

The Toronto World

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 Wellesley News Co., Montreal.
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 P.O. News Co., 217 Desbrosses St., Montreal.
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PUNISH THE CULPRITS.

It is high time that provision be made
 in the Criminal Code for the punish-
 ment of all cases concerned in frauds
 against creditors like the one exposed
 in the action heard before Chief Justice
 Meredith on Wednesday and Thursday.
 British commercial interests have
 just cause to complain of our laws that
 allow an insolvent one who knows
 he is insolvent to sell goods on the way
 from an English creditor to pay off a
 pressing Canadian creditor. It says
 little for our laws and less for our
 Canadian creditor who would be a party
 to such a transaction. Such things
 hurt our commercial reputation in Eng-
 land. As for the lawyers who were
 mixed up in the matter, their ethics
 also will stand revision by the dis-
 ciplining authorities.

Mr. Wood, who seems at first to
 have unwittingly lent himself to the
 transaction at the request of his personal
 solicitor, should have got out of it
 long ago.

A firm may have a great reputation
 for not making bad debts, but there is
 also such a thing as having a reputa-
 tion for straight dealing with others
 who happen to be rivals in business.

A WELL-DESERVED HONOR.

A great deal has been written lately
 about the Imperial service medal, but
 it is possible that its true significance
 is as yet understood. It is awarded
 for all kinds of Imperial service, that
 is service rendered to the masses of
 the British people in England, in Can-
 ada, in India, or anywhere else. Some
 people, some very ambitious British
 empire people, some very ambitious
 and tuff hunters may miss the honor
 and some modest, independent man,
 thinking only of his duty, may win it
 without much seeking.

A man of the latter type is Mr. James
 Barnes of Parkdale, who was in the
 postal service in Toronto for 28 years.
 That he enjoyed the esteem of his com-
 rades is shown by the fact that they
 made him a handsome presentation
 on his retirement. Perhaps the best
 prize of all—the esteem of one's
 comrades and co-workers. But the
 persons who make recommendations
 for the Imperial service medal must
 be credited with good judgment
 in this case, and we freely give them
 the credit.

LOCAL OPTION IN ONTARIO.

Having been "jolted" by the Dunken
 Act the Scott Act, the Royal Commission,
 the plebiscite and the referendum,
 it would seem that the prohibitionists
 are now to be amused with the splendid
 prospects of local option. Some time
 ago The Globe was shocked by the
 discovery that liquor could be procured
 after hours in Rat Portage, and now it
 has suddenly awakened to a sense
 of the ineffectuality of hotel-keepers in York
 Township. "For the most part," it says,
 "taverns in the suburbs of Toronto,
 as round about most cities, are public
 nuisances, and ought to be taken out
 of the way."

There are probably good and bad
 hotels in the neighborhood of Toronto
 and throughout York Township, just as
 there are all over Ontario. There is a
 provincial license law, the object of
 which is to weed out the bad hotels.
 The administration of this law is en-
 tirely in the hands of the Ontario govern-
 ment. It took this power away from
 the municipalities. It fought for this
 power against the Dominion govern-
 ment. It is therefore responsible for
 the existence of the nuisance to which
 The Globe refers. Some of its officers
 ought to get after the hotel-keepers at
 whom The Globe strikes. So long as
 the Ontario law recognizes hotel-keep-
 ing as a legitimate business, the keep-
 ing of an hotel cannot be treated as a
 nuisance, and there must be some dis-
 crimination between the nuisance and
 the decent tavern. Clearly, local option
 cannot make this discrimination. The
 Township of York is not a notorious
 haunt of vice. There are good and bad
 hotels everywhere. And if there is any
 township in Ontario that is saturated
 with the drink habit, that township
 will surely reject a local option bylaw.

The Globe says:
 "Knowing the temperance ten-
 dency of public opinion, the growing
 sensitiveness to the vulgarities and im-
 morality of the average bar-
 room, the conviction that the im-
 moral regulations of the License Act
 ought to be observed, the liquor
 men, to many of them, still persist
 in defying the law in the matter of
 selling after hours and on Sundays,
 and allow their bar-rooms to become
 the rendezvous of loafers and the
 breeding-place of dissoluteness and
 vice. For the most part, the taverns
 in the suburbs of Toronto, as
 round about most cities, are public
 nuisances and ought to be taken out
 of the way. There is no use deny-
 ing their evil character and demor-
 alizing influence."

