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London, Thursday, Aug. 14.

A GRAVE ERROR.

The members of No. 1 Committee, at their meeting to investigate the Woods charges, committed a grave error in ordering the representatives of the press to withdraw, thereby converting the committee into a microscopic imitation of King Charles' Star Chamber.

Such a course was unwise, whether from the standpoint of the committee, of Mr. Woods or of the public.

There is not much to be said for proceedings that are afraid to avow themselves in the open.

In these days the chief safety of the public as far as deliberative bodies are concerned lies in the publicity given by the press.

To refuse the representatives of the press the opportunity to represent fairly and impartially the pros and cons of a public investigation is a course alike arrogant and unwise.

COMPULSORY VOTING AGAIN.

Our esteemed local contemporary falls foul of the ADVERTISER's suggestion of a course of two or three years' experimental legislation during the Ontario bye-elections in the matter of compulsory voting on pain of having the non-voter cut off the list for several years.

We need not follow our contemporary in the attempt to impart partisan flavor into a non-partisan discussion, as, for example, when it says:

"We hear no talk of 'compulsion' in the matter of voting, and of 'penalties' for non-voting, in the Liberal-Conservative ranks."

The "Lord, I thank thee I am not as other men" style of argument, whether applied to parties or individuals, may be left to answer itself.

But is our contemporary so sure in this matter of the sentiments of those for whom it usually speaks? A few inquiries might be useful.

We do not despair of converting our neighbor to the principle that the electors can as fairly be called by law to give an hour or two every three or four years to the duties of citizenship as to serve on a jury when so called upon.

Compulsory voting—under the reasonable penalty of being deprived of the unused talent—is but the natural corollary of the ballot, one-day polling and numerous voting places. All these reforms were opposed by our esteemed contemporary when they were first proposed, but we presume it would not desire a restoration to "the good old times" in any one particular. If the principle of compulsory voting becomes an accomplished fact—and we know of no country in the world where important electoral experiments can be so intelligently tested as in Ontario—we may one day find the Free Press claiming that it always favored the reform, quite ignoring its opposition on the 14th of August, 1890.

A better name for the advance movement might easily be chosen. A rose loses none of its fragrance through being called by another name. We care little what the act is entitled provided it puts things into such shape as will prevent four-fifths of the energy of the participant electoral contests being almost necessarily, as now, devoted to "Getting Out the Vote."

Three-fourths of all the lying, intimidation and corruption center about this "Getting Out the Vote."

That open gate of ill influences should be closed.

We make the reasonable suggestion that the best way to close it is by laying on each elector the duty of getting out his own vote.

Our contemporary waxes eloquent, not without a suspicion of demagogism, over the contemplated outrage of debarring a man from addressing a meeting of electors—as if anybody had proposed such prohibition; and over causing any elector to "suffer disqualification for the next year, or a term of years, as proposed, for merely stopping away and minding his own business"—though much severer penalties are now attached to shirking jury duty for the sake of "minding one's own business."

By the way, if the country's business is a self-governing Province like Ontario is not the electors' "own business," whose business is it?

Our contemporary, in its attempted re-

ply, has not advanced anything to alter the ADVERTISER's conclusion in a previous article that from every honorable candidate, no matter what his politics, a system of compulsory voting and non-canvassing would lift a burden of useless work, unnecessary expense and a sense of personal degradation in vote-begging well nigh intolerable to high minded men.

ARREST OF RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION

Railway building in the Northwestern States is feeling the influence of fast extravagance in the construction of competing lines, and to some extent also the hostility of State Legislatures to railway rates and management. It may be assumed, too, that the working of the Interstate Commerce Law is putting a curb on railway development, as it is not likely that capital can as readily be secured for building new lines as in former years when the companies were free to fix their own rates for freight and passenger traffic. In the whole of the United States there was built in 1887 12,000 miles of new road, while last year only 5,000 miles of railway was built. This is a remarkable falling off, but it appears that in no section of the country has the effect been so marked as in the States of Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, the Dakotas and Nebraska. In those seven States there was constructed last year only 648 miles of railway, whereas in the neighboring Province of Manitoba the extent of new roads was 362 miles. There is wisdom in going slow, even with railways.

ELECTRIC RAILWAYS FOR HIGH LATITUDES.

One of the difficulties of operating railways in high latitudes is the effect of the intense cold of winter upon the locomotive. It is stated that on the Canadian Pacific Railway cylinders and steam and water pipes are constantly subject to freezing in the cold spells, so that extreme care requires to be exercised lest the engines become disabled. In regions farther north the danger must be much greater, so that it does not appear likely that railway service as we now have it can be depended on should settlement extend into the vast extent of our Northwest territories lying in what is known as the Mackenzie River basin. But should the steam railway fail it is not impossible that the electric railway may succeed. There is even now a line of electric railway projected to extend from St. Petersburg, in Russia, to Archangel, on the White Sea, a distance of over 500 miles. London Iron, in noticing this project, says it is proposed to furnish the electric current from a series of generating stations distributed along the line, and that the cost of the undertaking, including rolling stock, is estimated at only about \$15,000 per mile. Archangel is close to the Arctic Circle and far above the latitude of the northern shore of Hudson Bay, and if a railway connection with it is shown to be feasible we need not despair of reaching with the iron horse any desirable region of Canada.

