

THE HAMILTON TIMES

MONDAY, JAN. 11, 1904.

THE MAYOR'S INAUGURAL.

Mayor McLaren, in his inaugural address at this morning's meeting of the Council, touched upon a number of matters which he regards as of importance to the Council of 1904, just entering upon its duties.

There will be no question as to the wisdom of the city "controlling" its lighting system. There is, however, likely to be a feeling that "control" the situation, it is not necessary for the city to "own and operate" a costly plant, which, at the best, would be a useless duplication of investment, and bind itself to an unknown expense to a monopoly of 30 years.

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budget of other countries appearing in the Contemporary Review: Japan spends annually 18, 1/2d.; Sweden and Norway, 2s. 9/4d.; France, 3s. 5d.; Great Britain, 4s. 11d.; Switzerland, 5s. 0/4d.; Germany, 5s. 1/4d.; United States, 10s. 1d.; New Zealand, 11s. 11/2d.

Russia is far in the rear of the whole cultured world in the matter of education, even China leading her. It has been calculated that there are in Russia 13,250,000 children between the ages of 8 and 12 who would need 265,042 schools if the average school accommodated 50 children.

REV. DR. GARDINER'S DEATH.

The death of Rev. James Gardiner, D. C. L., Belleville, removes perhaps the oldest of the pioneer Methodist ministers of Canada. Dr. Gardiner had been 68 years an ordained minister of the Methodist Church, and was in his ninety-first year at the time of his death.

IT WILL NOT SUCCEED.

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BENIGHTED RUSSIA.

It would indeed be astonishing if reform in the system of Russian Government were to succeed easily while the people of the nation remain in such a benighted condition.

The most peculiar reflection upon the license reduction vote in Toronto that we have seen appears in the Toronto Saturday Night. It says, in speaking of divisions on questions of that kind: "Many vote to humor their consciences, then go their ways, not averse to taking a wee drop illegally to humor their stomachs."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The drowning season has opened, and the daily toll of lives sacrificed to skating on thin ice is reported. Warnings seem to be in vain.

The prefect of Messina Province estimates the damage by earthquake, there and in Reggio, at \$1,200,000,000. A few millions here or there in such an estimate do not matter.

An idea of the importance of the moving picture business may be gained when it is pointed out that one United States company, dealing in the films has a capital of \$15,000,000.

The Times is an advocate of a forward policy in attracting industries to Hamilton. But it does not support the theory that the City Council should hire industries to come or stay in Hamilton.

Of the \$30,000 collected in fines for infractions of the liquor license law last year, about \$21,000 was secured as the result of the work of two provincial liquor officers. That is a somewhat bad showing for the local license inspectors.

The Inland Revenue Department analyst finds that our people purchase large quantities of ground cocoon shells and other foreign substances as pepper. A few fines would probably have a good effect.

The promised reduction in telephone rates has not yet been made by the Manitoba Government. Mr. Roblin promised to cut the Bell rates in two. The only changes yet made have been in the matter of increases.

Already Winnipeg discovers that its proposed \$3,000,000 power plant is likely to cost \$5,000,000. This is the usual municipal ownership experience. There is some talk of an injunction to place the matter fairly before the people.

Now, Mr. Gates, of the United States Steel Trust, admits that that industry will not suffer if the Dingley tariff is reduced one-half! Carnegie seems to have been right. But will the political bosses consent that the Great Fraud on the People should end?

The election of officers of a friendly benefit association of Steel Plant employees resulted in a row marked by its absence of friendliness. Competition for the places of honor in the association is rather too keen when knives and other weapons enter into it.

If "favor" is by fiat of Whitney to be made "favout" and "labour," "labon" again, shall we also be ordered to revert to the "musick," "poetick," "politick," etc., of Dr. Johnson's time? And shall we be required to write "natural," "mortal," "cruel," etc., with double "l," as was then the vogue?

The Dominion Railway Commission shows a laudable desire to carry out the object for which it was created; that is, to see exact justice done between the people and the companies which serve them. The promptness with which the new express tariff and rules evoked its censure is a testimony to its practical usefulness.

The change which secures for the Lake Superior Corporation a large amount of British capital, enough, it is understood, to put the control of the institution in British hands, will probably mean much for the large and varied interests involved. For some years it has been handicapped by lack of funds, but with the change now to be made an era of progress and development may be ushered in.

While the Mail and Empire flounders wildly in an attempt to confound the "faddists" who want to spell as they speak, that is to say, those who object to going back to the "our" in the words which by general consent we spell "favor," "honour," "labor," etc., we notice that the editorial reactionary falls into "honorable" and "favorable." Send him to school to be birched by those geniuses Seath and Goggin!

While the Mail and Empire seriously denounces the advocates of the "our" spelling of "favor" and words of its class, the editor himself finds it so hard to take the step backward to "our" that he tells us, in a note (separated from the denunciatory editorial) that "the New York State Chamber of Commerce is in FAVOR of the opening of negotiations for reciprocity between Canada and the United States."

The year just closed was a disastrous one for some railways. Twenty-four roads were placed in receivers' hands and mortgages on three were foreclosed. These roads had a mileage of 8,000 miles, and bonds and stocks amounting to \$596,359,000. Added to the depression, the railways suffered from the anti-capitalistic craze which seems to have afflicted so many law-making bodies.

