

London Advertiser.

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LONDON, TUESDAY, DEC. 26.

The Civic Elections.

The electors are in a position to choose an efficient and creditable city council for 1906. There are three or four members of the council of 1905 who may be dropped with advantage to the city, and who would have no chance of election if their names were not on a party ticket. Unfortunately they have sufficient pull to insure the backing of the party machine. Electors who cannot identify them have followed civic affairs to little purpose. The misfits and underlings may now be weeded out and replaced by better material. The "new blood" offering for the council includes some substantial citizens, and for the four vacancies on the school board there is also an eligible list of candidates. On the whole the result of the nominations is encouraging, and it will be the fault of the people if the result of the elections is not equally satisfactory.

The people get precisely the kind of government they deserve. When London was a much smaller place the most considerable men in the community considered it an honor to be elected to the board of aldermen. Today they have to be coaxed to accept a nomination, and it is a favor of the public if they consent to stand for office. This is not to be wondered at when the people year after year, elect men notoriously unfit to be their representatives. The city should begin the new year by ringing out the past and noisy self-seekers, and ringing in men of standing and ability.

Church Union and Creeds.

Now that the proposed scheme of church union is before the public in a definite shape, the sound of the polemics, ecclesiastical and lay, will be heard in the land, and apostolic blows and knocks will be given right and left.

The newspapers are already placing varying interpretations upon some of the doctrinal articles. The Toronto World is of opinion that the Presbyterians have made the most important concessions. It says that "Calvinism, at least in its popular acceptance, has entirely disappeared. Not even by implication are its cardinal dogmas of predestination and election recognized." The Mail and Empire sees "a clever balancing" of Arminianism and Calvinism. "While, on the one hand salvation for all is declared to be the true doctrine, it is acknowledged, on the other, that God gave to his Son a people chosen in Christ unto holiness. This combines the idea of the free offer with predestination and election. It does not say that there is a predestination to evil, but, as election to salvation is admitted, those who wish to do so may believe that the rule works both ways."

The Globe says: "There will be no surrender of anything now held as essential in doctrine by any one of the three churches. The draft statement does not contain all that it is any man's privilege to believe, but it does contain all that any Presbyterian or Methodist or Congregationalist is under obligation to subscribe. There was no minimizing of doctrine."

The third and sixth articles touch on the cardinal doctrines of Calvinism, predestination and election, as follows: "Article III.—Of the Divine Purpose.—We believe that the eternal, wise, holy and loving purpose of God embraces all events, so that while the freedom of man is not taken away, nor is God the author of sin, yet in his providence he makes all things work together in the fulfillment of his sovereign design and the manifestation of his glory."

"Article VI.—We believe also that God, from the beginning, in his own good pleasure, gave to his Son a people, an innumerable multitude, chosen by Christ unto holiness, service and salvation."

It strikes The Advertiser that the prevailing principle has not been a mutual surrender of dogmas in order to find a basis of compromise, but a recognition of the fact that Christians may hold different opinions upon these questions, and yet work together in the spirit of Christianity, which is greater than the letter. The finite human reason is unable to reconcile the doctrine of predestination with that of free will, and yet both may be true in a sense which cannot be expressed in terms of logic. The Calvinist may argue his side, and the Arminian his side, and each argument may be unanswerable by the human mind. The committee which drafted the report on doctrine appears to have realized this logical incompatibility and to have taken the practical view that mere distinctions of dogma are outweighed by the spiritual and temporal advantages which they believe will accrue from the union of these great branches of the Christian Church.

Late Hon. Raymond Prefontaine.

Hon. Raymond Prefontaine was a man of extraordinary energy, and a very capable administrator. He entered the Laurier Government three years ago, and the misgivings which were entertained by some members of his own party were entirely removed by the highly creditable manner in which he conducted his department. He put enthusiasm into his work, and showed marked initiative, his special interest being the establishment of a naval reserve in Canada, and ultimately the creation of a Canadian navy. He went to Europe a few weeks ago to arrange with the British naval authorities the details of his naval reserve scheme and to provide for taking over the docks at Halifax and Esquimaux, in pursuance of the policy of relieving the mother country of all expense entailed by defensive plans for this country.

