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 LONDON, CANADA.

God's in His heaven,

All's right with the world.

—[BROWNING.]

London, Tuesday, March 28.

FARMERS and fruit growers, take a tour through your orchards and destroy every black knot that can be found. Better to take time by the forelock and save your trees.

THERE is one danger from crinoline now that was not present when last hoop skirts were worn. How would a woman be able to avoid electric car tracks? An electrical expert says she might be shocked at any moment.

THE severe sentences that Canadian judges are meting out to amateur and professional burglars alike, should convince those tempted to steal that the way of the transgressor is hard, and that the supposedly easy way of making a living is after all the most difficult and the least satisfactory.

DR. A. B. WILSON, of New York, on Sunday last made a vigorous attack upon Dr. Rainsford's proposition to sell intoxicating drinks in connection with churches. "There is no good trying inoculation. To establish church saloons and bar tenders would be an utter mistake, from which the church would not soon recover," said Dr. Wilson.

At Plainfield, N. H., six persons have died from drinking well water contaminated by a sink drain. This is the season of the year when owners of wells have to be particularly on their guard. We have known whole families decimated by diphtheria and typhoid fever through wells having become poisoned by surface drainage being washed into them. It is always safe to boil well water if there are the slightest grounds for suspicion that it is impure.

A SIGNIFICANT cartoon is given in the Montreal Witness. The shade of the late Sir John Macdonald stands by, towering high above the pigmy statesmen that hold first rank on the Conservative benches to-day. To illustrate the situation, D'Alton McCarthy, but a few years ago dubbed "the brains of the Conservative party," is seen to be squaring up against his special pleading leader, Sir John Thompson; burly Sir Charles Tupper is represented as giving Finance Minister Foster a black eye, in insisting that he shall adopt the inequitable French treaty that he has negotiated; while Nicholas Flood Davin, the confidential friend of the dead leader, is seen to be turning in utter disgust at the incendiary speech of Clarke Wallace, who stands with arms akimbo, as if daring his fellow Ministers to curtail his right to advocate civil war when he and his friends find a law passed that does not please them. Is it any wonder that the departed chief, as he views the Kilkenny warfare in progress among his formerly compact following, exclaims, "Oh, dear! Oh, dear!"

MIDDLESEX AND ELGIN AT OTTAWA.

Notwithstanding the strong representations made to the Dominion Government by the City Council of London and by the County Councils of Elgin and Middlesex, but \$12,000 have been placed in the estimates to complete the necessary work in connection with Port Stanley harbor.

Several hundred thousand dollars are annually collected from the taxpayers of this district by the Dominion authorities. A great portion of it is spent in providing railways and canals in other parts of the country. And when the taxpayers of the district are able to show that Port Stanley harbor is the only available harbor of refuge on the north side of Lake Erie; when they show that the harbor imperatively and immediately requires improvements that will cost a much larger sum than that granted, they are first told that the Government is hard up, and finally asked to accept \$12,000 as their share of the \$40,000,000 odd taxation levied this year. This, too, after it has again and again been recorded, at the behest of the Finance Minister, that he has millions of surplus money locked up at Ottawa. Quite easily could the Ministers have economized—say in their warlike operations in British Columbia, on which it is intended to expend an enormous sum—then the money could have been given for such works as that at Port Stanley, which are needed to develop the trade of the country and to provide for the saving of life and property on the great lakes.

Not \$12,000, but at least \$30,000, should be spent this summer at Port Stanley. Then the work could be made permanent and decidedly beneficial, and the public would not be compelled to witness the spectacle of costly work having to be done over again in a few years, as is invariably the case when a penny wise and pound foolish policy is pursued.

SAMPLE INTOXICANTS.

