

THE TRUE WITNESS

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WEDNESDAY,.....OCTOBER 14, 1891

They must have some strange ideas of Canada in England, notwithstanding all that has been spoken, and written, and in a certain sense acted, about her resources and conditions. Mr. James Payn, the novelist, is responsible for conveying the following information to the benighted islanders: "In Ontario fast walking is prohibited and a Sabbath day's journey (all vehicular traffic being forbidden) must be short indeed. Even total immersion in the form of bathing is interdicted. Canada is the least literary of the British colonies, and Thomas Hood's epistle to Rae Wilson is probably unknown there." It is true that there is a good deal of pharisaism in Ontario, and combined with the fanaticism of Orangemen the conglomeration of the Pandora's box of sects does not make a wholesome mental atmosphere. But Mr. Payn should have studied a little about Canada ere he penned such nonsense in a leading London journal.

Tim, Quebec papers supporting Mr. Mercier have commenced a savage attack upon Mr. Owen Murphy because he has had the courage to do what he deems his duty in connection with the Bûche des Chateaux Commission. What benefit these journals can expect to confer upon their party and political friends by this course is not at the moment apparent. Such tactics cannot be regarded as likely to do anything but recoil on the authors. Mr. Murphy has always been a fair supporter of the Government, but he never announced himself as a hide-bound partisan, and it would perhaps be well if a few more of the Government supporters had condemned the conduct of those whose doings have recently been brought to light in Quebec. Whatever may be the decision of the commission there is sufficient revealed in all its bare dishonesty to call for the reproof of every one. We think that the course pursued by Mr. Murphy will meet with the approval of his countrymen in the province and elsewhere.

The Inspector of Insurance has referred in his annual report, at some length, to the wild schemes of insurance which are being legislated out of existence in the United States and have made their appearance in this country. The prospectuses of these associations are generally plausibly worded and every inducement is offered to gull the unwary. Yet a schoolboy ought to be able to see through the absurd and impossible problems which are dressed up in figures to prove what is really incapable of proof. "The public," says the Inspector, "will do well to be on guard against all associations, whether domestic or foreign, which promise excessive or unusual profits in proportion to the outlay. It may be laid down as a safe rule that all such are prima facie unreliable, and before any dealings are had with them a careful investigation should be made as to their methods and financial standing." Elsewhere in our columns will be found some remarks on this subject from a commercial journal which may well be considered by our readers.

The rumors of the spread of small-pox are by no means pleasant, and to those who remember the experience of Montreal only recently in connection with this disease they are peculiarly repulsive. But we may feel assured that no outbreak of the disease is likely ever to reach the proportions of that of 1855. The prompt measures then taken have left their mark, and the effects of the general vaccination then enforced are still working. But there should not be a single case, and it is disgraceful that the culpable carelessness of the authorities at Quebec should endanger other parts of the province. Yet we find the Provincial Board of Health forced to complain in very pointed terms of the extreme apathy of the municipal health officers of that city in their treatment of a case of the disease which lately occurred there. No quarantine or isolation was attempted and the Provincial Board of Health was practically defied. The Inspector, Dr. Beaudry, did indeed threaten to take some action against the city, which, as he very properly did,

"must be held responsible for the delays and guilty of negligence of its Health officer." This is very true, but there would be little satisfaction in taking proceedings after the disgraceful neglect of the city authorities had permitted the spread of the contagion. The fact is that the powers of the Provincial Board need extensive and prompt enlargement. The Legislature has for some extraordinary causes always conceded points to ignorance and bigotry in connection with this matter, and the time has come for a different course to be pursued. This Quebec case shows the necessity very clearly.

A very sensible step has been taken in the neighboring republic with regard to the schools of the State of New York. It is the introduction of the study of the weather charts issued daily by the Meteorological departments. The papers in connection with the scheme say "every man, woman and child is interested in the weather every day in the week, if not for business reasons for pleasure, and every one can be informed by his own children what the weather will be the next day. The child goes to school and the parent may simply ask it to look at the map. When it comes home it can tell the parent, and with this information the parent can arrange plans for the next day the night before and sleep without worry." The children may, therefore, be made valuable assistants in the agricultural work of the country districts. And there is another, and perhaps not less important point, in connection with which the scheme will be valuable. It has only recently been pointed out in a leading American medical journal that the seeds of disease are often sown in children's frames by a lack of attention on the part of their parents and guardians to the clothing of the children at various seasons. If the schools have an organized daily weather report then there will be no excuse for failing to children some times for a bad cold to catch in a poorly clad and unprepared for wind, snow or rain. The scheme is a sound one and might be with benefit imitated in Canada.