Mr. Prefontaine was thoroughly British in his sympathies and outlook. At the time of the Boer war, while mayor of Montreal, he was an outspoken champion of Great Britain and advocated the dispatch of a Canadian contingent to South Africa. He was never tired of impressing upon his compatriots the advantages of British institutions. A staunch Canadian and a sane Imperialist, he was an influence making for the unity of the two great races in this country, and his death removes a true patriot.

Oh, what a difference the day after! The Christmas celebration and the Christmas spirit were very far apart in Moscow.

The Russian Government is trying to arrest the general strike by arresting the strike leaders.

Before the end of the week the Free Press will discover that Aid. Stevely ought to be lynched.

The majority of the members of the City Council deserve re-election, but see that any changes are changes for the better.

In Great Britain there is a growth of wealth and pauperism side by side. Extreme individualism must give way before such a condition. It is a problem the Government must tackle.

The Hon. Adam Beck predicts that Niagara power will mean a great deal to London. It is to be hoped Mr. Beck is right. All the more reason why Mr. Judd, whose interests are opposed to the introduction of Niagara power, should not sit in the mayor's chair.

Minto Luck.

[Montreal Free Press.] Lord Minto is doubtless a believer in his appointment to the Viceroyalty of India, made vacant by Lord Curzon's retirement, and the going out of office of the Unionist Government, must be regarded as a singularly happy accident for him. The Mail and Empire sees "a clever balancing" of Arminianism and Calvinism. "While, on the one hand salvation for all is declared to be the true doctrine, it is acknowledged, on the other, that God gave to his Son a people chosen in Christ unto holiness. This combines the idea of the free offer with predestination and election. It does not say that there is a predestination to evil, but, as election to salvation is admitted, those who wish to do so may believe that the rule works both ways."

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up to the time of Peter the Great. At the present day the Russian peasant's idea of government is that of a federative system, in which the first unit is the village assembly, and he would tolerate the Czar as the symbol of national unity.

Bad Finish for More Man.

[Louisville Courier-Journal.] A lady clergyman tells us that in twenty-five years women have increased in stature 2½ inches, and men have decreased in the same degree. If the sexes are thus getting apart five inches in twenty-five years, it is not difficult to calculate how long it will be before man will be utilized by woman merely as a lapdog or as a bangle for her bracelet.

Suggesting a Compromise.

[London Tri-Bits.] Bumpers—You owe me \$5.00, which you say you cannot pay. Why don't you marry Miss Oldrid? She's worth twice that amount.

Winter.

[John Kendrick Bangs.] What though thy kiss be cold, O winter dear! Thou bringest much the heart of man to cheer!

The rich red holly berry midst the green; The crackling of the glowing logs at noon; The hills and dunes in purple garb of snow.

The tinkling of the sleighbells as they go Adown the road, with mounds of merry snow.

With roguish glances peeping from their hood The gullant swains to tease, set up behind The frisking steeds, that speed them like the wind!

The clear, clean sweep of skaters on the ice; The crystal flakes so wondrous in device; The cold, calm heaven so brilliantly alight

With friendlier stars than on a summer night. In that they closer come, and seem to be Just twinkling neighbors unto you and me!

And in the wood—what wondrous scenes are there! When, clad by fairy hands and frosty air, The limbs and branches of the sleepy trees

Are woven into silvery flagships! What music in the chimneys that ring out clear Across the crisp of winter's atmosphere!

What grandeur in the swelling harmonies Of winter winds, and what tranquillities In winter's silences!

And for the soul of man, what sweeter thrill Is there than in the message of good-will That in the darkest hours of winter's night Doth warm the heart as with a splendid ray.

