liberalism in the estimation of the people of the Dominion:

Our friends, the Liberals of the Dominion Government, are justly encouraged by the patient fact that the death of Sir John Thompson has left the Conservatives without a leader competent to reconcile the conflicting demands and preoccupations of the various provinces. We trust that events may justify Mr. Laurier in predicting that should the present Canadian Government venture to appeal to the country, the Liberals would sweep Quebec and make so strong a demonstration in Ontario as to make sure of a majority in the Ottawa House of Commons.

It will be seen therefore that if anyone attempted to mislead the public it was the editorial writer of the Times, who having represented that the Government had made a complete backdown foolishly claimed for the Opposition agitators all the credit for the occasion which the city's representatives had taken so much trouble to secure. It is quite true that "the government were not going to admit that they were entirely wrong."

It is quite true that "the government were not going to admit that they were entirely wrong." They were not asked to make any such unreasonable admission. They were, however, asked to admit that the post office clerks acted under great provocation, and that taking the circumstances into consideration the interest of the public service would be fully served by withholding the provisional extra allowance simply for the one month during which the serious interruption to the postal operations occurred. This reasonable view was met in a spirit of concession which resulted in the payment that the other four months' allowance would be paid to the employees.

THE TORONTO CITY COUNCIL.

The Toronto Empire, in a very temperate and cautious article on Judge McDougall's report, speaking of the estimation in which the Council of that city was held before the recent unpleasant revelations were made, says: "Though we had not been free from the rumour of boodles in connection with the letting of contracts and other transactions, which seem to be indigenous to city government everywhere, there were few of our citizens who had any idea that they had been found guilty by the judge of unscrupulous tenders or other disreputable people, and the revelation that some of our aldermen had actually been guilty of soliciting and receiving bribes came with a shock to the people which shows that, though here and there a prominent man has given way to temptation, the public sentiment of Toronto is sound as to the standard of municipal morality which should be maintained.

Fearing that those who read the report will come to the conclusion that the Toronto City Council as a whole is a corrupt body, and that the councilors whose doings are commented upon by the learned judge are morally and intellectually on a level with their associates in the city government, the Empire hastens to say: While all must deplore the corruption and want of principle which have been revealed, it is only fair to point out that the men who have been found guilty by the judge were minor members of the Council, and never could be considered in any sense leaders of the people.

This evening's issue contains a very incomplete account of an interview that I, in company with several gentlemen, had with the Mayor and aldermen yesterday in the city of Toronto connected with the late visit of His Excellency the Governor-General. On the committee appointed to carry out the arrangements for the reception and other entertainments were His Worship the Mayor, three or four aldermen, and some fifteen other gentlemen well known in town. All shades of politics and creeds were represented on that committee. Although the arrangements were carried out in the most economical manner it was found, after it was all over, that owing to unforeseen circumstances the estimated receipts made by the committee had been far too high, and the consequence was that there was a deficit of some \$600. The committee very naturally felt that it was not right that they personally should be expected to pay this sum, as they had done their best for the public in this matter, and it was through no fault of theirs that the liabilities exceeded the receipts.

Every cent expended was voted for and all bills were regularly audited and passed. A deputation of the committee therefore waited on the Mayor and aldermen to ask them to pay the bills for the entertainment of the Mayor and aldermen. I therefore asked His Worship to speak to the reporters to that effect and he did so: Not one word did I say to the reporters myself. Both His Worship and every alderman present evidently thought they were right, as some of them said so and not one of them objected to the same being done. The Times reporter distinctly stated he would not report it, but the result shows he is not truthful, to say the least of it. As to the charge that I, or any of the committee, wished the citizens of Victoria to be kept in the dark as to our application for an only say that it is too silly to be entertained by anyone except the Times.

The committee made no secret of their intention to apply to the council for aid, and talked the matter over with dozens of citizens before going to the meeting. No request was made to the Mayor and aldermen to keep the matter secret; and besides this every body except the Times makes proper that before a cent could be given a proper notice of motion must be publicly made by some alderman to that effect.

The Times is always so tremulously anxious to describe sinister motives to everything I do, or that is done by anyone who is side politically with me, that it catches at every little miserable straw which it thinks it can twist into a lash for my back. I still think it was a great mistake to allow the matter to get into the papers at all, and I can with confidence refer anyone who takes an interest in this matter to the Mayor and all the aldermen who were present as to whether my statement is not a correct one in every particular. Sole manufacturer J. T. DAVENPORT, 21 Great Russia St., London. Sold at 1s. 1d., 2s. 6d., 3s. 1d.

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It is very strange to the Times that I, holding the political views that I do, should have the interests of this town at heart, but it is a fact nevertheless, and the reason is simply this, viz., that everything I own in the world is in this little city of Victoria. Come, Times, try and be a little more manly and honest in your views of other people's actions, and don't be everlastingly grubbing for filth where none exists. E. G. PRIOR.

OBSERVATIONS AT AGASSIZ.