There is a great deal of "national movement" about in the United States, headed by Mrs. Child and, having for its object as avowed in its reports, the cultivation of a "national spirit." The programme is, on its face, not of a very convincing character. We are told that patriotic motives are invoked and American society is besought to study the national history, sing the national songs, wear home-made fabrics and furnish with native manufactures, not foreign imports. English expressions are to be avoided, say the reformers, as well as the attempt to catch the Cockney accent. Unfortunately for the promoters of the scheme the civilization of the States is so far second hand that however laudable the design, may be its execution is impossible. The nation that borrows its laws and language cannot, as Disraeli has somewhere said, give its inventive faculties much developed. And the United States have, thus far, done little in the way of departing from the paths of their ancestors. The "national history" referred to does not strictly belong to the present republic in its main features. English expressions can hardly be avoided where the English language is used. No one out of a lunatic asylum would attempt to catch the "Cockney accent" and a mixture of Cockney and "Down-East" twang would certainly be a most odious combination. What the national songs of the United States are it is not easy to say. "God Save the King" has been appropriated by them under the name of "America" and the "Star Spangled Banner" is merely the English air "to Anacron in Heaven." "Yankee Doodle" is another old English air. Native manufactures and no foreign imports are only possible up to a certain limit, and if put into exclusive force would entail a degree of inconvenience that not even the most homely farmer in the remotest corner of the least inhabited state would tolerate. This theory of exclusive nationalism may be very attractive to the vanity of certain egotists, but in practice it is impossible as a feature of national administration. Not even the heathen Chinese can keep it up, try as he may, and has for years.

A REMARKABLE EFFORT.

Gulliver's philosopher, who was found endeavoring to extract sunbeams from cucumbers, probably lived before his time, for the inventions of to-day show that it is hard to tell what seeming impossibility may not all at once be accomplished. The Department of Agriculture at Washington is just at present occupied in experiments which at first sight seem as hopeless of successful termination as the efforts of our philosopher of Laputa. Sawdust has not generally been regarded as edible or likely to be made so, but these experiments are for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not it cannot be transmuted into an article of food. And scientists allege that this is quite practicable. We know, of course, that starch is highly nutritious and that it enters into many of the articles of daily diet. In

their respective elements starch and sawdust, the Washington philosophers point out, are the same—six parts of carbon, ten of hydrogen and five of oxygen. As soon as the same philosophers have discovered a means of transmuted these same elements they reasonably assert that a new and enormous food supply will be available for the people of the earth. The gloomy anticipations of Mr. Malthus will prove to be baseless and famines will become impossible. But the transmuted process as yet has to be discovered, and in the meantime the public must rest and be patient.

THE BENCH.

It appears to be understood that the Hon. Mr. Justice Doherty has retired from the Bench. The Hon. Judge will carry with him into his retirement the esteem and respect of the public, whom he has served with such ability and distinction for the last eighteen years. As the honorable gentleman was the only English-speaking Catholic on the Bench of any of the higher courts in this Province, it is but natural that among that class of our population there should be some considerable interest taken in the nomination of his successor. It is but seldom that an entire population is so unanimous in recognizing the fittest man among them for a position as are the English-speaking Catholics of this Province in recommending for that position Mr. C. J. Doherty, Q.C. The ability and integrity of Mr. Doherty are too well known to require mention, and the high position which he deservedly holds at the Bar has long since placed him in the foremost rank of those who might justly aspire to the Bench. This opinion is not limited to our co-religionists and co-nationalists. We have the best reasons for knowing that the entire Bar looks for the appointment of Mr. Doherty, and will hail it with satisfaction, and that his eminent fitness for the position is recognized by men of all views and creeds without any well within the profession. It is very generally believed that the Government itself shares this opinion, and we trust that in our next issue we shall have the pleasant duty of chronicling Mr. Doherty's elevation to a position which he will adorn.

A CONFESSION OF FAILURE.

