

object, says the *Graphic*, of this eavesdropping was, that the membership of the Metropolitan Church should be increased by the withdrawal of members from the church of the disgraced pastor, the two churches being somewhat rival and in close proximity. Whatever truth there may be in the rumour, popular feeling has been aroused, and I suspect before many days are over the sympathies of class members of different churches will be called in question, when the Congregational Church trouble will extend to the Methodist church.

The *Christian Guardian*, a Methodist weekly, would urge upon its agricultural subscribers the necessity of purchasing agricultural implements from the Massey Manufacturing Co., on the ground that the workmen are nearly all Methodists. This is a new form of "protection" such as is not often heard of. I should like to see the Finance Minister levying a duty upon manufactured articles not made by Methodists. I wonder the "Methodist Church of Canada" never thought of this before; the idea is a first-rate one. The ministers had better draw up a petition to that effect and send it to Sir L. Tilley; more improbable things than a "Methodist protective duty" have happened before now.

The proposal to abolish the Senate of the Dominion is no new thing, and the question as yet, has not met with much comment in Toronto. Comparison has been made between the hereditary House of Lords and the Senate of Canada, but there is no resemblance between the two; one body is to protect the special interests of a class, or at least the House of Lords serves that purpose; the other is supposed to protect the interest of the people, watching the hasty acts of the Commons. The question of the uselessness of the Senate appears to be a foregone conclusion in Toronto, hence the apathy of the people in discussing a question that has been decided long ago. I should like to see the Senate abolished, for, as the *Globe* says, the best men in the Senate, who are practically lost to the country, could then represent the people in the Commons, besides effecting a very considerable saving in the expenses of the Government of the Dominion.

The annexation movement and the "Political Economy Club" of Montreal meet with rather severe criticism in Toronto. If there were any chance of raising an agitation in Western Ontario with a show of success, the very men who would lead the van are those who at the present time denounce the movers in the Montreal annexation agitation as traitors. The same reasons operating in Quebec would not operate in Ontario to make annexation at all feasible or advisable. The physical, political and financial arguments in favour of such an important change in Quebec would have no weight in Ontario. If Ontario proposes to adopt annexation as a last resource, she must look out for more potent arguments than those which influence the unfortunate Province of Quebec. Ontario, especially Toronto, looks with great concern upon this annexation movement in Montreal. It is felt that Canada is practically under the thumb of Quebec; that the whole future destiny of the Dominion is to be in a great measure governed by the turn of the tide in Quebec. The good people of Ontario do not look altogether with a friendly eye upon the annexation scheme; a very large proportion of the good citizens of Toronto at any rate have an idea that Independence would meet with greater success in Toronto; but I am persuaded that when the subject shall be brought more thoroughly before the people and all its bearings shall have been freely ventilated, that neither Annexation nor Independence will be adopted, but both will give place to the better plan of Legislative Union. I believe it would be out of place and premature for me to say anything more upon the subject at this time.

Royalty is in our midst, that is, it was; it passed through our streets looked at the University and Model School, &c., and like a flash was gone. Royalty does not amount to a snap of the finger without the robes of state and the grand retinue and suite. What are all the Lieutenant-Governorships of Canada but the useless retinue of sham Royalty? Is it necessary to retain such expense? Could not the government of four millions of people be carried on more effectually without these useless luxuries?

Queen City.

TRADE PROPHECIES AND THEIR FULFILMENT.

If there is one feature more than another which distinguishes the modern journalist, it is decidedly modesty. "We" are given to blush, but always to "blush unseen." It is only when "we" find that our modest utterances and prophecies have become the undercurrent of later editorials from our brother journalists that we make up our mind even to let it be known that we do blush—the implied flattery is so very obvious, so entirely innocent, and so thoroughly convinces us of the usefulness of that which it has been given us to write. If these remarks were printed in crimson, the tint could but feebly express our present emotions. Two Ontario newspapers, the *Globe* and the *Monetary Times*, neither of which are wholly unknown to fame, have recently bestowed upon their readers editorials, headed "Without an Insolvent Act." These refresh our weary spirit, for they say, in language not wholly dissimilar to our own, that the results of the repeal of the Insolvent Act are—what "we" said they would be before it was repealed.