Summary of Meteorological Notes Taken at the Dominion Experimental Farm. The subjoined table, furnished by Professor Sharpe, gives a summary of the weather observations taken at the Dominion government farm at Agassiz during 1894, together with the totals for 1895. It was unavoidably held over from the last two issues of the COLONIST:

Table with columns: MONTH, Highest Temperature, Lowest Temperature, No. of days on which rain fell, Total Rainfall, No. of days on which sunbath recorded, Total amount of sunshine, No. of snow storms, Depth of snowfall. Rows for months January through December for years 1894 and 1895.

Highest temperature for 1894, July 13, 93 deg.; lowest for 1894, February 19, 10 deg. For 1895 the figures were: Highest temperature, August 31, 97 deg.; lowest temperature, February 2, 12 deg.; number of days on which it rained, 178; total rainfall, 68.58 100 in.; days on which sunbath was recorded, 217; total amount of sunshine, 4,185 hours and 59 minutes; number of snowstorms, 31; depth of snowfall, 9 1/4 inches.

All Congress has had time to re-impose the prohibitory duties of the McKinley tariff. Its theory is that if the Canadians are driven by American prohibition out of the market of the United States they will get up their knees and beg Mr. Laurier or anyone else to negotiate terms of annexation without any loss of time. For fear the Liberals on this side of the line would make the mistake of calculating on Brother Jonathan's good nature it says:

We would warn, moreover, the Canadian advocates of close relations with this country, that while the plank of unrestricted reciprocity may be a good lever for impelling their countrymen part of the way toward the longed-for goal, it should be regarded with caution. For the fact of the matter is that the Liberal Government of this country has been unable to carry out its policy of unrestricted reciprocity with the United States. It is a well known fact that the Canadian people, now thoroughly alive to their own interests, will never give Canadian commodities free access to American markets, until the Canadian provinces are ready to accept, with the commercial privileges, the political responsibilities of membership of our union.

Fortunately there are others in Canada besides the Sun's "friends" who can read, and its warning may act in a very different way from what it intends and expects. It will show all loyal Canadians, Liberals as well as Conservatives, that American annexationists have so low an opinion of them as to calculate upon their selling their allegiance to Great Britain for a few trade advantages, and it will cause these loyal Canadians to suspect everyone who offers them reciprocity with the United States as an inducement to vote for him and his party, that he is prepared to accept the Sun's distasteful and disgraceful terms.

COL. PRIOR REPLIES.

To THE EDITOR.—The Victoria Daily Times is evidently anxious to do me a good turn, for the old saying is very true which runs, "Being talked about is the worst thing that can happen to a public man, except one thing, and that is not being talked about." It is a continuously giving me free advertising, for which I beg to thank it, and I hope it will be continued, as it has proved most beneficial to me in my public life during the last eight years. So long as it only makes its childish and petty attacks against me alone I make it a rule never to take the trouble to answer them, as I shall have an opportunity, sooner or later, of showing the majority of them on the public platform. But when others are concerned with me I feel it is not right to remain silent.

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SCROFULA CURED BY B.B.B.



Worst Kind of Scrofula. DEAR SIR.—I had an abscess on my breast and scrofula of the very worst kind, the doctors said I could not walk around the house without taking hold of chairs to support me. The doctors treated me for three years, and at last said there was no hope for me. I asked if I might take B.B.B. and they said it would cure me, and I began to take it, and before three bottles were used I felt great benefit. I have now taken six bottles and am nearly well. I feel a great deal better and a grand blood purifier and very good for children as a spring medicine. MRS. JAMES CHASE, Frankford, Ont.

FRUIT GROWERS. GRATEFUL-COMFORTING. EPPS'S COCOA

The annual meeting of the Horticultural Society and Fruit Growers' Association will be held in the Board of Trade Building, Victoria, on Tuesday, January 22nd, 1896, at 10 o'clock a.m. An interesting program is being prepared. Papers will be read and discussed. Questions will be proposed and answered. The special committee on Spraying Experiments will report. All interested are requested to attend. Special passenger rates are being secured. A. H. B. MACGOWAN, Secretary, Vancouver, B.C., Dec. 23, 1895. j&sd&w:it

Advertisement for Epps's Cocoa, highlighting its benefits for breakfast and supper, and its role in maintaining health and vitality.

DR. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLORODYNE.

Vice-Chancellor Sir W. Paine Wood stated publicly in court that Dr. J. Collis Browne was undoubtedly the inventor of Chlorodyne. The whole story of the defendant's fraud was narrated in detail, and he was convicted that it had been sworn to. Times, July 18, 1884. DR. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLORODYNE IS THE BEST AND MOST CERTAIN REMEDY IN COLIC, BRUISES, COLIC, ASTHMA, CONSUMPTION, NEURALGIA, RHEUMATISM, ETC. DR. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLORODYNE IS PRESCRIBED BY SCORES OF DOCTORS FOR ALL THE ABOVE AFFECTIONS, and has been singularly successful in every case. It is sold everywhere, and is a most valuable medicine. DR. J. COLLIS BROWNE'S CHLORODYNE is a certain cure for Cholera, Dysentery, Diarrhoea, Colic, &c. CAUTION.—None genuine without the words "Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne" on the wrapper. Over-selling medicinal agents is a common practice. Sole manufacturer, J. T. DAVENPORT, 21 Great Russia St., London. Sold at 1s. 1d., 2s. 6d., 3s. 1d.