The Protestant churches in the continent of Europe do not appear to be in a very flourishing condition. Tourists, and local residents, seem to prefer the parish churches and are gradually being away, very naturally from their spiritual chapels, which, thanks to the freedom and liberation of the Catholic authorities, they are permitted to build and maintain. But when the question of maintenance comes in there comes, what Shakespeare calls, "the rub." Theory and practice are two different things, and one of the English Bishops has just had to offer a feeble protest against the lukewarmness of the members of his congregations, when on the continent, in connection with their so-called churches. He writes that "it is not creditable to our countrymen travelling abroad that the number of coins contributed to the almsbox should be far less, as frequently is the case, than the number of worshippers, and that among the coins should be found little Swiss pieces of no value in France or Italy and in Switzerland worth no more than the fraction of a farthing. If travellers really desire improvements in the services the remedy lies very much in their own hands." This is very amusing, but it is a good test of the standing and zeal of English protestantism on the continent of Europe. It may be noticed in passing that an amusing rebuke to the predecessor of the Anglican Bishop of Gibraltar was given by the late Pope. He was a man of noble English family, and naturally went when "on his visitation" to the English chapel in Rome, to the Vatican, and was received in the usual way by Pius IX. "I suppose I ought to have called on you first," his Holiness is reported to have said, "for I believe that I am in your diocese." What the Anglican prelate said or thought, on this brief though sarcastic exposition of the absurdity of his position is not recorded, but probably he was wise enough to be silent under the scathing rebuke.

Congratulating the Archbishop.

Yesterday was the patronal feast of His Grace Archbishop Fabre. In view of the occasion a large number of the priests of the Archdiocese assembled on Monday morning at the Palace and presented the Archbishop with an address of congratulation. In reply the Archbishop reciprocated the kindly sentiments expressed, and took advantage of the opportunity of creating the new canons—Rev. Cure Bourgeois, of Laprairie, and Rev. M. Trempanier, chaplain of the Montreal Deaf Mute institution. Mr. Girard, bishop of McKenzie River, was amongst those present.

It is reported General von Waldsee, at a recent banquet of the officers of the Ninth German Army corps, said: "Possibly we shall meet in the spring for serious business."

AN UGLY VISITOR.

Smallpox and Chicken Pox Spreading in the Eastern Parts of the Province.

In view of the reports recently received of the existence of smallpox in several parts of the Province, the Board of Health of the Province is taking every precaution to prevent the spreading of the disease. As 17 cases of smallpox are said to exist in St. Paul de la Croix, Temiscouata County, and others in MacNider, Rimouski County, the Board of Health have despatched their inspector to the places mentioned to make searching enquiries and report fully to the Board. In further view of trying to prevent the spread of the disease they have issued the following circular.

BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

Montreal, Oct. 9, 1891.

Whereas varioloid is a mitigated form of smallpox;

Whereas varioloid is often mistaken for variola (chicken pox);

The Board of Health of the Province, in virtue of articles 2669 and 2696 of the Public Health Act, orders householders and physicians to immediately notify the secretary-treasurer or the local Board of Health of the locality in which they reside or practice, of the occurrence in their families or practices, not only of diseases specially mentioned in said articles or in articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 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St. Paul de la Croix is nine miles south of Isle Verte, a station on the I.C. Railway. A report has reached the Provincial Board from the inspecting officer there, who reports the first death from this disease as having just occurred.

At Mr. Nider, the number of cases have not been determined.

Dr. Beaudry has succeeded in tracing the original case at Quebec back as far as Aug. 10.

The Provincial Board appears fully alive to the gravity of the situation, and is doing all it can to keep the disease out of the cities of the province. It has issued additional circulars to all the municipalities in the infected counties, to report at once, sending the names of members, and stating whether any cases exist.

The Board is also getting a full supply of vaccine. The L.C.R. authorities are also said to be fully alive to the situation. Its officials are assisting the Board, which is specially indebted to the agent of the railway, M. Riviere du Loup for much valuable information.

An inspector has been stationed at St. Paul de la Croix, the place being at present isolated.

A report was received by the provincial Board of Health yesterday that smallpox had appeared at Aspet, near Sherbrooke, and at Chateaufort, Quebec. The Board is doing all in its power to prevent the spread of the disease. The Board has instructed all the municipalities to organize at once, appointing a medical health officer, in order to be prepared for the first signs of the disease and to properly isolate the cases. Another report of smallpox declared itself in Quebec on Monday in this one house as before. It has been thoroughly isolated.

It is even more alarming that smallpox is raging at St. Jean de Dieu, in the county of Temiscouata. There has already been one death there. There are actually seventeen cases in the parish. The Governor in Canada adds that it has information that there are twelve cases at St. Paul de la Croix, back of Trois Pistoles.

No Smallpox in Montreal.

Dr. Laberge, Medical Health officer, denies the statement published in other towns that smallpox exists here. "I don't believe," said the doctor, "that there is any other city or town in America better organized than we are to cope with it. I am more afraid of diphtheria, as the regulations dealing with it are not so strict as those for smallpox. We have not had any smallpox since the sailor from the Brazilian, and then the ship got a double dose of disinfectants and the patient was cured at the civil hospital."

Mr. Chapleau's Views.