Suppose, however, that The Globe
 refuses to discriminate between the good
 and the bad taverns; that it thinks all
 are alike bad, containing in themselves
 the seeds of evil. Then it is the duty
 of the government to have prohibition
 enacted in the legislature, not for York
 Township alone, but all over Ontario.
 All taverns are liable to vulgarity,
 hoodlumism and other vices degraded
 by The Globe. That tavern-keepers

want these things is, we think, very
 doubtful. Apart from moral considera-
 tions, any sensible hotelkeeper must
 desire to obey the law and to keep a
 quiet house. Such a course conduces to
 his own peace and comfort. But if it be
 determined that the selling of liquor
 is bad in itself, then the Ontario govern-
 ment should promote, and the Ontario
 legislature should enact, a law
 forbidding the sale of liquor anywhere,
 at any time and under any circum-
 stances, at all events, up to the limit
 of the statute embodied in the referen-
 dum. The legislature can either pro-
 hibit or it can regulate and put an end
 to the "nuisances" where hoodlumism
 and vulgarity prevail. Our own idea
 is that a good deal more might be done
 in making country hotels more comfort-
 able and sanitary, providing good meals
 and clean lavatories. The traveling
 public would like to see the Ontario
 government undertake such a reform.
 Our idea is that the municipalities should
 if it is to be a prohibition, or if you
 want regulation, you must come back
 to the provincial authorities. The
 movement for local option would shift
 responsibility from the provincial au-
 thorities, which belongs, to the provin-
 cial authorities. It is another "jolly" for
 the prohibitionists.

THE CONVERSION OF GOSCHEN.

Confusion worse confounded is all
 that can be said of the most recent de-
 velopments on the British political sea.
 One by one the crew are deserting the
 water-logged ship that carries the free
 trade fortune.

Only the other day it was announced
 that Sir Michael Hicks-Beach would
 volunteer to serve again under his old
 captain. Now it is stated that Lord
 Goschen, the Nestor of fiscal debate,
 the echoes of whose speech in defense
 of free trade have scarcely ceased to re-
 echo thru the corridors of parlia-
 ment, has written that he too accepts
 Premier Balfour's policy. If this is so
 it is the most notable conversion the ex-
 ponent of philosophic doubt and judi-
 cious trimming has made. Lord Gos-
 chen has always been recognized to be
 one of the leading authorities on trade
 and finance. He was a distinguished
 Chancellor of the Exchequer and gave
 his name to one of the infinite vari-
 eties of British government funds. His
 address is therefore an endorsement of
 the policy in these matters. It is im-
 portant to note that these conversions
 are not the result of a sudden change
 of heart, but the result of a long and
 patient study of the facts of the case.
 The conversion of Lord Goschen is a
 more apt appeal to a free people
 never came from a man who called
 himself a patriot.

It is too bad that Mr. Aylesworth
 could not have been moderate without
 being servile. His speech has done
 harm in England. The British peo-
 ple were impressed with the outburst
 of indignation in Canada arising out
 of the boundary award. They were
 made aware that equality was a ne-
 cessary condition to empire, that the
 colonial status of Canada had passed.
 Appreciation of these facts is the very
 basis of British connection. That Mr.
 Aylesworth should lead Britain to be-
 lieve that he echoed genuine Cana-
 dian sentiment in his courtly obeisance
 to the powers that kicked us out of
 Alaska must be a matter of regret to
 every loyal British subject in Canada.

A WRONGED CONSTITUENCY.

