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Notes of the Week.

A parallel to what has happened amongst ourselves to two politicians of rather lax, so-called political morality, is to be found in the case of John T. MacKane and his associates of New York. Relying on past immunity, they set law and decency at defiance in their attempt to favor their own party by force and fraud. He and his aides were indicted, in the courts and their guilt proved, and a sentence of a fine and imprisonment was imposed upon them. Though prison doors close on this particular politician and his sympathetic associates, many who could justly claim the right to participate in similar seclusions from society will be left to walk their devious ways. Still it is well that an occasional example is made to show that reckless political sharp practice sometimes brings a man to prison.

M. Vandennepeboom, the Belgian Minister of Railways, Posts and Telegraphs, is a warm advocate of Sunday rest for postmen. At present there is but one delivery on Sundays throughout Belgium, but this is too much for M. Vandennepeboom. He has therefore caused a special stamp to be made, which is to be known as the "Dominica stamp," bearing in French and Flemish, the words, "Not to be delivered on Sunday." This will be issued on Saturday, and it is desired that those who are in favour of Sunday delivery will tear off the portion containing the words in question. The idea is to obtain a sort of "referendum" on the question of Sunday delivery, and also at the same time to call public attention to the matter, and by that means arrive at a solution of the question of a complete postal day of rest on Sundays.

The Chicago *Tribune* calls upon the saloon-keepers of that city to support at least a part of their patrons now out of work, from whom they have taken millions of dollars. It says very pertinently: "There are about 7,000 saloon-keepers here who, since the World's Fair boom began have received from men now out of work, or likely to be out of work by the time the snow flies, about \$12,000,000 of their wages. Two thirds of this amount represents clear profit. It has not cost them more than \$4,000,000 for the beer and whisky they have served to thirsty customers. The remaining \$8,000,000 has gone into their coffers, and they have lived upon the money and had a good time. Now, why should not these 7,000 saloonists undertake to support at least a part of their patrons who are unemployed until they can get a job?"

The semi-annual report of the Christian Endeavour Society records a progress which can be described as nothing less than phenomenal. For nearly three years, the enrolment has been increased at an average of 100 new societies every week; and since the Montreal Convention, in July, it has exceeded the past average, for we now have enrolled from the wide world 28,741 local societies, with a total membership of 1,724,460; these figures representing the actual net enrolment at this date. Every society that has been transformed into something else or disbanded for any known reason, has been stricken from the lists. Our growth in all denominations save the Methodist Episcopal, is encouraging. We Presbyterians still lead all evangelical denominations in the number of Christian Endeavour Societies, lacking but five of having 6,000 societies.

The opening of the ship-canal to Manchester, which took place with great *clat* on New Year's Day, threatens to inflict a serious blow on the great shipping and commercial interests of Liverpool. That great undertaking has cost an amount of money far beyond first and sanguine estimates, but it has been provided and the work successfully completed, and now ships can bring their cargoes of cotton from the Gulf of Mexico and lay them down at the doors of the mills of Manchester. In addition, the American line of steamers has made Southampton its

eastern terminus, and the people of that city, alive to their interests, are providing spacious dock facilities for the convenience and encouragement of the trans-Atlantic trade, of which hitherto Liverpool has had the monopoly. The efforts of the people are energetically seconded by railway companies who see profit in it, to aid in making Southampton a large and prosperous seaport.

The terrible and unprecedented suffering and destitution which abound at present in so many of the cities and towns in the States is calling out, as anyone knowing the people would expect, large-hearted and most energetic measures of relief. The following from the *Interior* of Chicago, may be taken as a specimen of what is being done in many other places: "A far-reaching sympathy has been aroused, and schemes of relief have been established to meet the emergency. The mayor has issued a proclamation calling for organized help, and a central relief committee representing all the charitable classes, has been established. At one place opened for the purpose, 15,000 were fed last week. The response to this unprecedented call for help has been so great as to create a drift towards Chicago of the poverty stricken, most of them common tramps, and precautions have to be taken to prevent an abuse of Chicago's generosity."

The report as given in the Chicago *Record* of Mrs. A. P. Stevens, one of the Illinois factory inspectors, contains a note of warning which should be heeded among ourselves. The report states that the employment of children in factories increases notwithstanding statutory regulations intended to check it. Every kind of machinery perfected by the efforts of genius increases the means for their employment, and as the number of employed children increases that of employed adults decreases. It is probable that at the present time not less than 2,000,000 children under 16 years of age are in workshops and factories. The child in workshop and factory is in fourfold danger, accidental death, mutilation, permanent ill health, vitiated morals wait upon its steps, and sometimes the most fortunate child is the one to which the first of these four evils comes, for that is at least a finality. No child under 16 should be allowed among steam-driven or electricity-propelled machinery.

