

Hoke Smith The last named gentleman has been trying to retrench Uncle Sam's expenses in the way of pensions and the Grand Army objects emphatically to his policy. They fought, that is to say those of them who did fight, for glory, patriotism and the bounty, and they consider that they have a reversionary interest in the earnings of every man in the country ever since. The consequence is that it costs the United States more money, annually, to pay its pensioners than it costs the Kaiser, even under the provisions of the new Army Bill, to keep up the finest standing army in the world. It is notorious that a systematic course of fraud has been pursued in getting those pensions, but the people, under duress of the Republican party, have tolerated it so long that those veterans think they have established a vested right in their pensions and they squeal most heroically when Hoke Smith ventures to stop supplication. But, all the same, Hoke is right and Ben Harrison is wrong. It is perfectly right that the disabled soldier should be cared for by the country, but it is just as perfectly wrong that a malingering, who probably never smelt powder—unless you count face powder—should be supported by funds drawn from the pockets of the wage earners of the community. There are hundreds of men on the pension roll of the United States, who are drawing pensions without any more right to do so than Cleveland would have to draw a pension in the name of the substitute whom he hired to take his place in the war, and it is the merest claptrap for Harrison to plead in their behalf. Of course, his oration went down well enough with the G. A. R., but we greatly mistake if the American taxpayer will think any the more of Benjamin for his plea. The amount of political capital he will realize out of that speech would not blind the eye of a mudge.

The other direction in which Mr. Secretary Hoke Smith is "pruning" the pension list is not only working a hardship but is positively unjust on general principles. Whenever a pensioner leaves the United States his pension ceases. If the same principle had been applied when the North was recruiting throughout Canada, Grant would have found it impossible to furnish the men whom he kept hurling against the stubborn foe, and thus his only conception of generalship would have broken down. Where would the United States have been then? Now, however, the war is over and the men who fought "to save the Union" must stay within its limits or do without their pension. This, as we have already said, is not only a hardship but a rank injustice and an additional proof of the adage that "republics are ungrateful."

Most people were under the impression—which, however, turns out to have been a mistaken one—that they had heard the last of William Brown, Esq., when his "well-laid scheme" to get \$75 a month out of the city for acting as chairman of the School Board fell through. "Wullie" has bobbed up again and has taken a hand, and a very high hand, in the squabble over those "mutilated" examination papers. How or by whom they were mutilated does not particularly concern THE HORNET, but there can be no question that their mutilation resulted in Mr. Sparling's dismissal from the position of Principal of the East End School. Another result was the calling of a special meeting of the Board to appoint his successor. At that meeting three of the trustees did not find it convenient to be present. The three who did find it convenient to attend, although not constituting a quorum, appointed a successor to Mr. Sparling, not dreaming that the absent trustees would object to a step which seemed the only alternative to shutting up the school. They did not, however, know Mr. Brown so well as they thought they did. He did not propose to be ignored in that fashion. He proceeded to the East End School, and, drawing himself up

to the limit of his gigantic stature, he dismissed the school. Now it may well be that the action of the three trustees who made the appointment of the Principal was technically incompetent, but Mr. Brown's action was positively illegal and utterly unjustifiable on any conceivable hypothesis. The trustees referred to may have erred in regarding themselves as a quorum, but Mr. Brown erred still more egregiously when he imagined himself the whole Board, or at least a majority of it. It is time his friends looked after "Wullie." The next thing he will be fancying himself the Czar of Russia. We should be sorry to be compelled to call "Wullie" a nuisance, but we will go so far as to say that a little "abating" would not hurt him, and might, at least, give a long-suffering public a little rest.

There is one view of the eviction proceedings recently initiated against the shack-dwellers on the foreshore of False Creek, (to be followed, it is said, by similar action against those on the foreshore of the Inlet), which may well give the business men of Vancouver reason to pause and consider, and that is, the results of those proceedings to the volume of the business of the City. If any one imagines that the trade of those people is of small account he is very greatly mistaken. They do not live in shacks simply because they are poverty-stricken. Many of them, from long habit, as well as from motives of a perfectly legitimate and justifiable economy, prefer to live in those cabins, and they are all, or nearly all, wage-earners and spend the money they earn in the City. Some work in the northern logging camps through the summer, and come to the city to spend the winter and their wages there. They will not rent houses. That is certain. They do not choose to live in hotels or lodging houses, even when they can afford to do so. They are at home in their shacks and the double end of economy and independence is served. If they are driven from their shacks they will go elsewhere to spend their winters and thus so much business will be lost to the City.

Another example of the same sort of shortsighted policy was witnessed when the Northern Indians who had been to the hop-picking put in here and hauled up their canoes on the beach for the purpose of laying in their stores for the winter. The Chief of Police and his men only gave them one night in the City when they drove them off; yet in that one evening they did quite an amount of shopping, one store-keeper informing us that one party bought upwards of \$150 worth of shoes from him alone. Had they been left unmolested, all of \$10,000 would have been spent in the City, for there were eleven large canoes in the fleet. No doubt they might have bought some whisky, and it was zeal to prevent them from doing so that actuated the police in driving them off. But what was the result? The whole crowd set sail for Nanaimo and went from there to Victoria where they were allowed to camp undisturbed and given every chance to spend their money. You don't catch Victorians actuated by a zeal which is not according to knowledge, nor so foolish as to cut off their nose to spite their face. They are, it must be admitted, a good deal wiser in their generation than the business men of Vancouver.

Apropos of the objections urged to the purchase of vegetables raised in Chinese market gardens, it may be noted that their methods of cultivation are anything but calculated to induce people who have prejudices in favor of clean wholesome food to purchase them. It is probably not so well known in this country, but it is notorious in California that Chinamen, in order to "force" their vegetables, so as to be able to market them ahead of the white men engaged in the same business, water their lettuces, cabbages, etc., with