The writer, himself an open supporter
 of Mr. Ross, protesting against the con-
 tinued disfranchisement of North Ren-
 frew is not too strongly worded. It is
 not to be expected, however, that argu-
 ment will prevail over the power of
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 A few fairhearted apologies have
 been made in behalf of the govern-
 ment for denying North Renfrew a rep-
 resentative in the legislature. The
 favorite contention is that since the
 legislature is not in session there can
 be no objection to bringing on a by-
 election now. But this far-fetched argu-
 ment explains only a portion of the
 period of disfranchisement. What of
 the last session of the legislature to
 which North Renfrew was not per-
 mitted the right of sending a member?
 The Ross government is not thinking
 of the injustice which it is inflicting on
 North Renfrew, except in so far as the
 resentment of the electorate may be
 of use to it. It is thinking only of its
 own desperate position, the delicacy of
 which demands the disfranchisement of
 a constituency.

Open letters will not do much to
 redress the wrong under which North
 Renfrew suffers. Mr. Whitney might
 very properly have taken the position
 of a member of the legislature, and
 at the opening of the last session of
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 The spirit of the constitution is
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the legislature may still find North
 Renfrew unrepresented, in which case
 the opposition should fight night and
 day, if necessary, to prevent the pas-
 sage of a single measure in advance of
 a writ for the by-election.

While reaffirming everything he said,
 Mr. Aylesworth, in his speech the other
 night, simply took it all back.

The State of New York will spend
 \$100,000,000 on the Erie Canal, in a
 vain attempt to match our own Port
 Land Canal.

It is desirable that Newfoundland
 should enter the Dominion now and fill
 the aching void created by the loss
 of that territory in Alaska.

Advocates of free trade as they have
 it in England will be pained to note
 that on the evening of Nov. 5 England
 had in flames.
 To Mr. Whitney's open letter Hon.
 G. W. Ross will quietly reply that
 he is only waiting until the farmers of
 North Renfrew have finished their fall
 plowing.

The Americans contend that Hudson
 Bay is an ocean, and if this contention
 is not recognized they will simply
 get Lord Alverstone to judicially de-
 clare that it is one of the states of
 the union.

Having listened to A. B. Ayles-
 worth, K.C., the Canadian Club must

question if he did not do more harm
 than good by his fulsome exonerations
 of Lord Alverstone and his courtly
 assertion that Canada would submit to
 a dozen Alaskan awards.

Mr. Aylesworth's speech was a re-
 markable delivery, suitable as remark-
 able as his change into public notice,
 which began with his spectacular re-
 fusal to sign the Alaskan boundary
 award and ended in his meek acqui-
 tal of all persons concerned in the
 sacrifice of Canada's interests. Cana-
 da sent Mr. Aylesworth to London as
 an impartial jurist. It was no part
 of his duty to consider Canadian par-
 ticulars, British connection, or any
 other consideration apart from the ju-
 dicial aspect of the case. Canadians
 generally believe that Mr. Aylesworth
 did fearlessly act the part of the im-
 partial jurist. They were prepared to
 honor him, not so much for the simple
 performance of a difficult duty, but
 for his firmness in resisting the in-
 fluences that undoubtedly urged him
 and Sir Louis Jetté to sign what they
 believed to be an unjust award.
 Following this record Mr. Aylesworth
 delivers a speech that is dog days at
 one end and winter at the other. It is
 as if the strong fearless jurist speaks
 in the beginning and a cringing courtier
 delivers the peroration.

The World is quite as loyal as Mr.
 Aylesworth. It is as anxious as he is
 devoted to the Empire, but British
 connection is not strengthened by
 appeals that ignore Canadian dignity.
 Britain will respect us more if we
 courageously assert our rights, if we
 demonstrate that the spirit of nation-
 ality is as strong here as it is in the
 Mother Country. If we make it known
 with unmistakable emphasis that the
 long series of surrenders to the United
 States must cease.

A. B. Aylesworth's speech does not
 breathe the spirit of the dignified na-
 tionality in which Canada rejoices. He
 admits that Canada was kicked, but
 we must tamely bow our heads be-
 cause it was Lord Alverstone who
 kicked us. The Alaskan boundary
 award was a sacrifice of Canadian in-
 terests, but we are prepared to stand
 a dozen more such awards without
 pretence of asserting our national
 rights. Surely a more illogical argu-
 ment never came from a lawyer of
 Mr. Aylesworth's standing. Surely a
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