The Toronto News, which is exceedingly active in attacking the Government, objects to it being contended in favor of the Marine Department (1) That the irregularities were inheritances from the Prefontaine regime; (2) That Mr. Brodeur had reformed the book-keeping; (3) That the evil had been done by Tory officials not loyal to the Department; (4) That the Government by appointing the Civil Service Commission had already begun the work of reform. If the News would amend its statement by saying that the evil conditions had been handed down from the Conservative Government, and that the issue of the Civil Service Commission was but the culmination of a series of

efforts to bring about reform, the case would be stated more honestly. What fault should any honest journal find with the Government for pursuing this reform policy?

The people of Chatham are somewhat alarmed over the Beck boasts as to the number of municipalities voting to enter the Hydro-Electric scheme. The people of Chatham voted on a referendum as to authorizing the Council to negotiate, but without any idea of binding themselves to the scheme. They fully believe that if the Council under such authorization concluded negotiations, a by-law incorporating the terms would have to be submitted to the ratepayers. That is not the idea given out by the Hydro-Electric organs; but if sharp tricks are attempted, Chatham, too, will appeal to the courts.

OUR EXCHANGES

Need More Snow. (Toronto Telegram.) If we only had a little more snow it would be just like winter.

Wire Tapping. (Kingston Standard.) A Hamilton citizen is charged with having tapped catarrax wires and stealing electric power. One can never tell where these Hamilton people will break out next.

8,000 Coming. (Kingston Whig.) The Salvation Army has a contract to convey 8,000 Englishmen to Canada during this year. It is to be hoped they will all go west. The older cities are pretty well supplied with labor.

Over the "U." (Toronto Globe.) It is this inherent scynophany of a small group of pro-English people in Toronto that has more than once stimulated revolt in intelligent and self-respecting Canadian opinion.

Canada Knows Her Business. (New York Journal of Commerce.) The Canadians are perfectly able to take care of themselves; and here they have done so and propose hereafter to trade with those nations that express a desire to trade with them is proven by their new tariff policy.

The Extra Vowel. (Woodstock Sentinel-Review.) It is said that when the new public school readers are put in service they will undertake to teach school children that words commonly ending in "or" should be spelled with a "u," as "labour," "honour," "favout." Did Sir James Whitney find the missing vowel with his little? Will the books undertake to give "auksent" too?

Where They Have the Tonic Sol-Fa. (Vancouver World.) In America singing is considered a woman's art, and in much of the attention is paid to the training of boys in music. In English and Scotch schools it is different. What struck me about the school singing I heard was that it was all done with so much joy and evident relish on the part of the children.

One Cause of Defeat. (Toronto News.) The News often has warned the liquor trade that it was unwise in antagonizing public opinion by forcing licensed houses upon purely residential districts where they were not wanted. Saturday Night attributes the credit of New Year's Day in large measure to an impolitic move of this character.

Seath's Big Task. (Goderich Signal.) John Seath, who bosses the Department of Education down at Toronto, orders that homophoric words ending in "or," such as honour, favour, labour, etc., should be spelled with a "u," as honour, favout, labouur, etc. But it will take more than John Seath's decree to make the people of Ontario take up with such an obsolete notion.

Mr. Kelso's Work. (Toronto Star.) It is not going too far to say that J. J. Kelso, in what he has done to secure the surroundings of proper home influences for children whose parents were unfit for parenthood, has performed a more valuable service in preventing crime than half the police force of Ontario have performed in the suppression of crime. There are hundreds, possibly thousands, of young men and young women, living respectable, useful lives to-day, who, but for Mr. Kelso's work, would have gone to destruction.

Girls in Boarding Houses. (Toronto Mail and Empire.) Loneliness is not the greatest woe of the ex-domiciled young woman. In the ways of the world, she may become a victim of heartless people she is thrown among. A crime that has become rather common of late is that of bigamy, and the sufferers of the wrong are usually girls away from home, who, but for Mr. Kelso's work, would have gone to destruction.

The "Ownership" Delusion. (Trade Review.) The socialist is dreaming a beautiful dream of abolishing poverty and all manner of wretchedness and inequality of the world. It is, perhaps, not surprising that this programme has attracted so many people whose hearts are oppressed by the spectacle of human suf-

Advertisement for Bank of Hamilton. Includes text: 'It is an open question where it is more unwise to keep money, not immediately needed; in the home or in the pocket...' and 'BANK OF HAMILTON' logo.

Advertisement for Sterling Silver Opportunities. Includes text: 'Even the City Officials of Cleveland Are Ruminating This.' and 'WON'T ACCEPT. Turkey Refuses Austria's Offer to Pay For Province.'

Advertisement for GLOBE OPTICAL CO. Includes text: 'Broken Lenses Replaced While You Wait' and 'GLOBE OPTICAL CO. 111 King East HAMILTON.'

Advertisement for EPPS'S COCOA. Includes text: 'A delicious drink and a sustaining food. Fragrant, nutritious and economical. This excellent Cocoa maintains the system in robust health, and enables it to resist winter's extreme cold.'

Advertisement for BLACHFORD & SON FUNERAL DIRECTORS. Includes text: 'THE SISTERS' THANKS. The sisters in charge of St. Mary's Orphanage gratefully acknowledge the many kind remembrances from generous friends and benefactors who contributed in no small degree to the happiness of the little ones under their care.'