From out the sun, east, west and south and north, When Christmas morn from frosty night springs forth!

"And Obey."

[Baltimore American.] Mrs. Hittle—Here is an invitation to that Mrs. Upstart's reception, and she is such a bore! I don't want to go there.

Mrs. Downside—Then why do you go? Mrs. Hittle—Just because my husband said I should!

The Very Thing.

[Philadelphia Press.] "Well, there's one thing about Nutch: he's always ready to confess his faults."

"Nonsense! Why, he's forever bragging about being self-made."

"Of course. That's just it."

Amenities in Kansas.

[Athens (Kan.) Eagle.] We thought that the citizens of Athens respected and desired freedom of the press. Apparently they do not. James B. Parker, who is taking part of Juliet in the charity series, objected to our calling her skinny, and waited for us at the theatre last night. Fortunately we caught him one on the eye, which destroyed some of the effect his objections might have had. Parker is a danger to the community. She is skinny, anyhow.

Blow Your Nose Gently.

[London Daily Mail.] Medical experts are calling the attention of the public to the importance of performing a nose-blowing operation in a scientific and hygienic manner. The nostril and then the other should be blown without undue violence.

Doctors state that the two nasal passages should never be closed at the same time. If they are obstructed, as in the case of a cold, the back of the throat is filled with compressed air, and this, together with the discharge and the mucus which it contains, may be forced through the eustachian tube into the middle ear and lead to serious results.

A great authority on the subject used to forbid his patients to blow their noses when suffering from a cold. This course is hardly one which should be followed to those in the habit of catching colds. The best advice would seem to be that when it is necessary to blow the nose the blowing should be done gently.

Seeking to Cause a Sensation.

[Life.] Mickey (to the cab driver): Say, mister, me an' me fiancée wants ter know what y'd charge to drive us two Finnegan's alley wid a bunch o' white ribbons tied on yer wheel.

Discouraged.

[Philadelphia Press.] "I'm sure," said the clumsy man, as he hoped off a high stool, "that I'll never learn to ride."

"Oh," replied the ringmaster, "just keep on trying."

"But," protested the man, "I'm having my own troubles trying to keep on."

Honest Support.

[Chicago Record-Herald.] "I thought," said the young man who was having his first experience as a candidate for office, "that you were going to give me honest support."

"Yes," replied the editor of the Trumpet, "that's what we're trying to do. I want to see you elected."

"Well, it's queer you haven't a line in this morning's paper about the speech I delivered last night."

"Not at all, my boy, not at all. I was there myself and heard it. As I said before, we want to help you in every way we can."

A Difficult Position.

[Harper's Weekly.] Two Irishmen were crossing a bog when one of them fell into a mud hole. His companion, running to a nearby farmhouse, asked the loan of a spade.

"What do you want it for?" asked the farmer.

"Sure, Mike is stuck in the bog, and I want to dig him out," was the answer.

"How far in is he sunk?" questioned the farmer.

"Up to his ankles."

"Bogoras, then, he can easy walk out."

"Bogoras, he can't!" exclaimed Pat. "He's in wrong end up!"

A Fearful Threat.

[Life.] The Count—My dear sir, your daughter has a frightful temper. I can't put up with it.

His American Father-in-Law—You're right. If I ever any more complaints I'll disinherit her.

What It Developed.

[Milwaukee Sentinel.] "What did that painter bring out when she examined your hand?" asked the man.

"Just one dollar and a half."

A STEAM ENGINE OR A GOD?

[From the Boston Herald.]

A wealthy Englishman in India, who

farmed, with the help of native labor,

an enormous estate on which were

grown such varied crops as sugar, rice,

indigo, mustard and castor oil, found

himself compelled, in order to facilitate

work, to import from the mother coun-

try a powerful stationary steam en-

gine. Along with it came a skillful

engineer, who was to take charge of

the machine till he could thoroughly

induct one of the most intelligent of

the Hindoo plantation hands, along

with an assistant, into the whole theory

and practice of the fire-eating, boiling,

water-drinking and scalding steam-

smoking monster.

