

With Pen and Pencil

APPARENTLY Mr. Hosmer did not like the criticisms of the telegraph companies' charges recently made by Senator Davis, Sir Sandford Fleming and others. Apparently he decided to teach the Western newspapers a lesson. Accordingly he has advanced the rates on the daily supply of news paragraphs which arrive from the associated press companies and other Eastern correspondents. If the rates were too high before, they must now be twice too high. It remains to be seen whether this action will make the Western papers humble or whether they will join with Mr. Borden and advocate government ownership of all trunk telegraph lines.



A Bold Hold-up in the West.

China has made another step towards the introduction of Western civilisation. Her army has been reorganised on occidental lines and now a form of constitutional government has been introduced. Is this due to the influence of Japan or Europe? Perhaps both. In either case it shows that the awakening of the Chinese Giant is proceeding apace. Autocratic vice-roys governing large provinces without consultation with the people has passed out and the Chinaman is to lose his political passiveness.



China now has Responsible Government.

It is said that the Premier of Ontario has refused a cash offer of one million dollars for one million acres of crown lands. Mr. Whitney will sell the public lands only to bona fide settlers. Mr. Whitney is a hard problem to solve. Some time ago, his government undertook to end a school-book monopoly and appointed a commission to investigate the case. After it reported, he turned round and made a fresh bargain with the monopolists and bought up their stock of condemned readers at bargain prices. Sometimes Mr. Whitney is against monopoly, sometimes he is in favour of it.



Whitney Nobly Said "No!"

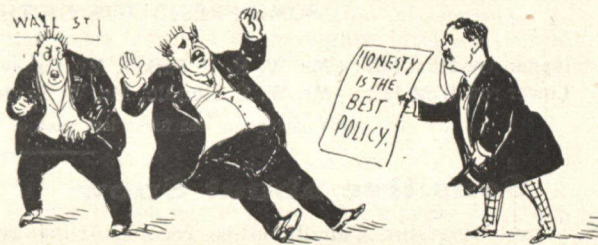
The Hon. "Dick" McBride, Premier of British Columbia, says it was the Grand Trunk Pacific officials who encouraged the Japanese to come to Canada. Senator Cox, one of the directors, declares that the G.T.P. is being held back because labour is scarce, and consequently the British Columbia section cannot be built until work on the Alberta and Saskatchewan Section is completed. Hence it would seem that British Columbia must choose between the influx of spade-handlers and a delay in the building of the road which is to open up

the central portion of the province. It is an awkward choice.



"Keeping the Boys Interested in each other."

Some person might write an article on Mr. Kipling as an Empire-knitter. He takes a great interest in the outlying portions of the King's Dominions and is anxious to see them take a proper interest in each other and a proper interest in the affairs of the Empire generally. He frankly admitted this in his speech to the Winnipeg Canadian Club.



Roosevelt the Panic Maker.

President Roosevelt, speaking at Memphis last week, remarked on the frenzy which seizes people who hear the most ordinary remarks from public men. He jocularly declared that if he were to state that honesty was the best policy it would likely lead to a run on the banks. He declared that such circumstances would not, however, deter him from condemning wrong-doing wherever he found it.

The President has managed to make so many remarkable utterances during his career that even his platitudes are regarded as impressive. When the Chief Executive is an authority on a vast variety of matters, varying from railway management to wild animals he has known, he is naturally considered an oracle.



A Sense of Duty.

There are 164 distillers of whiskey in Scotland and the stock on hand is equal to four years' consumption. Hence, there is talk of restricting the output so as to reduce stocks and raise prices. Higher prices are necessary because of the increased cost of coal and barley. It might be advisable for those who have a fondness for this beverage to stock their wine cellars at present prices. The visit of the Boston Ancient and Honourable Artillery Company is said to have materially reduced the stock in Toronto.



Tea instead of Tribulation for the Freshie.