Le Canada on Friday published an imaginary account of disension in the Cabinet reconstruction, and the appointment of Mr. Chapleau to the Department of Railways and Canals. There was no trouble or difficulty whatever. On the article in Le Canada being shown to Mr. Chapleau he said, "This is the first I have heard of the article."

"Is there any truth in it?"

"No; there has been nothing of this kind. When I say there has been nothing of this kind I mean no trouble of any description between the First Minister and myself regarding my portfolio."

"Nor in respect to the reconstruction of the Cabinet?"

"No; nor in regard to the reconstruction of the Government. The Prime Minister will, of course, take his time in completing the ministry, having due regard to the good of the party as well as the best interest of the Government and the country."

"Would you have any objections to saying what Senator Drummond now says about the demise of the Premier, that you should have the Railways and Canals?"

"When I was ill in Montreal after the accident I met with there, Senator Drummond came to me and congratulated me on the fact that I was going to be appointed to the Railway and Canals department. The senator then told me that I was to have that department for a certainty."

Assessment Endowment Companies.

Hardly a week elapses without the exposure in the neighboring Union of one of these alluring but deceptive institutions. The promises held out by the promoters are very plausibly put before those whom it is expected to entrap, but notwithstanding the fact that the schemes submitted will not hold water under examination, large numbers are induced to become members with the expectation that they are to attain to a wealth which they do not now possess, and the origin of which they are not only wholly ignorant of but are careless to comprehend. There are several of these institutions doing business in Canada, and from the success with which they are meeting their snarls have been well paid. Were any of the dupes of these

schemers to be given three apples and asked to divide them up between twelve persons, giving each an entire apple, they would at once reply, "It can't be done." The absurdity of the proposition would be so apparent that the proposer of it would encounter nothing but ridicule. And yet the proposition of these assessment endowment schemes is more absurd than that of the apple referred to above, but because it holds out greater future gains based on possible but improbable events, it is seized with avidity, every biter hoping to profit from the same cause, and that cause originating with any one but himself. In these bogus associations the lapse of policies after a time is the mask which hides the fraud behind it. If the dupe would only calculate how many lapses would be required to make up his bonus he would soon see that the best time to let the thing lapse would be before he had made any payment whatever. The frequent exposures and explosions of these associations should surely lead people who have been imposed upon to ask, "When my policy falls due where will I go for my bonus?" and, "How much am I likely to get?" Somebody will have to lose in the long run although some may gain at the outset. Under any conditions the losses will be greater than the gains. If these losses must take place let each one come to the conclusion that the loss not only may but will fall upon him. These associations are carried on for the benefit of the promoters and many of them are nothing more or nothing less than pure swindling machines. In warning our fellow-men against them we simply perform the duty which every man owes his neighbor. —Shareholder.

THE O'HART TESTIMONIAL FUND.

Subscribers:
Hon. Edward Murphy.....\$25
Subscriptions sent to this office will be duly acknowledged and remitted to Ireland.

Sudden Death.

On Saturday morning at the convent at St. Ann's Recollet, there was much excitement when the sisters had assembled for morning prayer. One Sister Webster, was not in her accustomed place. One of the sisters went to her sleeping apartment and there found her dead. Coroner Jones was notified and held an inquest, at which a verdict of "death from disease of the heart" was returned. The deceased passed away calmly and her features show that her end was painless.

Know-Nothingism.

The United States Immigration Inspector at New York, stationed at Buffalo, has made a report of the operations of the Alien Contract Labor Law in that vicinity, from which the following statements are taken. The Union Dry Dock Company discharged four Canadian carpenters last week and informed the inspector that they would discharge every alien working on their docks. The manager of the Western Transit Company, which employed a large number of men along their lines, has issued a circular to their employees enjoining the citizenship of each, and saying no man shall work on their vessels unless he is a citizen of the United States. The manager of the Wagner Palace Car Company declared he would discharge every man employed by the company not a citizen of the United States. It appears that until the Wagner Palace Car Company employed Canadian carpenters, painters, smiths, etc., were receiving \$2.50 per day, while the Canadians now work for \$1.00 per day. Last week the Wagner Palace Car Company discharged thirty-nine Canadians.

Calumet.

The Roman Catholic residents of Calumet and Calumet Island are agitating for the erection of a chapel and school house in this flourishing little village, and last Sunday a large number of them met for the purpose of taking the necessary steps toward making the idea a reality. Rev. Father Labelle of Grenville was present, advising them in the best manner how to proceed with such a worthy enterprise. We have not heard the result of the meeting, but we are sure that if the people of Calumet decide on going to work to construct the above buildings, with their enterprising and beloved pastor at their head, it will not be long before the idea will be a reality.

Crime in the N. W.

The assizes which opened at Winnipeg on