And then, there is the *Journal of Commerce* here in our city. It now proves statistically, with an accuracy not to be despised, that the Government has been doing a forced loan on the banks. Doubtless by inducements to hope for future Government deposits, it has cajoled some of these to increase their holdings of its paper reserves instead of gold to a considerable extent—to a greater extent in the Province of Ontario even than here in the Province of Quebec. The same journal gravely hints that the Governmental attempt to force a loan from the public by an increased issue of small bills, is likely, from present indications, to prove a failure. Some months ago "we" warned the Government of this. The end is not yet. We again assert that the Dominion circulation will not only not increase, but will decrease gradually in consequence of its present measures, for the reason that it has decreased security and restricted freedom in banking by striving to reserve certain privileges to itself.

We might further invite attention to the daily more and more apologetic utterances of the *Montreal Star* and *Toronto Evening Telegram* regarding that once-lauded panacea, the "N. P." The pretensions to universal benevolence and usefulness once set up and advocated for it, have gradually dwindled down into this, that it was a necessary measure for needed revenue. Neither could probably yet be brought to admit that it is the most disastrous method possible to accomplish that end. Bye and bye that goal will be reached; and then we will feel called upon to blush again.

It would however be time and space wasted to dwell on this change of tone in the public press merely to draw attention to the "we" aforesaid, were it not needful in order to show the real progress in thought and experience which has been made by the Press of Canada since the advent to power of the present Government. Conservatism is totally against the genius of the age we live in. The more the bow-string is tightened by each Conservative contraction, the further does the winged arrow of a nation's thought o'er-shoot the old and battered mark of Conservative progress at which it was supposed to be aimed. The Press, ever active, ever anxious to catch and reflect the thought of the people is impelled to a higher and stronger flight by each attempt governmentally to guide and direct it toward a party aim. Thus it reaches views from above, and passes beyond such heinous ideas as, that governments are capable of greater wisdom in trade legislation than are traders themselves when left free to guide their own affairs, either as regards from whom they shall buy, or to whom sell, their wares; that Insolvency is a disease which can either be cured or suddenly slain by legislation; that the laws of finance and Trade are less inexorable towards a government, than they are to the humble individual depicted by *Grip*, with his pea-nut stand erected on a pedestal, in solitary grandeur awaiting the "boom" of the "N. P."

What are politely called the evils of trade, the disasters, sudden changes in values, diseased inflations and equally diseased depressions do not necessarily spring from the nature of trade itself, but from the evil which is within the heart of the trade; and therefore Governmental pressure from without upon the external phenomena of trade is wholly powerless to do more than work some slight alteration in the outward aspect these assume. Suppose a giant were to be smitten with a sudden whimsical desire to stop the fly-wheel of an engine, would he succeed in doing aught save to find some exercise for his own strength in holding on to it while it whirled him around, or perchance derive some stimulus to his mental ingenuity in planning, while he thus revolved, how to detach himself safely from its stalwart progressiveness. Yet a child might do the deed he sought to accomplish if shown how to cut off the steam and open the escape-valve; or the giant himself might gently pick up and run off with the stokers, and thus let the fire burn out. The child, with the wisdom of an innocence that seeks harm to none, is far more highly prized, in this age, than are giant paternal governments. Their "usefulness is gone." Either the child or the giant who know how to "let things alone," leaving others at peace in their useful employments, will be most likely to find its usefulness increase.

We do not seem even yet to be capable of learning the true science which exorcises evils in social conditions. The two remedies proposed are: First, commercial union with the United States; and second, a trade reciprocity