With the aid of an interpreter the

British engineer proceeded to do this

after the most approved scientific fashion.

He explained the precise nature of

combustion as a chemical combination

of the oxygen of the air with the carbon

of the fuel. He demonstrated how

the energy of the heat evolved ex-

panded the water into a vapor so

charged with elasticity and force that,

if condensed into a limited space,

nothing short of the most powerful

walls of iron or steel would prevent

it from blowing to pieces. Next, he

showed how this terrific vapor was let

on into the cylinder and brought to

bear on the piston and piston rod until

through an ingenious system of wheels

and cranks and coes and bands it could

lift ponderous stones attached to the

cables and blocks of derricks, or pull

any and every kind of ponderous

weight, and he explained the power of

fifty elephants straining every muscle

and ligament to the snapping point.

Above all, he strove to impress the

native mind with a sense of dread and

terror of the terrific energy of this

peculiar form of vapor, and he brought

though you could pass your hand

through it as through common air, it

was none the less mightier in rending

power than the black mixture the

hillsides shoot out of their rifles and

cannon.

Line upon line and precept upon pre-

cept did the British engineer proceed

with his daily course of scientific in-

struction, till at last he felt that oxy-

gen and hydrogen and expansion and

contraction and the transformation of

heat into motion, lateral, perpendicu-

lar and circular, were as familiar con-

cepts to the native mind as to his own.

In three weeks' time had he recon-

structed the Hindoo his obligations to

all traces of the superstitions of ages

and turning these poor dark-skinned

fellows into so many Herbert Spencers

and Isaac Watts—or, if not exactly

that, fitted to apply for places as

engineers-in-chief on battleships in the

British navy. So he felt he had a

right to treat himself to a month's

vacation, and then come back for the

proud satisfaction of seeing how finely

his hand-master graduates had been

getting on.

Vacation over, the engineer return-

ed to find all at a standstill, and the

brains of the poor devils added as to

his idea of oxygen or carbon or the

whole rigorous scientific terminology,

with which it had been attempted

to cram them, more desperately

even than for an Oxford examination

of divinity students for livings in the

gift of lucky fellows who slept all day

in the customs and superstitions of

the natives, who told him that he

knew no more how to deal with Hin-

doo than a new-born baby how to

teach its grandmother to suck eggs.

Let me take hold a few days and I'll

show you how to wake up the intel-

lectuals of these benighted heathen!"

No more oxygen and carbon, then,

or any such fantastic stuff! Just plain

common sense.

"So," said the "devil," the overseer

began, "this being here is a god in

of his incarnations on earth. He is a

grandson of Shiva, the Destroyer, with

very much the volcanic temper of his

vine grandfathers. He eats fire and

drinks molten lava, and he is as hot

and plumping. If he isn't satisfied

he screams through his pipe so you

can hear him a mile off. If you don't

keep his joints oiled he raps and

scrapes with rheumatic pains, and

keeps his joints oiled, and when his

lungs full of fire, his belly full of

boiling water, and his elbows and knees

well lubricated, so that he can do his

blessed work on earth for the good of

his people. He does his work by the

ing into his inner consciousness and

trying to find out all about his in-

timate relations with the infinite, abso-

lute and ineffable of oxygen and ozone.

That's none of your sacrilegious busi-

ness, which is practical and not specu-

lative. Your business is to feed him

with live coals and quench his thirst

with scalding water, and, when his

day's work is over, to let him lapse off

into blessed slumber till morning. But

he wants you round bright and early

next day. Then he is sharp-set for his

breakfast, and irritable if he falls to

attend sharp to all these orders, some

day before you know it he'll blow your

heads off."

Now here was something rational,

tangible and to the point; something

consonant with the actual nature and