

## TORONTO AND ABOUT.

As I intimated in the issue of the SPECTATOR for May 1st, concerning the proposed construction of the Huron and Ontario Ship Canal, that twenty years hence would be soon enough to think of the advisability of the undertaking,—the recent election has endorsed the statement. The people of Toronto have unmistakably in a very significant manner pronounced against the present commencement of the enterprise. Although Mr. Capreol, as the President of the Canal Company, did all in his power to further his return, yet no party paper had the temerity to take up either his own defence, or the defence of the canal, proving, as I think, conclusively that the time has not yet come for the commencement of such a gigantic undertaking. The people of Canada have no objection to see foreign capital expended in their midst, provided it is not borrowed, and they are not called upon to pay the interest; it is therefore worthy of comment that in the present case, where, as Mr. Capreol says, \$20,000,000 of foreign capital was to be expended, and the Government not to be called upon for a bonus in cash, the citizens, or electors, of West Toronto pronounced so unqualifiedly against the expenditure, and, of course, the construction of the canal.

If, by any, it should be considered deplorable that Mr. Capreol met such a signal defeat, on the other hand, it is a matter of congratulation that Mr. Wright, the soft money candidate, met also with an equally disastrous reception. The time has not yet come, and I trust never will, when Canada is to take upon herself the responsibility of issuing irredeemable paper currency. The evil results following such a course of mistaken political economy were felt by France for years afterwards, and the troubles the United States have passed, and are passing through, should be a warning to a colony like Canada.

The Conservative party have not made such a grand success of the elections as they could have hoped. Their more than 800 majority at the late general elections has dwindled down to less than 300. Perhaps their choice of a candidate was ominous. Mayor Beaty was no favourite of the Conservative organ, and as a mayor he is not such a remarkable success; he is not even considered a good "figure-head," although of a very mild and harmless disposition. But he is a Conservative, and as such is able to follow his leader. It is devoutly to be hoped that in following his leader he will keep one eye upon the Toronto Harbour. It is to be hoped that in the dual capacity of Mayor and M.P. for West Toronto, he may attend in a more practical manner than heretofore to the interest of the city at large.

When will the Handford scandal cease? The London *Free Press* in a spirit of enterprise I should be loath to see another respectable journal follow, has endeavoured, with some success, to make capital out of Handford's downfall and disgrace. Such a degrading means of catering to the public's love of morbid sensuality ought to meet with the severest censure. It is hardly to be conceived that any decent paper would make a speciality of so unholy a subject. In extenuation of the *Free Press* and such like journals it might be as well to quote Mr. Goldwin Smith's view of the case. He evidently looks upon Handford's crime indulgently for he says, speaking of the Handford scandal—"It would not be surprising if, among other modifications, a change were destined to take place in our estimation of the relative turpitude of crimes of lust and crimes of malice. Perhaps there may be something in the Handford case premonitory of that change." I trust such a change in opinion may never take place in our estimate of crime, for the crimes of lust, by the teaching of the Scriptures, are evidently placed prominent, as we learn through the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, and the terrible devastation of the deluge.

The Toronto City Council have adopted a new mode of procedure in respect of repairing our permanent roads. The numerous holes in the block-pavement are being filled with macadam, and the consequence is the streets are far worse than they were before. The

silent indignation felt at the action of the Council taking upon themselves the work of engineering is considerable. For the last week or two scavenger carts have been busily engaged in moving the mud from one street to the other. This is a monstrous fact. A short time ago between fifty and a hundred men were employed to move the mud from Queen street west, but lately the mud has been removed from other streets to grade this public thoroughfare. It would appear as if there was a ring amongst certain officials and contractors to defraud the city. There certainly is the most reckless mismanagement and grossest extravagance of the city finances. Some one is to blame, and should be made an example of.

Nothing has as yet been done for our harbour. A new steamer arrived in port last week with a large band of excursionists, and the pilot being unacquainted with the shoals of sand ran the vessel aground. Even with those pilots familiar with the eccentricities of our harbour it is no unusual thing for them to run aground. It is being said by competent authorities that unless something is done speedily, ten years will see the port of Toronto practically closed, and it is a matter of serious question even now whether the disregard of the Government to its demands has not permanently injured its reputation as a port. Delays are always dangerous, and it is a pity that in a matter of such vital importance to Toronto as the proper preservation and care of its harbour, delays and inattention should be allowed to exist. This laxity will in the end be very costly, and will materially damage the reputation of the port for years. Too much attention has been directed towards railways, and the harbour has in the past been left pretty much to itself. I trust that this state of things will not be allowed to remain in their present condition, but that earnest efforts will be made to remedy them, and it is to be hoped that before another season has passed improvements of a lasting character will have been attempted, if not effected.

In the Sunday concert case, for which a new trial had been requested, the decision of the Police Magistrate was sustained, making all such "grand sacred concerts" unlawful. The decision of Chief Justice Hagarty and Justice Armour and Cameron in this case is very satisfactory. There cannot be any doubt now as to the legality of these undesirable entertainments, and the sooner the public and proprietors of second-rate houses of recreation understand this fact, the better for themselves and the community of which they form a part. A penalty of £200 is imposed upon the keeper of such "disorderly house," £100 upon the manager and £50 upon the door-keeper. Now if such fines as these were imposed upon the managers of Sunday excursion boats and needless ferries, the sanctity of the Sabbath perhaps might better be upheld, for if once this sort of thing obtains a hold upon the community it will be as impossible to eradicate the evil here as the people of the United States find it there.

The mismanagement of the City Council is becoming every day more apparent. The *Telegram* of Monday last gave a hint to the Council to be very careful how they recklessly paid out city money, instancing a case where the Committee of Works recommended that \$300 be appropriated for the purpose of constructing 70 feet of piling at Gerrard street bridge. It appears that no provision had been made in the specification for them. The committee have no authority for saying the \$300 is correct other than the report of a clerk who has not even been appointed by the Council. The *Telegram* asks very pertinently who is to blame for this omission in the specification, and insists that a report other than that got out by a clerk shall be adopted before \$300 be given away. The *Telegram's* action in this matter is correct, for although the sum of \$300 for piling is not great, there is sufficient looseness about the affair to make the genuineness of the report a matter of question, and it is high time that a serious system of investigation should be entered into respecting the management of the public works of the city and the finances in general, commencing with the Chairman of the Board of Works, and ending somewhere in the neighbourhood of that tremendous piece of folly, the water works filtering basin at the island. *Queen City.*