

The Planet.

Editorial Room 102
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SATURDAY, MARCH 26.

STILL HOLD TO CORRUPTION.

The Conservative party has made another effort to have placed on the statute books of Canada, laws which will serve to suppress the disgraceful election crimes which have been so persistently and systematically employed by the Liberal party for years past. Mr. R. L. Borden took the earliest opportunity to impress upon the Premier the importance of taking some such step, but Sir Wilfrid Laurier did not take the trouble to reply to the appeal for purer elections, although he referred at length to matters of minor importance. Last year the Premier gave a solemn pledge that the question would be given serious consideration, but at the end of the session of 1903, a bill to provide for the punishment of election thugs was ignominiously kicked out of Parliament by the Government. No legislation is more necessary than that by which elections in this country can be purified. But the Liberal party, with the promised co-operation of the Opposition to assist it, positively declines to take a step which would at once remove from its command an instrument employed on every possible occasion. Canadians, who hoped to see some definite action in the direction indicated by the Conservative leader, will be sorely disappointed at the lethargy displayed by the Government. With corruption of the worst type manifesting itself on every side, it will now become the duty of Independent voters to join forces with the Conservative party in carrying this issue to a successful conclusion.

PRAISES BORDEN.

Of the leader of the Conservative party, Mr. R. L. Borden, Mr. J. S. Willison, late editor-in-chief of the Toronto Globe, and the choice of Sir Wilfrid Laurier as the most fitting person to chronicle the events of the life of Canada's Premier, says editorially in the Toronto News:—

"Mr. Borden is possessed of a personality which gains an impressive quality by closeness of contact—rather a rare quality in public men—and it would be impossible that he should come out of a series of meetings with a thoughtful and intelligent community without having greatly increased his prestige and strength. . . . A chief may be a silent man. Human leadership is a power apart. This power Mr. Borden possesses in a large degree. His selection as a leader of the opposition in parliament was not an accident, nor the result merely of clashing interests. He was a man and is a man who commands confidence at sight. He has the calmness, the cool judgment, the constructive power which men of experience like to see in those to whom they commit their interests. His lack of parliamentary experience they felt would be overcome; while had he lacked the essential qualities of leadership, no deftness of floor tactics would have ever proved a substitute for them.

"On the platform he is not moving so much as argumentative. Audiences feel at times as if he were saying them the highest compliment by addressing himself to them under the impression that they are judges rather than jurors. There is a sense that what he is saying is important, and not merely partisan talk reeled out in machine fashion. Impressive-ness is, perhaps, his chief note, and Edward Blake and Dalton McCarthy, public men to whom he might best be compared."

It is reported that Sir Wilfrid is annoyed that a Liberal of the Willison stamp should dare to be so truthful about his opponent.

An English judge has just handed down a decision that may be far-reaching in its consequences. A person who had sent a tablecloth to the laundry and had received it back, disfigured by cabalistic laundry marks, brought suit against the laundry for damages. The judge awarded 35 shillings damages, and made some caustic remarks about the practice indulged in by laundry people of "drawing cats and dogs on other people's property." If it was necessary to mark the article for identification, the judge suggested the use of colored thread. Everybody who patronizes a laundry is interested in this matter, and doubtless a good many people will be glad to learn that in precedent has been established for securing damages for the disfigurement of collars and cuffs by the hieroglyphics of the laundry craft. There is another side to the question, however. The laundry managers of London declare that many people send their articles to the laundry unmarked purposely, in the

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expectation of receiving better articles on the return of the bag. According to one authority, 75 per cent. of the bachelors of London are wearing other people's collars. The experience of those who patronize Canadian laundries is slightly different. It is perhaps not too much to say that 75 per cent. of those who trust their collars to the laundries are compelled to buy new ones or wear none at all.

A ROUGH TRANSLATION.

The Toronto Globe boldly asserts that:
The premier among his colleagues is only "primus inter pares."

TWO GREAT OCCASIONS.

The name of W. Beattie Nesbitt, M. D., and that of the original proprietor of the John Sandfield surplus are the only Conservative names that in the last thirty years have been appended to a successful motion to adjourn the Ontario Legislature.

THE MORMON PERIL.

In St. Paul's church last evening Rev. Mr. McQueen, of Edmonton, stated that there were 7,000 mormons in Alberta, and that their admission to the country was a great mistake. Indeed it was, and it was a mistake the evil consequences of which will increase from generation to generation.

HISTORY CONDENSED.

Daniel J. Sully, cotton king—booming yesterday; busted to-day; on the bum to-morrow; Phillips, corn king—filled up yesterday; phillipped to-day; finish to-morrow. Lester, wheat king—loaded yesterday; lighter to-day; lighter to-morrow. Keene, oat king—oatium yesterday; oats to-day; notes to-morrow; and two millions out. "Old Hutch," wheat king—"busted" yesterday; broke to-day; beggar to-morrow. It isn't necessary to go farther back to prove that every man has his turn at the top and goes over.

THE OLD LION.

