

## The Weekly Ontario

Thursday, July 16, 1914

## THE END IS IN SIGHT

Rarely if ever has a party in an election made so creditable a showing as did the party headed by Mr. Norris in Friday's election in Manitoba. Never were more unscrupulous forces arrayed against a political leader. The Roblin-Rogers machine is the most perfect invention for winning crooked elections, on earth to-day. It is the masterpiece of past-masters in the arts of chicanery, cupidity, cheating and corruption.

In addition to the machine Norris had to contend with the fierce and not always scrupulous forces of liquorism, for Norris like Rowell is a believer in temperance reform. The liberal party in Manitoba did not go so far as to say that their election meant the abolition of the war, but they proposed if elected to let that matter be determined by a provincial referendum.

Besides the Rogers machine and the whiskey machine there was the opposition of the French Canadian population, a powerful factor in several constituencies. And lastly there was the opposition of the foreign population and of all the loose purchasable class.

Following the unfortunate and disappointing results of appealing to the electorate with an advanced policy of reform in Ontario, it was freely predicted that Norris would do an extremely well to retain his meager following of eleven. That he came near defeating these arrogant and impudent debauchers is a great tribute to his sagacity as a leader and to the incorruptible good-sense of the people of Manitoba.

Roblin may by winning the deferred elections be able to retain his precarious hold on power for a little time longer but it will be at best a stay of execution and not a reprieve. Once a bully gets on the toboggan his finish is sure. Many who were covered or cajoled to his side when he was in the hey-day of his power and popularity will assist in the kicking down process once it is certain the slippery one has started to speed down the slippery way.

The end of Roblin and his ignominious band is within measurable distance and cannot be deferred more than four years at the farthest.

## SAFETY FIRST

The deplorable drowning accidents of Saturday and Sunday again emphasize the necessity of learning to swim well, and of not taking undue chances with an ever treacherous element. These warnings and admonitions have been repeated so often that it would almost seem useless to urge them again. But so long as the lure of the water exists, just so long will people be found to disregard its dangers. Then there is besides the other great portion of the population who must use the water as a means of travel or of communication for business purposes.

It therefore becomes a necessity and a duty to minimize as far as possible the dangers and risks that are ever present when man essays to move about in an element with which he is not fitted by nature to contend.

Everybody should learn to swim. This is trite advice, but until everybody has acquired the art, which is by no means an easy one to master, the necessity will exist to continue to urge it upon the public.

Mr. W. C. Mikel had a letter in Saturday's Ontario in which a number of excellent suggestions were made. It is an unpardonable oversight on the part of nature that there is no proper bathing beach within convenient distance of the bulk of population in this city. Here we are with water all about us, but with no place where children and non-swimmers may go with safety and from a gradually receding sandy bottom acquire the rudiments of the natatory art. There is the Y. M. C. A. swimming pool, but that is patronised by only a fraction of the youth of the city. In the summer season people like to be out in the open and get acquainted with nature.

With an inconsiderable expense dressing rooms could be erected, and a safe bathing pool or beach arranged at Zwick's island, and an instructor engaged for the summer season. Money is spent upon things less necessary. Perhaps some thing might also be done on the east side in the vicinity of the new docks. A submerged platform or artificially sanded bottom with a few dressing rooms would not be matters of prohibitive cost.

The majority of our boys learn in various unauthorised and mysterious ways how to swim, but with the girls it is different. Except for a few who go to the summer resorts, they rarely master the art.

Learning to swim a little is better than not being able to swim at all, but one cannot really be said to have learned to swim until he is able

to stay afloat in the water an indefinite length of time without undue exhaustion. One should also learn what to do in emergencies, as for instance when he is precipitated into the water fully clothed.

Learning to swim a little often leads the amateur into taking undue risks. Safety first should be the motto on water as well as on land. It is frequently stated and is probably true that almost as many swimmers as non-swimmers are drowned. This, however, is not an argument against learning to swim, but rather a warning against foolhardy experiments such as resulted in the death of Sir Denys Anson in the River Thames a few nights ago.

All that we have been saying here is very commonplacé. The advice we have been tendering is already quite as much a matter of general acceptance as is the advice about rocking the boat. But as long as valuable lives are being sacrificed, just so long will exist the necessity for its repetition.

Therefore we rebat this hackneyed admonition—let everyone learn to swim well, and let no swimmer forget, "Safety first."