ACCUMULATIONS AND THE RATE OF INTEREST.

A paper in the proceedings of the American Statistical Association by Walker C. Wright gives some valuable information on the business of life insurance during the last twenty years, and indicates pretty clearly how the rate of interest has been affected during that period. Taking twenty of the leading life insurance companies of the United States, he shows that the value of their assets increased in the twenty years ending December 31, 1889, from \$134,182,472 to \$660,612,525. The real estate investments of those companies increased from \$1,424,962 to \$70,940,544; mortgage investments from \$49,337,236 to \$232,342,743; bank securities from \$1,716,656 to \$249,804,267; collateral securities from \$1,799,604 to \$33,805,925; and cash and other items from \$14,571,518 to \$30,377,886. Premium note securities, on the other hand, fell from \$31,303,294 to \$12,341,660, and government, state, county and railroad securities from \$30,930,502 to nothing. It appears therefore that at the present time those twenty companies have invested in real estate, mortgages, bank and collateral securities and cash the large sum of \$660,612,525, a sum equal to two-thirds of the whole debt of the United States. Such large accumulations of capital, are not, it is fair to suppose, confined to the business of life insurance, and the fact of growth of savings and investments might be expected to produce an effect on the rate of interest. This is really what has occurred, for Mr. Wright shows that the earnings of the various companies have been steadily decreasing as their assets increased. Saving for the period of commercial depression from 1873 to 1877, the tendency has been constantly downwards, and from 1889 to 1889 the average earnings fell from 6 per cent. to 4.6 per cent. For the first five years of the period the earnings of the twenty companies, as shown by their sworn statements, was 6.1 per cent.; for the second five years it was 5.9; for the third it was 5.1; and for the fourth it was 4.7 per cent. At this rate of decrease of earnings of investments it can hardly be doubted that the time is not far distant when money will be as cheap in the United States as it is in Great Britain.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

—We do not know what Mr. Mercier proposes to do about it, but he has had fair warning that Sir John designs no mercy to Quebec in the next gerrymander.

—The Sarnia Canadian (Conservative) thinks Mr. Charles Mackenzie, M.P.P., would make a good Provincial Treasurer, but fancies he is probably too busy to accept. The Province does not contain a man more capable for the place. However, it is true that he is a busy man.—The same journal is less happy when it talks of net-

ting the Behring Sea question as a Mason and-Sidell. We are sorry the word "net" is not classical, for it would make a suitable comment on our esteemed contemporary's theory on the best method of settlement.

—It is stated that in London, Eng., the use of gas stoves is growing at the rate of 2,000 a month. In that city as well as elsewhere the gas companies are pushing this business as a means of finding a market for gas, the consumption of which is decreasing in proportion as electric light is being adopted.

—The total bonded debt of the several States of the American Union in 1889 was \$254,993,212 and the floating debt \$41,514,310, making a total of \$296,417,522. This year, according to a statement prepared by the superintendent of the census, the bonded debt of the several States is \$194,900,372 and the floating debt \$43,596,218, making a total of \$238,506,590, showing a decrease in the ten years of \$58,020,931. The debt of the United States has been reduced in the same period by the large sum of \$1,900,000,000, and is now about \$900,800,000, or little over three times the debt of Canada. But the population is about twelve times the population of Canada.

—The Toronto Week announces a prize competition. Prizes of \$50, \$30, \$20 and \$10 will be given for the four best short stories by Canadian writers, on subjects distinctly Canadian, on the following conditions: 1. The MSS. must not exceed 6,000 words and must be type-written, and on one side of the paper only. 2. It must be delivered at the Week office, 5 Jordan street, Toronto, not later than 1st November, 1890. 3. Each competing story must be written on the top of the first page a type-written motto and be accompanied by a sealed envelope marked with the name of the writer and the words "Prize Story Competition," and enclosing the name and address of the writer. 4. All the MSS. sent in to become the property of the Week. 5. The Week will award the prizes and will be judge of the fulfillment of the conditions.

OTHER NEWSPAPERS.

PETITIOIN GOVERNMENT.

Toronto Globe.
In all likelihood, however, Sir John Macdonald will remain at the head of the party whilst he lives. In his speeches some time since he spoke of his unwillingness to linger too long on the stage, but he seems to have now fully resolved to remain on as long as nature shall allow him. There is a cordial deal of grumbling at the influence which appears to control him. The adage that when a ruler is old petitions often spoil politics is said to be verified in his case. When he goes hence—and we hope his years may be prolonged far into the future—the party may not want another central leader. In all likelihood it will go to pieces, one portion cleaving to Mr. McCarry, another to the Manufacturers' Association, the French to Sir Hector, and the rest to any henoop which in the midst of the catastrophe may float within reach. In any event it is to say that Sir John Thompson is not destined to come to the front. The chief justiceship of the Supreme Court is within his reach, and he is a true disciple of Tupper if he does not steer for that safe and profitable anchorage.

