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LONDON, WEDNESDAY, AUG. 22.

THE ATTACK ON MR. FIELDING.

The mail brings us a full report of

the proceedings at the trial of the

election petition in Nova Scotia, in

which Hon. W. S. Fielding was last

week unseated. It is shown that after

scouring the constituency for two years,

after alleging that 297 corrupt acts had

been committed, after examining but 35

witnesses out of twice as many sum-

moned, the opponent of the Finance

Minister at the general election had to

rely upon the absence of one supporter

of Mr. Fielding, who had acted as agent

for the distribution of a comparatively

small sum of money among committee-

men—\$550—as the proof that money had

been expended for illegal purposes.

The allegation that the Finance Min-

ister was in any way cognizant of

wrongdoing had to be withdrawn by the

petitioner, for it was proved that the

Minister not only publicly disentan-

ceded illegal acts, but was entirely

without information that any wrong

conduct had been indulged in. Very

properly, the petitioner was condemned

to pay the greater portion of the costs

of the trial, as he failed to make good

the personal charges alleged. Indeed, he

never attempted to do so, and they were

withdrawn, as was the overwhelming

proportion of the 297 counts in the

petition. The Chief Justice, it is in-

teresting to note, remarked on the

hardship imposed on a candidate by

the provision unseating him for corrupt

acts of unauthorized agents. "This

case," said the Chief Justice, "differs

from others, as the respondent (Mr.

Fielding), is absolutely innocent of any

contravention of the act."

The outcome of this belated election

trial is the unseating of the Finance

Minister because of the over-zeal of

supporters over whom, as the Chief

Justice of Nova Scotia points out, he

had no control. As Mr. Fielding's ma-

jority was 385, and as the corrupt acts

proved only affected, as shown by the

evidence, a few of the voters, it is

conceded on all hands that in a new

election—if the Nova Scotia leader is

not returned by acclamation—he will

again have a large majority. Those

who have carefully read the evidence

will find additional reasons for reach-

ing this conclusion in the confession,

under oath, of a number of the wit-

nesses at the trial, that money was

spent just as freely, if not with greater

freedom, by the Conservative agents.

There is a pretense by Conservative

journalists, that while illegal acts were

committed to help to increase Mr.

Fielding's majority, the friends of the

Halifax lawyer, who was prevailed up-

on to enter the county and prevent a

return by acclamation, were immacu-

late in their purity. But if the Con-

servative candidate had claimed the

seat and made it possible to reveal the

shady means adopted to promote his

candidature, which was but partially

revealed at the trial of the petition

against Mr. Fielding's return, a state of

affairs would have been reversed, judg-

ing by these incidental revelations, that

would have put into the shade alto-

gether the illegalities proved against

the Liberal agent. The opponents of

the Finance Minister, if they resolve to

contest the vacancy, will hardly be able

to keep their faces straight if they

choose as their platform the purity of

the record of their party friends in the

Queen's election, or in fact, in any other

contest.

A RACE PROBLEM.

The press of the United States is

constantly discussing what is termed

"The Race Problem." Despite all the

condemnation of lynching of negroes

for offenses against the person lynch-

ing still goes on. And, of course, the

offenses for which lynching is sup-

posed to be the punishment still con-

tinue. And the question not unnat-

urally arises, why is it that these of-

fenses and their illegal punishment were

not apparent in the history of negro

emancipation under British rule. The

West Indian colonies of Great Britain

had the same social conditions as the

Southern States of the republic. Was

the race problem any more difficult of

solution in one country than in the

other?

Prof. Royce, in the International

Journal of Ethics, some time ago dis-

cussed this question very clearly. He

compares the larger British colonies

like Jamaica and Trinidad, with the

Southern States. There seems to be no

race problem in the former such as

afflicts the latter. In the former there

are no mobs nor mob law; the economic

and social and political life of the

islands does not revolve around the

negro; he is not the burning question,

either in metaphor or in fact. The

whole matter was quietly settled, the

professor says, "by English adminis-

tration and English reticence." And

this has been the expressed opinion of

other observers as well.

When emancipation occurred in

Jamaica, there was a period of eco-

nomic depression and unrest. But the

white men quietly went to work and

organized the country to meet the new

conditions. The courts by fair treat-

ment gained the confidence of the

blacks. The negroes were trained to

act as policemen, and to keep their

own people in order.

But administration went further. It

established good roads; it introduced

sanitary laws. Above all, it accepted

the negro as a necessary factor in life,

and trained him to fill a place. The

civil service was open to him, but open

only on merit, and not as a result of

political pull. He was allowed to fill

every place he was able to fill. And

while the West Indian planter was

socially as exclusive in this ideas as

his brother in the Southern States, his

exclusiveness was not offensively based

on a color foundation; it excluded

white as well as black.

And so, calmly and quietly, by the

exercise of common sense, without

bluster, the Englishman adapted him-

self to his new conditions, and made

the best of them.