## WEALTH OF THE NATIONS

An interesting article on the wealth of the great nations recently appeared in the London Statist from the pen of its editor, Sir George Paish, who estimates that the increase in wealth in Great Britain, France, Germany and United States, during the last century, has been 580 per cent. 400 per cent. 700 per cent. and 8,500 per cent. respectively. The United States not only leads in percentage of increase, but in the sum total of its wealth, the figures for the four countries being:

United States.....	\$150,000,000,000
Great Britain.....	85,000,000,000
Germany.....	80,000,000,000
France.....	50,000,000,000

In population the United States shows an increase during the last century of 1,125 per cent; Germany comes next with 180 per cent, and Great Britain with 130 per cent, while France shows only 33 per cent. In the annual savings of the people of these three countries the standing is as follows:

United States.....	\$4,000,000,000
Great Britain.....	2,000,000,000
Germany.....	1,500,000,000
France.....	1,000,000,000

Sir George Paish estimates that at least twenty billion dollars of British capital is yearly invested in colonial and foreign countries, and that in North and South America there is now invested twenty billions of foreign capital of this amount \$6,000,000,000 is invested in the United States and \$1,500,000,000 in Canada.

## SAFETY AND COST

Less prominence is given to the services which wireless telegraphy can render to ships at sea, than to the occasional disasters which it has been unable to prevent. Even in the worst of these, such as the sinking of the Titanic and the Empress of Ireland, the wireless equipment saved many lives, and public opinion not only supports but demands its installation wherever possible. Up to the present compulsory installation has been confined to passenger ships, but there is now before the British Parliament a Government Bill which will make a wireless equipment compulsory for ships which carry fifty or more persons, including the crew.

It is perhaps but natural that this measure should meet with some opposition, not, of course, from the public but from interested parties. The directors of the Marconi Company, for instance, who are not quite disinterested critics, complain that it makes an arbitrary limitation, and they would substitute another equally arbitrary, by which wireless will become compulsory on all ships which sail fifty miles or more from the coast. What is said to be a more serious objection is urged by Mr. Allen Burgoyne, M. P., a distinguished naval authority, who points out that the Bill as it stands will not cover the vast mass of merchant ships and will, perhaps designedly, operate almost solely in favor of passenger carrying vessels. The substitute which he would propose is a standard of tonnage and not of crew and passengers.

The Manchester Guardian declares that perhaps that would be a better solution, but it urges that whatever kind of standard is adopted the important question is whether it shall be framed so as to include the great mass of cargo-carrying vessels, or only those which are chiefly concerned in the passenger traffic. The safety of human life is the first consideration, and it was natural, therefore, that the number of persons on board should decide whether or not "wireless" should be made compulsory. But there is always a danger of a disproportionate regard being paid to the liner at the expense of the tramp. Mr Burgoyne puts the cost of installing and working a "wireless" apparatus at about £400 a ship a year. If that is correct the expense could not, probably, be borne by many owners of small merchant vessels.

"It is extremely difficult," as the Guardian

points out, "to say where the line should be drawn, for it ultimately comes down to putting a cash value on human life. It is hard to say that so many lives a year shall be lost because the cost of saving them would be too great. We would like to say that no cost would be too great. That, practically, is what we do say in the case of the big ocean liner. How nearly are we to say it in the case of the merchant marine?"

## THE FIRST HOME RULE BILL.

In the early hours of the morning of June 8, twenty-eight years ago, took place the historic division on the second reading of the first Home Rule bill. The bill was rejected in a very full and excited House by a majority of thirty, 313 voting in favor of it and 343 against it. Of those who took part in the division, Mr. Balfour and Mr. Chaplin still occupy places on the Front Opposition bench, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain recently passed away and Lord St. Aldwyn has retired from active politics. Lord St. Aldwyn, as Sir Michael Hicks Beach, was at that time the Conservative leader in the House of Commons, and wound up the debate for the opposition in a vigorous speech. On the Liberal side Lord Morely was Chief Secretary for Ireland, and he thus watched over the Home Rule policy from start to the finish. Mr. Asquith entered Parliament at the election that followed the defeat of the Bill Mr. Lloyd George entered Parliament four years later, and Mr. Bonar Law fourteen years later.

Mr. Gladstone's speech at the close of the debate was one of his greatest Parliamentary efforts, and his peroration has become famous: "Ireland stands at your bar expectant, hopeful, almost suppliant. Her words are the words of truth and sobriety. She asked a blessed oblivion of the past, and in that oblivion our interest is deeper even than hers." And then in speaking of the "traditions" of Irish policy, to which Conservatives had appealed, he exclaimed: "What traditions? By the Irish traditions. Go into the length and breadth of the world, ransack the literature of all countries, find if you can a single voice, a single hook, in which the conduct of England towards Ireland is anywhere treated except with profound bitter condemnation. Are these the traditions by which we are exhorted to stand?" Even although he anticipated the defeat of the Bill Mr. Gladstone fought with all his power to the very end to convince waverers of the wisdom of his policy.