An Englishman was dying. He was a man who had lived much and enjoyed much. He had loved beauty and he had loved his friends and fellowmen. As he lay dying in a foreign land, with a life half spent, he took his pen with his last strength and wrote first to the person who had been most to him. Then he painfully traced another note, to an acquaintance in America, and his last written words were these: "Throw your public influence into advising America to co-operate with England in the far east, to pay and fight her share, and not leave it every time to the poor old lion, who needs a lot of encouragement and prodding in his age." Working for his country had shortened his life, as he knew it must when he did the work. To pleading for his country he gave his small drop of strength. As long as Englishmen keep such spirits, their fears for their old lion's future may well be groundless. "The people of England," said Disraeli, "are the most enthusiastic in the world. There are others more excitable, but there are none so enthusiastic." Although it is the English habit, especially just now, to speak of dangers and fear the weakening of age, there have been thus far no indications of decrepitude. If the whelps respond to the lion's roar, so much the better for the lion, but whether the whelps respond or not, the old lion has his best and most secure defence, himself. As long as the name of Englishman means a mettle that grows firmer as the attacking fire grows fiercer, each patriot, as he gives his final breath, may know that his beloved land is safe.

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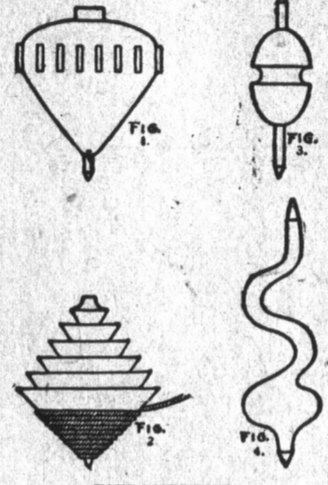
FANTASTIC TOPS.

Queer Spinning Devices Used by the Little Moro Chaps.

In my service as a soldier with Captain Pershing's column in the Mindanao campaign of 1902-03 I had a very good opportunity to watch the little Moro lads in their games. Their tops were of peculiar ingenuity and interest. Fig. 1 is a drawing of their simplest form of top. The Moro lad selects a piece of hard wood with smooth and even grain and proceeds to cut out a block of the material. Then he gradually works the piece of wood to a cone shape and often devotes several hours a day cutting, chipping, smoothing and shaping the top until he gets it into the form desired. Usually the mahogany wood is used.

The boy makes slots in the circumference of the top and inserts little ears of wood. When the top is spun, these ears make humming sounds. The point of the top is a bit of metal properly worked down and a point ground thereon. The Moro lad uses hemp, rawhide or catgut for his top cords.

One curious style of combination top is shown in Fig. 2. It consists of the main portion, about which the cord is wound, or hemp, rawhide or catgut, and the several separate saucer shaped parts. These parts are set one in the



FOUR MORO TOPS.

other, and when the top is thrown and all spin together the centrifugal force causes the upper saucers to lift and float off two or three yards before they fall to the ground. The saucer-like forms are tediously worked down from hard wood by the boys during the long hours of the day.

Another strange style of Moro top is represented in Fig. 3. It is an egg shaped affair, cut out of boxwood material, with a furrow in the middle. The top is spun upon the pointed end of a metal shaft which runs vertically through it. This is called the fighting top, as the boys use it with great force upon other tops, throwing it so hard as to split them with the point.

The snake top is represented in Fig. 4. It is made from roots which grow in this form. Much skill is needed to obtain the proper balance. Usually the native lad has the top with him for weeks, working it down, playing with it and adjusting the balance before he can spin it.

A Bit of Self Defense.

Here is a little bit of strategy that is at once the most harmless and amusing as well as one of the most effective things in the way of self defense. Let the opponent with whom you are practicing reach out for you with his hands or else ask him to attempt to strike you. Thrust both arms between his, take a firm grip upon the lapels of his coat and pull his coat off and downward over his shoulders until the sleeves are brought down so that the shoulders of the coat are held securely just above the elbows. So simple is this trick that any boy can hold at utter disadvantage a fellow contestant who possesses twice his strength.—St. Nicholas.

Trick With a Penny.

To pierce a penny with a fine sewing needle does not at first seem an easy thing to do, but it is really very simple when done in the following manner: Stick the needle lengthwise through a cork, allowing the point to project a little. If the needle is longer than the cork, cut off the head with nippers. Place the penny and the cork on a soft board and hit the cork sharply with a hammer. The needle is kept by this from slipping aside, and as it is harder than the copper of the penny the coin is easily perforated even by the finest point.

Nettle's Explanation.

Little Nettle had been given the task of rocking the baby to sleep. By and by her mother came in and found him still awake.

"Why, Nettle," she said, "isn't your little brother asleep yet?"

"No, mamma," she replied, "I don't want to make him keep his eyes buttoned."

Well Supplied.

There was once a little boy only three years old who was being taught how to count. One day he was talking so much that his uncle asked him how many tongues he had. The little fellow replied:

"I have three tongues, one in my mouth and one in each shoe."

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