

## The Planet

S. STEPHENSON, Proprietor.

## ENFORCE THE SNOW BY-LAW.

What has become of the snow by-law? There is a happy medium between the tyrannical enforcement of a necessary measure and the non-enforcement of it at all. Yesterday our sidewalks were in a disgraceful condition. They couldn't have been worse if there were no such things as a by-law in existence. Now, the authorities have been very easy-going in the enforcement of this by-law. But the time has arrived when even they must see that patience has ceased to be a virtue, and that no attempt is made to clean the snow off 90 per cent. of the walks.

This condition of things cannot continue. If we may not be able to help our muddy roads we can at least clean off our slushy sidewalks. There is no hardship in asking a man to shovel the snow from in front of his own door when you give him 24 hours to do it in. As for the owners of vacant lots, if they have to hire men to clean their walks that is only one of the penalties of wealth. In the winter time in large cities many poor men make their living cleaning away snow. Where the owner of vacant property does not have the work done within 24 hours the engineers' department sends out corporation laborers, and, like street sprinkling, the cost is charged to the property. That is what the by-law provides for in Chatham. A reference to it shows that its enforcement belongs to the board of works. It is questionable if the police have any authority in the matter. As to Ald. McKough and the city engineer we must look for relief.

## WHY E. D. MARTIN HAS BOLTED THE NEW LIBERALISM.

"We cannot but view with alarm the large increase of public debt and of the controllable annual expenditure of the Dominion, and the consequent undue taxation of the people under the governments that have been continuously in power since 1879, and we demand the strictest economy in the administration of the government of the country."

The above quotation is taken from a document that is now regarded in some quarters as obsolete literature. It is one of the resolutions adopted at the Ottawa convention of the Liberal party, which was held in 1893, under the patronage of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The set of resolutions comprises the platform on which Sir Wilfrid Laurier's party claims to have been supported by the people. It is interesting to note that Hon. W. S. Fielding, now minister of finance, was chairman of the committee which prepared this resolution, and that he was one of the chief supporters of the economy and retrenchment plank.

This platform is brought into notice at this moment on account of two events. In the by-election at Winnipeg, E. D. Martin (brother of Fighting Joe) is a candidate for a seat in the house of commons. Mr. Martin is an old-time Liberal. But he is not a Tarte Liberal, nor a Blair Liberal, and especially not a Sifton Lib-

eral. These ministers represent in the mind of Mr. Martin all that was most extravagant and most dangerous in the methods and principles of the Tory party, which he and they opposed. In addition Mr. Martin's Liberal friends discover the element of personal corruption in some of the present leaders, and he is grieved to find an absence of political principles in the policy of the government. Now, since it came into power. Now, Mr. Martin was, three years ago, the chairman of the Liberal organization in Winnipeg. In that position he delivered an annual address vigorously denouncing Mr. Sifton and all his works. Thereupon the machine undertook to depose him. It was a hard fight, but Mr. Sifton won. Every government official who could be drawn to the convention and all the hangers-on of governments who have drifted over from the Conservative party when the leaves and fishes shifted their positions, were there and Mr. Martin was voted out by a small majority.

Thereupon Mr. Martin solemnly announced himself a candidate for the vacant seat in the house of commons. Mr. Sifton selected a government candidate, but the nominee looked over the situation, and would not run. Another and another refused, and Mr. Sifton is still without a man. Meanwhile Mr. Martin and his friends joined the Conservatives in turning out the Greenway Government and bringing in Hugh John Macdonald. The Manitoba Conservatives consider that they cannot do better than allow Mr. Martin to go to Ottawa to continue his campaign against the extravagance and mismanagement of the ministers there. They will put up a man of their own at the general election, but for the present will permit Mr. Martin to fight his anti-Sifton battle on the floor of the house of commons. In view of the fact that Mr. Martin has adopted the financial clauses of the Ottawa platform as his campaign policy, and is applying them with great force against the Laurier Government, the Fielding resolution becomes once more a live issue in the west.

But what gives more point to the quotation at the head of this is the recent publication of Mr. Fielding's financial statement for the year that closed last June. Mr. Fielding invited the country to view with alarm the increase of debt. The alarm was thus called for at the close of the fiscal year 1899. In that year the increase of the net debt had been \$549,605. The average increase for the four years, 1890, 1891, 1892, and 1893, had been \$1,037,500 a year. The total increase for the four years was \$4,150,000. Mr. Fielding viewed this increase with alarm.

Now, Mr. Fielding has had control of the finances (subject, of course, to Mr. Tarte's supervision) for three years and a half. The accounts for the half year are not closed, but in the three full years he has added to the debt the handsome amount of \$9,776,000, or more than twice the addition that Mr. Foster made in four years. Here is a question in proportion. If an increase of a million a year ought to be viewed with alarm, with what feelings should Mr. Fielding and his friends view an increase of three millions a year?

The increase of debt last year was \$2,317,000, or four times as much as it was in the year when Mr. Fielding viewed it with alarm.

In 1893, the Laurier party decided to "view with alarm" the increase in the controllable expenditure.

In that year the outlay on current account was \$36,814,000.