When Hon. Dr. Montague joined the Roblin government it was expected he would be a tower of strength to it. His majority in Kildonan and St. Andrew's is four, and it may melt away under a recount. There are some men who, once retired from public life, had better stay retired. Hon. Mr. Montague is one of them.

—Whig.

The people of the United States are rejoicing over the fact that the celebration of the 4th of July this year was the "sanest on record," the total casualties amounting to only 12 killed and 879 injured. This is a considerable improvement, as compared with even last year, when 25 were killed and 1023 injured. There is still room for improvement. Accidents, of course, will happen, but it is a matter of congratulation that Canada celebrated her national day this year without the loss of a single life and without any serious accident of any kind so far as reported.

This relegating of the things of God to another world is, however, a deadly doctrine which has benumbed the church for sixteen centuries. It is a night-mare from which the church is happily awakening. The church, in its revolt against the control of spiritual things by the State, has abdicated its primary function on earth, if it has divorced itself from its task of renovating the State and bringing in the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. The idea of denouncing a minister as a demagogue because like the prophets of old, he makes war upon evil custom, and seeks to banish from his country the people's worst enemy, reveals a singularly low sense of the duty of every citizen, and particularly every citizen who is placed as a guide to public opinion. The reply of the ministry thus called a demagogue is: "You are a demagogue yourself." If there is anything wrong in appealing to the people to pass laws for their own protection, surely the arch-sinners are the arch-politicians.

On the contrary there is no more holy work on the part of either, in so far as it is rightly promoted and rightly directed, than this work of winning the people into right paths. If there is any opprobrious meaning in the word demagogue, it is when it is understood to mean that a man, in order to gain support, appeals to the people's ignorance or their lower nature. And Sir James by calling names did that.—Montreal Weekly Witness.

In regard to newspapers, two kinds of independence are recognized. A paper may hold itself independent of all political parties, reserv-

ing to itself the right of supporting or condemning either party or both. Few papers are really independent in this respect, and fewer still are given credit for independence. It is hard for human nature to avoid imputing motives to a newspaper that supports one party to-day and another to-morrow. The paper may be perfectly honest and perfectly intelligent and consistent in its course; but it requires sometime to establish a reputation for honesty and consistency of that kind. For the great majority of newspapers independence means a recognized party association in which the newspaper reserves to itself the right to extend or withhold its approval or even to condemn where mere silence is not regarded as a sufficient mark of disapproval. Of this kind of independence there is a good deal to be found in the press of Canada. And it is growing. The number of newspapers that feel bound to follow their party through thick and thin, through right and wrong, is growing small, and the influence of the papers correspondingly light. Most newspapers now claim the right to such a measure of independence, and many of them exercise it in a greater or less degree.

—Woodstock Sentinel Review.

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Sir James Whitney is not himself free from this condemnation of calling opprobrious names. His expression, "demagogic clergymen," was somewhat vigorously responded to by one of the accused, a Methodist minister. It raises the whole question whether a minister should ever take any part in politics. Since the party system became despotic, it has become the common assumption that he should not, and certainly, such is the power of party allegiance, that the minister who under ordinary circumstances should publicly show a preference would split his congregation, and would under the assumed rule just quoted be protested by those with whom his sentiments differed. There was a notable case of that kind in Kingston. There has been no such reticence in England or in Ireland with regard to the many recent vital political questions into which religious sentiment has entered. The British Nonconformists have at all times been in politics against the church establishment, with small danger of protest. Even those members of congregations who are Conservatives, consider that in that matter they are within their rights. The church clergy are equally accounted free, even by their Liberal adherents, to denounce Welsh disestablishment to their heart's content. In Ireland, Protestant ministers and bishops have been the leaders of the new covenanters as were their predecessors in Scotland in the days when "prelacy" was being forced upon the country by Laud.

Many of them are ready not only for politics, but for war. The Roman Catholic clergy have always been active in politics so far as prudence would allow, and often much beyond. The very ascendancy which their teachings give them over the conscience causes their sphere to be very strictly limited in the minds of their people. These say: "We must obey you with regard to the things of the next world."—Montreal Weekly Witness.