A GOOD SUGGESTION.

The London ADVERTISER is in favor of compulsory voting, and makes the suggestion that the Ontario Legislature at its first session should provide for compulsory voting at all by-elections held in Ontario for the next two or three years. It thinks that the experiment is abundantly worth trying. Success in elections for the Ontario Legislature, it would seem to be applied to Dominion and municipal elections. The arguments which our contemporary advances in favor of compulsory voting are that it presents in every contest the energies of those who take an interest in public affairs are devoted chiefly, not to reasonable discussion of public questions, but to the degrading task of begging the electors to be kind enough to exercise the franchise! That self-respecting candidates on either side are expected to beg personally for votes—as if it were less degrading to beg for votes than to recd potatoes! That three-fourths of the effort of a campaign are applied to what is euphemistically termed "getting out the vote," with all the lying, intimidation and corruption the phrase implies! That from every honorable candidate, no matter what his politics, a system of compulsory voting and non-canvassing would lift a burden of useless work, unnecessary expense and a sense of personal degradation in vote-begging well nigh intolerable to high-minded men. The suggestion is a good one. If the principle of minority representation is worth experimenting with, as in the case of Toronto, that of compulsory voting is also deserving of a trial.

Indigestion

Is not only a distressing complaint; of itself, but, by causing the blood to become depraved and the system enfeebled, is the parent of innumerable maladies. That Ayer's Sarsaparilla is the best cure for indigestion, even when complicated with Liver Complaint, is proved by the following testimony from Mrs. Joseph Lake, of Brockway Centre, Mich.:—"Liver complaint and indigestion made my life a burden and came near ending my existence. For more than four years I suffered untold agony, was reduced almost to a skeleton, and hardly had strength to drag myself about. All remedies failed to dislodge me, and only the most delicate could be digested at all. Within the time mentioned several physicians treated me without giving relief. Nothing that I took seemed to do any permanent good until I commenced the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla, which has produced wonderful results. Soon after commencing to take the Sarsaparilla I could see an improvement in my condition. My appetite began to return and with it came the ability to digest all the food I ate. My strength improved each day, and after a few months of faithful attention to your directions, I found myself a well woman, able to attend to all household duties. The medicine has given me a new lease of life."

Ayer's Sarsaparilla,

PREPARED BY
Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.
Price \$1; six bottles, \$5. Worth \$2 a bottle.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

A POPULAR SUCCESS.

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BLOOD PURIFIER
AND
HEALTH REGULATOR

No Medicine Equals It.
Its Properties are such as to
Rapidly Insure Sound Health and
Long Life.

Pleasant to the Taste, and Warranted
FREE FROM ANYTHING INJURIOUS
To the most Delicate Constitution of Either Sex.

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Sunburn AND ALL
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REFUSE SUBSTITUTES
BE SURE THAT BOTTLE
WITH BUFF WRAPPER
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These world-famous Pens are of the highest
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STAR LIVERY
Robt. Tripp, Prop.
Richmond street, near O. P.
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lass has sold out to Mr. Robt.
Tripp, who will be pleased to
meet all the old customers of
this well-kept livery. Telephone 425.

FOREST CITY LIVERY
F. O. PERKINS, Proprietor.
Livery and boarding stable. New buggies
carriages, commercial wagons, etc. All first-
class. Rates moderate. Telephone 523. Call
solicited.

E. MACKAY'S CROWN LIVERY
First-class horses and car-
riages. Obliging attendants
always on hand. Particular
attention given to boarders.
Terms reasonable. Horses
Rigs delivered to all parts of the city. Give
Mack a call.

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GRIGG HOUSE
LONDON.

THE UNDERSIGNED having assumed the
proprietorship of the above first-class
commercial hotel, trusts by strict attention to
the wants of the traveling public, to merit a
continuance of the patronage so liberally be-
stowed upon his brother during the past seven
years. Everything of the best.
THOS. E. GRIGG.

The Martin House
KING STREET, LONDON.
This hotel is newly built, with modern con-
veniences, and is acknowledged to be the best
at a Day House in the city. Telephone. Best
commercial house in the city.

J. W. MARTIN, Proprietor.

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and Publisher by stating that they saw
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HANDY TUB AND WRINGER STANDS.

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What is Scrofula?

It is that impurity in the blood, which
hides in the glands of the neck, pro-
ducing lumps or swellings; which ex-
tends upon the arms, legs, or
develops ulcers in the eyes, ears, or
causing blindness or deafness; which
at times, cancerous growths, or
manifestations usually ascribed to
It is a more formidable enemy than
any of these, for scrofula combines
possible features of both. Being the most
common of all diseases, it is the most
for every person are entirely free
How can it be cured? By taking
Hood's Sarsaparilla, which by the cure it has
often when other medicines have
proven itself to be a potent and peo-
ple's disease. For all affections
Hood's Sarsaparilla is unequalled, and
it has effected cures in all of its
glands from scrofula in any of its
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Sold by all druggists. \$1; six for \$5.
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100 Doses One

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The touring Windsor crick-
their third consecutive vic-
defeating the London As-
eight wickets.

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