A writer in the Fernightly Review (English) asserts that the makers of French wines entertain the most objectionable belief that wine will throw off any dirt or impurity during fermentation, and hence will never keep their wine-houses or machinery clean, and the wine had often a bad taste and objectionable smell afterwards. Further, he says that a large French grower told him that the practice there was for men to crush the grapes with their bare feet, and not only so, but to get into the wine up to their necks in order to work it up and break the hard crust of grape skins which forms during fermentation. It is chiefly to enable Canadians to buy these concoctions at a much cheaper rate than at present that Sir Charles Tupper has negotiated the new treaty between Canada and France. Such liquors are dear at any price. Indeed, if ever a prohibitory tariff were warranted, it should be applied to articles of this description.

WHAT NO REVISION OF THE DOMINION VOTERS' LISTS MEANS.

Once more the Dominion Government has resolved to postpone the revision of the Dominion voters' lists for a year. That is to say, if an election of a member of Parliament takes place any time within the next eighteen months—whether it be a by-election or necessitated by a dissolution of the House of Commons—the vote will be taken on lists which will then be several years old. What this means, anyone who participated in the by-election for South Middlesex well knows. The best way to treat the law would be to wipe it from the statute book. No taxpayer ever petitioned the Government to make the costly, cumbersome and vexatious measure law. No one but a desperate politician suggested that the voters' list compiled by the non-partisan municipal officers—or, at all events, by officials easily reached and punished if they did that which was wrong—were not fair to all parties. Still, this Franchise Act was passed in 1885. We had a revision in 1888, another in 1889, and another in 1891, and no one knows when the lists will be next put in shape. Though as long ago as last June, in the House of Commons, the Government gave notice that it would this year introduce such legislation "as shall tend to a simplification of this act and a reduction of the expenses in connection with its enforcement," and though that promise has been kept, the Administration seems to be afraid to proceed with the measure. It is such a miserable apology for an amendment, making no provision whatsoever for removing the great burden imposed upon the people, and especially upon the political parties, in its enforcement. That such an amendment would be resisted by many members there cannot be doubt, hence probably the postponement of a revision, leaving the lists in a hopelessly muddled and incomplete condition. As Mr. Laurier pointed out a year ago, this constant postponement and confessed inefficiency, to say nothing of the quarter of a million dollars required every revision to put the lists in a far from satisfactory state, is a confession that the act is weak and mischievous and affords the strongest possible grounds for the assertion that it was an evil day for the taxpayers of Canada when it was put on the statute book.

But a law that would enable the Dominion Government to make new offices, to find jobs for needy placemen, who in turn would be expected to give the men in power the benefit of every doubt, was deemed requisite and so we must put up with this measure while Sir John Thompson remains in power. When the Government was fighting for its life some time ago and when friend and foe denounced the Franchise Act, the Conservative leaders promised that this year the measure would be improved in many respects. Entrenched in power for the next two years, Sir John Thompson is determined to maintain the Franchise Act on the statute book with all its rascally possibilities. Mr. Costigan's amending bill, postponed till next year, neither simplifies the act nor renders it any easier for the voter to get his rights. The only material change proposed is that which takes away a little bit of printing, and authorizes the work to be done by typewriting!

It will be just as difficult for taxpayers to get on the lists as ever. The workingman who may have the misfortune to be out of employment for a week or two in the course of the year will be disfranchised. The dead men and those who have gone to work in foreign lands will continue to swamp the votes of the legitimate electorate, while hundreds of new comers in every constituency, and hundreds of young men who qualify between the intermittent revisions, will be left without their manhood rights. If a partisan reviser, who is also a local judge, desires to steal a seat for a man who has given him and his more than one fat job, it will be within his power, as the provision which renders the local judge sole arbiter in these matters remains.

Above all, there towers the fact that unless a man is a known adherent of a political party he may find his name dropped from the list, to which it cannot be restored unless through the agency of absurd red tape, and at the expense of perhaps two days' attendance on the court of revision. Why should there be so many chances of wrong being done, unless vast sums of money are spent to "perfect the lists" at every revision?