## RAIN

Rain? Well, I'm thinkin' mebbe. Someone's suited, if you ain't. An' the grass an' trees are freshenin' So's they'd had a coat of paint. Someone didn't want the sunshine. Someone needed this same rain; We can't all be suited always. Things will come our way again.

Straighten out your puckered forehead 'Taint becomin' worn in folds; Folks can't tell by merely lookin' If a body frets an' scolds. Turn your mouth a lettle upward At the corners. Don't you know If you keep your lips a-smilin', Discontent hain't room to grow?

Hear the robin red-breat holler— Fairly revellin' in song: He don't care how hard it's pourin', He don't care a mite how long, Though he's gettin' wet an' soppin', He says we'll all depend On the state of ones own feelin's: What is best the good Lord sends.

One long face is worse than storm clouds 'Cause it's shut inside the door; Just be cheerfull an' be happy, Or pertend to; if no more, Then you'll find there ain't no weather Going to make you have the blues An' you'll never be a wishin' For some other feller's shoes.

—National Magazine

## HANS, THE COBBLER

The Disastrous Result of a Streak of Enterprise.

GIVING SOMETHING AWAY.

That idea to Draw Business Brings Unexpected Developments and Leads Honest Hans to Bewail the Avaricious Side of Human Nature.

By M. QUAD.

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PROBESNESS vvas pad mit me when dot little tailor comes in und says: "Hans, you vvas a good cobbler, but a poor peeness man, and if you don't do defferent you vvas a failure und der porhouse!" "How can I do defferent?" I asks. "It vvas all in offering attractions," he says. "You must gif something to each and eafery customer. I gif avhay two brass collar buttons to eafery caller, and my tailor shop vvas full all der time!"

For two days I don't know what to buy, but den I belief it vvas shoelacking. I buy feffy boxes for 4 cents apiece and put 'em in der window, und der painter makes me a sign to read, "One Box Free to Eafery Customer." I look into dot window und vvas pleased, und my wife says we shall be rich in two weeks. Purty soon a man comes in to get a patch on his shoe. He sees my sign und says: "Maype you take me for a cheap man who lives on der sixth floor?"

"But how vvas it?" says I. "How vvas it? Vy, you had better go around among some cobbler shops und see how it vvas. Don't you know dot der man on der next block is gifing avhay a shoebush, a box of blacking und a pair of shoenings to eafery customer? I will take my job down to him!"

He goes avhay, und I vvas hurt in my feelings, und while I vvas trying to figure out how a cobbler can gif avhay 25 cents on a fifteen cent job a woman comes in. She vvas a child's shoe fixed for 10 cents. She sees dot sign und says:

"Do you belief I shall gif you my work und take a box of blacking when other cobblers are offering granite ware, tea und coffee-pots? Gif me back dot shoe!"

Der next caller vvas a man who vvasn't a pair of shoe strings. I make shust a cent on dot pair, und I vvas almost happy when der man sees dot free blacking und says: "Vhell, vhell, so it vvas a box free to eafery customer! Vhell, it vvas a good idee. I'll take a box along mit me, und as my brother und sister vvas in, in some day dis week I'll take der boxes now."

I lost shust seven cents by dot trade, I vvas pegging avhay when in comes a



"I LOOK INTO DOT WINDOW." man mit a twenty cent job, but he keeps der shoe in his hand und says: "My friend, maype you vvasn't long in America?" "Only three years," says I. "Und maype you belief you know der peoples und can deceiver 'em?" "I never deceiver somedoy." "Oh, you don't! Look at dis sign und dose boxes und tell me you vvas a square man. It vvas a Cheap John trick to beat innocent peoples. Do you belief I leave a job for you und accept a five cent box of blacking when some other cobbler vvas gif me a gas stove or a refrigerator?"

"But how can he do it?" I says. "Dot vvas none of my peeness so long as he does it." Der next caller vvas a woman, und she vvas mad because I don't gif avhay sewing machines. Dot eofntains I goes by dot tailor und told him all about it. He says:

"Vhell, dot beats me. I know all der womens will pay 10 cents ear fare und push und jam two hours to safe a cent on a cake of soap." "But maype it vvas der defference between a store und a cobbler shop," says I. "By golly, Hans, dot vvas it! A cobbler shop vvasn't a store, und peoples expect too much of it." "I don't know yet what I shall do mit dot blacking when a man comes along und begins to put der boxes in a bag. "What is it?" I says. "Board of health," he says. "But how?" "She vvas der yellow peril, und I confocate her. One dollar, Mr. Cobbler." "For what?" "For my troubles." "Und he takes my dollar und all my blacking und goes avhay!"

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