Last year Mr. Fielding spent on current account no less than \$41,903,000.

This is an increase of \$5,089,000 over the expenditure of the previous year.

It is an increase of \$3,554,000 over the expenditure of Mr. Fielding's first year.

It is an increase of \$4,954,000 over the expenditure of Mr. Foster's last year.

Finally, it is an increase of \$5,089,000 over the payments made in the year in which the convention was alarmed.

We are pleased to see our Liberal exchanges horrified, or pretending to be horrified, over the revelations in South Ontario. Perhaps, now, we will be able to get an act through the legislature designed to properly ferret out and punish corruption. The last time Mr. Whitney tried it the attempt was blocked by Hon. A. S. Hardy.

Barrister Walter Thrasher may be too juvenile in Mr. Pardo's estimation to hold a government position that somebody else wants, but when election times come around again his age will prove no barrier to Mr. Thrasher raising his voice and marking his ballot in favor of the Ross candidate, even in the eyes of the gentlemen from Cedar Springs.

General Clery is the only British General in South Africa who has not made a mistake. He is also the only general who has not made anything else.—Hincardine Review.

Gen. Clery is Britain's greatest instructor in strategy. The fact that he knows enough to keep in out of danger is proof positive that he knows his business. None of the other fellows did.

Robert Ferguson, M. P. F., is not to blame for insisting, on having his way in the matter of the county court vacancy. If Robert proves to be a stronger representative than Mr. Pardo that is West Kent's misfortune and East Kent's gain.

In Great Britain and South Africa the idea seems to prevail that the Canadians are old fighters whose experiences stalking Indians and killing bears has created a thirst for gore which can only be quenched by wading through blood into Pretoria.

## DISAPPOINTING CONDUCT.

Belleville Ontario.

It is said the Boer general telegraphed the following message to Pretoria after the recent battle at Ladysmith: "I regret to report that Gen. White again failed to walk into a trap."

## HE HAD THE SINNERS SPOTTED.

Bainford Courier.

The members of a Bridgeport, church chased the minister out of the pulpit and up into the organ-loft for picking out the sinners of his congregation by name. He had undertaken too large a contract.

## HAS GREAT FAITH IN ENGLAND.

N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

The British troops may have grown reckless fighting niggers, but the people is the same that faced Napoleon across the channel and bided its time in Portugal for the march to Paris and the afterpiece of Waterloo. It was almost worth while to endure defeats to show the union and resolution of the British people and the unpopularity of the policy of foreign intervention. These are moral victories.

## THE BLACK MAN'S BURDEN.

Who is it That Would Care to Take up the Poor Black's Burden, Reluctantly, it to Bear.

Take up the Black Man's Burden, since by cunning and device Brought to the land to labor and a source of merchandise, He tilted the soil that brought the gold that wove monopoly's wreath, His only earthly recompense was realized in Death.

When slavery's curse, the patriots of the Kingdom put to shame, The North arose, to deal in souls resolved they would disdain, Unto the South, they dealt the blow, and broke was Slavery's chain, The Black is free, so let it be a proclamation claim.

Take up the Black Man's Burden, The angry master's soul now reeks with animosity.

He sees his purchased souls go free and knows that his defeat Is a laurel for the North to wear upon their homeward beat.

Take up the Black Man's Burden, Left at Confederate mercy, at which sympathy is dead, Yet he survives and lives, from joy an absolute exile, to stand, His burden now has cast a gloom o'er his familiar smile.

From America to Cuba, there sailed With Mercy for the native Black then held by cruel Spain, Through Spanish treachery and a plot, two hundred of the crew, of that great ship were drowned, for of a hidden mine none knew.

Take up the Black Man's Burden, He's called upon to come with gun and help to conquer Spain.

With swift step from his humble home he volunteers to stand, Both White and Black, they sail away; today a man's a man.

Take up the Black Man's Burden, He fights, he bleeds, he dies, To see Old Glory waving high against the Cuban skies.

Spain is conquered with war honors from her foe America, The Filipino Black's life now pays war indemnity.

Take up the Black Man's Burden, Assume old Aquinaldo's place, you'll find it not so bright, Armed with bow and arrow, his warriors staring in the sun Face to face with drilled America, with Krupp and Gatling gun.

Take up the Black Man's Burden, whose profession has attained, Before a wise employer his mission is explained;

His answer is, "No doubt you would prove unto our firm advantage."

But I have men I know would quit; your barrier is race prejudice.

Take up the Black Man's Burden, as crestfallen home he'll tread, Because of color, with his brain power, He'll say, "My sons, why study art or science, we have no power To execute, we're black, so seek an occupation loven."

Take up the Black Man's Burden, now down in the Southern States, Accused of crime, by law untied; he knows that there awaits A heartless band into whose hand delivered he must be, And without ceremony, swing from some convenient tree.

With far expanding sympathy, millions have been entombed, Rights to provide for foreign Blacks, still Lynch Law lingers home, The mother bird that hopes to hatch a brood that credit pay Ready upon her nest, if not, her eggs decay.

The Anglo-Saxon's final rule where-

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3 lb. New Currants..... 25c  
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