The lesson is one that might well be

learned by the people of the south;

though we are not sure that it will be.

They have had their troubles with the

red man over the border, as well as

with the black man. They have not

shown any ability in dealing with what

they call inferior races. Under British

law and British administration there

have been none of these race problems.

It is not too much to say the reason is

that the negro and the Indian have al-

ways been treated fairly; and they

have learned that under British law

they will always have justice.

A letter from Peace River states that

wheat cutting commenced there on July

28, and that then nearly all the cereal

crops in that district were ripe. It is

likely, therefore, that the harvest there

was over before it began in Manitoba,

and the new western provinces. As

the Peace River is hundreds of miles

north of Winnipeg, the great extent of

Canada's wheat-growing territory is

once more emphasized. But we con-

fess to surprise to learn that harvest

begins in the northern wheat region

much sooner than in the south.

The Toronto civic authorities, who,

in the near future, will have to take

up the question of acquiring from the

street railway company, for the public,

the control of the system, will have to

face the question of competition by

electric buses, which is to be set on

foot in the immediate future. That

such competition is to be feared is

shown by the experience of the "Tup-

penny Tube" in the British metropolis.

This underground system of fast pas-

senger cars conveys travelers from

Shepherd's Bush in the western sub-

urbs of London to the neighborhood

of the Bank, a distance of more

than six miles, with stations at every

pivotal point, for the uniform charge

of 4 cents. Its directors have been in

the habit of paying 4 per cent divi-

dends, but they now assert that unless

its traffic assumes its old-time dimen-

sions they cannot continue to do so. In

the last half-year there were 700,000

fewer passengers carried than in the

same period of 1905, and to the com-

petition of the motor buses plying up

and down Oxford street and other

thoroughfares in the West End is at-

tributed their falling off, which is not

a great many in a total of 22,338,000

persons carried, but it accounts for a

reduction of \$38,000 odd in the receipts,

which the Tuppenny Tube directors fear

may fall to a greater extent, if the

electric buses catch on. It would not

be surprising if such were the case, if

the buses are able to make rapid trans-

it, for who would travel underground

if he could make good time above? As

for the outlook in Toronto and else-

where, if the new means of convey-

ance compels the street railway man-

agers to provide seats for their cus-

tomers, and move them to refuse to

stop to take up a passenger when

there is no seat for him, it will prove

a real boon to the public.

"MR." KNAPSACK DINES.

[Columbus Dispatch.]

Mrs. Alex. Houston recalls the fol-

lowing amusing incident, of which she

was herself a witness:

"A number of years ago, a party

were returning from the seashore,

where they had been spending the

summer, and stopped off from the

car at Albany, N. Y., for a hasty din-

ner. One gentleman in his haste put

his knapsack on a chair beside him.

When he came to settle his bill, the

waiter charged for two fares.

"Why, I have had only one din-

ner," said the man.

"Well," said the waiter, "you put

your knapsack in a chair that might

have been occupied by one who would

pay for a meal."

"All right," said the man, "as I

have paid for you, eat Mr. Knapsack,

eat," and he opened his knapsack and

filled it with all he could reach at the

table, to the great enjoyment of all

who witnessed the incident."

NO EXCUSE.

[Chicago News.]

"Keeping boarders," observed the

lady, "soon makes a woman coldly

practical."

"Yes, I suppose so," rejoined the cy-

nical bachelor; "but that is no reason

why the soup and coffee she dispenses

should be practically cold."

MEASUREMENTS.

[W. J. Lampton, in New York Sun.]

Says I to Susan Simpkins,

In a friendly sort of way,

As we jogged along the turnpike

One pleasant summer day:

"I have thought the matter over,

And as far as I can see,

I guess you are the woman

That is just the size for me."

I was rich and Susan wasn't.

For I owned a farm and more.

I owned a tract of timberland.

A sawmill and a store;

While Susan earned her living

As a hired girl, and did

Her duty by her mother

And a little orphan kid.

But Susan she was thrifty.

And so plump and fresh and fair,

That certainly there wasn't

Any finer anywhere.

Of course she wasn't my equal,

And her station wasn't mine.

But as Mrs. Hiram Higgins

She would have a chance to shine.

Then Susan Simpkins halted,

And she looked into my eyes,

Without a sign of thankfulness

Or natural surprise.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Higgins, sir;

Indeed I am," she said.

"But when it comes to sizes

You are one too small for me."

A HINT TO SUBSCRIBERS.

[Clarkson (N. C.) Express.]

It is said that a certain young man

of this place hung his best pants to

the fire one night this week and they

were burned up. If such a calamity

should overtake the writer he would

have to stay in doors till some delin-

quents could be heard from. It's bad

to have only one pair.

NOTES BY THE VILLAGE CUT-UP.

[Country Cor. Meadow (Miss.)

Searchlight.]

Lost—Somewhere between home and

Auburn—Mr. Richard Cloy. When last

seen he was up on a telephone pole with

a belt trying to ring Miss Jannie Miller