When there was a prospect that the Dominion Government would respond to the demand that a thorough revision of the law should take place men of all shades of political opinion were loud in denunciation of the existing inequalities. Now it is seen that the promises given were made but to be falsified, there is considerable trimming. Alas, that it should be so. The reform of this measure is absolutely necessary if justice is to be done and contests are to be fair, and no honest

man can deny it. We are told, in extenuation, that the one man one vote law of the Ontario Administration is not all that it should be. That is so. The law itself, unlike the Dominion Franchise Act, cannot be successfully assailed, but the measure needs amendment in so far as it comes short of meeting public needs on the score of registration. But even if the Ontario law were as defective as the Dominion measure, and everybody knows that it is not, would that be any excuse for bringing in an abortive measure such as has been before the House of Commons? It is trifling with the intelligence of the people to call the bill an "amending" measure. What this country needs is a system of registration that shall provide for resident manhood suffrage, and the revision of the lists a short time before election day. At the present time, as we all know, in close constituencies the election is either lost or won in the courts of revision. The lists are revised often two years or more before an election, and when voters are enrolled they must give proof that they have resided in the neighborhood for a lengthened period. It has been proved in London, and the same is doubtless the experience in other constituencies, that unless an electoral contest is imminent it is next to impossible to get any assistance in the purification of the lists from the average elector, and the spectacle of many young men applying to have their names registered, going to the trouble of signing and swearing to the correctness of their claim, and finally refusing to spend the time necessary to go to the court to sustain their claim to the franchise, has again and again been witnessed.

Such a result should convince any reasonable man of the necessity for effecting a change, and of supporting only such Parliamentary candidates as shall pledge themselves to give no quarter to the inequitable and unsatisfactory measure to which a contemptible amendment is proposed to be made. We have got so near manhood suffrage now that it is stupid to continue the restrictions that deprive so many honest, hardworking men of the right to go to the polls as free men. These enactments, which make the money, the possessions, the voting qualification, and not the manhood of the voter, are class laws, and should be swept from the statute book. With them should go the duplication of votes in the case of rich men who happen to own property in several ridings. Surely, if it is the property that votes and not the man, the individual who has \$20,000 worth of property in London is more entitled to three votes than the man who owns \$2,000 in London, \$3,000 in Sarnia and \$3,000 in Strathroy. As the law stands, however, the man with less than half of \$20,000 worth of property, may have three, four and even five votes in different constituencies, while the man who has concentrated his belongings in one place has but one vote.

The only fair rule is to establish the one man one vote principle, as in the Ontario Provincial elections. No one has ever dared to challenge the equality of this stipulation or to raise a doubt as to its absolutely democratic character. With one man one vote, and a voters' list compiled by civic officials on the eve of an election, with the period of residence in the constituency reduced to, say, three or four months before registration, we would have a list of absolute fairness, a list that would be so fresh that the premium now put upon the polling of dead or foreign voters would no longer be applicable. Such a list would be compiled at a tithe of the expense now rendered necessary every time there is a revision. It would not be made up except an election was about to be held, and the party managers would not have to raise funds to pay for the purification of a list upon which no election might take place.

The fairness and the inexpensiveness of this system are so evident that we are amazed it is not unanimously indorsed. The men now in power at Ottawa must hope for some compensation for the disadvantages that they bring to their followers in common with all citizens. That compensation they cannot obtain unless they are able, through the cunning manipulation of the cumbersome machinery, to get some advantages that would not be theirs in a fair field and with no favor, such as statesmen in Great Britain aim to provide. In this we probably may find the secret of the inclination of Sir John Thompson and his friends to maintain the present system, which is absolutely indefensible.

A Remarkable Business Woman.

PRITTSBURG, Pa., March 28.—Mrs. M. Taylor, the only woman dealer in oil supplies in the country, died last night from injuries received by falling from a train on the Pennsylvania Railroad last June. She conducted the company for \$50,000 damages, and the case was set for trial to-day. Mrs. Taylor was a woman of remarkable business ability, and was quite famous. After her husband's death ten years ago she conducted a business of \$200,000 a year, and was regarded as very wealthy. She was 36 years old and leaves two children.

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