If the voice of the press represents in any adequate degree the opinions of the people of Ontario, there is very general satisfaction with the result of the vote on Prohibition taken on New Year's Day. The cities of the Province with a single exception have all gone in favour of it, which is a very noteworthy fact, and some of them with large majorities. Over the whole Province the majority, it is supposed, will not fall much short of 100,000. The question now arises, how large should the majority be to warrant legislative action to carry into effect the expressed wishes of the people? It is interesting to see the diversity of opinion according to personal predilection on this point. In the minds of all reasonable people, however, it appears well agreed that, until the question of right to prohibit as between the Dominion and Provincial Governments to do this is settled, the latter will not only be warranted, but may consider itself called upon by the voice of the people, to curtail in every way within its power a traffic which has met at the hands of the public such an unmistakable condemnation.

Happy Canada, we may well exclaim when we compare the circumstances of our people with those of our neighbours across the border in respect of work and want. While work of many kinds is scarce, as it always is at this season of the year, and there are consequently want and suffering, and more this year than there has been for some years, yet destitution and suffering are not yet so general and great as to be beyond our power to meet fairly well. In the cities and larger towns, on the other hand, in the States, the want and suffering are something appalling, and such as they have never before known.

An enquiry extending over a large number of their principal towns and cities shows almost a million of people out of work, and nearly twice that number in actual poverty and suffering. In a vast number of cases these are not the people with whom poverty is their normal condition, but those who have been accustomed to moderate comfort in food, clothing and shelter. As the true state of affairs is becoming fully known, heroic and generous help is coming forward to meet the demands, but even then many must still suffer. Now is the time for those who have made their millions out of the people's hard work to come forward, and by generous aid to melt away that bitterness of class against class which, unless something adequate, in this time of great need, is done, will only be intensified.

Every repetition of the banquet of the Board of Trade, of this city, illustrates the propriety and excellent effects of making this, as it is now becoming, an annual function. Political party feeling prevails, for the most part, to such an extent amongst us that one great annual occasion, such as the banquet of Thursday evening last, when the most prominent public men from all parts of the Dominion meet on the broad platform of good fellowship, of public interest, and of Canadian citizenship, exercises a most happy influence upon business, politics, and national life. The perfectly national, unpartisan, and happy social character of the festive occasion was one of its best features, and one which it may be hoped this annual banquet will always exhibit. The apologies read for the absence of many public men who had been invited to be present, but whom the pressing demands of public business of various kinds prevented attending, read as if they all understood that Canada expects every man to do his duty, and he was determined to do it. No feature of the banquet was more marked than this, and it cannot but have a powerful effect upon the country, the sincere and ardent loyalty expressed toward the Mother Country, and patriotism towards our own Canada. We rejoice in every manifestation of the growth of this sentiment, and we believe that in the line of these sentiments lies the path of honor, and safety, and happiest development of all that is best in and for our country. May it continue to grow from more to more.

The election of municipal officers over Ontario for another year naturally calls attention to the increasingly difficult subject, because of the increasing complexity of modern civilization, of municipal government. It would not be easy to overstate the importance to the wellbeing of the country of its municipal institutions. Especially is this the case with cities which are now so largely amongst ourselves absorbing all great manufacturing industries and attracting to them so great a proportion of the rural population. This overshadowing influence of the cities more and more determines the state of the whole country and makes their good or evil government to a greater degree a matter of national concern. A writer in the Montreal *Witness* has been drawing attention in a very instructive way to this subject which is one that may well engage the thoughtful consideration of citizens possessing the best minds and most upright character. Nothing is more common in municipal government than charges of inefficiency or even of corruption. History abundantly shows that in a free country government reflects the moral status and ideals of the people. If these are low, no system will produce good results, but the most careful investigation and amplest inquiry should surely be made in laying the foundations as we are doing of a new country, to discover or devise that system which will most facilitate and uphold efficiency and honesty. Let every wise and patriotic citizen watch the working of the system we enjoy, and, where it fails to secure efficiency and promote honesty, stand ready to seek and fearlessly to apply a remedy, and let the best citizens have such an idea of what they owe to their city and country as to be ready at the call of their fellow-citizens to come to their aid with willing, intelligent and honest service.