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LONDON, SATURDAY, FEB. 19.

MORE IMPERTINENCE.

Naturally the Toronto World is opposed to a grant to the Western University. It looks at the question from the Toronto point of view. The Toronto point of view is almost invariably at the wrong end of the telescope when the thing to be viewed is outside of Toronto. The World sees in London a "one-horse town," and in the Western, a "one-horse university."

But impertinence is not argument. The World professes to believe that the efficiency of a university is regulated by the size of the community around it. "You can no longer," it says, "make a good doctor or surgeon, a dentist or a hygienist, in the midst of a small population." This is a novel theory. Probably it originated with the World; at least, it is sufficiently remote from the facts. The Province has been reminded by recent incidents that the manners of Toronto undergraduates have not been refined by the associations of a large city—if Toronto can be called that. Perhaps the World will explain how their minds have been expanded by the same surroundings.

The doctors made in London, in the medical department of its "one-horse university," have an average professional standing quite as high as that of physicians who breathed the intellectual atmosphere of Toronto in their student days. And the Ontario Government has just established a hygienic institute in this insignificant hamlet. Queen's University must be less than a one-horse affair, because Kingston has a population of less than half of London's. What shall we say of poor old Oxford, planted in the midst of 35,000 people; or Cambridge, with a patty 20,000; or Cornell, with 15,000; or Princeton, with 5,000? There are a dozen great universities in the United States situated in smaller places than London.

The World sneers at "half-baked universities" and "half-baked graduates." What institution was responsible for the unbridled theory propounded by the World?

THE MARCH OF SOCIAL REFORM IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The inauguration of the system of labor exchanges in Great Britain, described in another page of this issue, is preliminary to another great experiment in social reform. A scheme of insurance against unemployment has been fully elaborated, and will be introduced during the present session, if the Government succeeds in limiting the veto of the House of Lords. There will be no state into such a field; but the plan has been so framed as to reduce to a minimum the evil tendencies of some forms of state beneficence. Like charity, these may undermine independence and foster parasites and paupers, unless there is a searching process of discrimination, insurance against unemployment, malingerers, and unemployables, to whom the prospect of even a small insurance benefit without work would be more enticing than work with a regular wage. Industrious, conscientious workmen would not long consent to pay insurance premiums for the special advantage of the lazy or useless few. Unfortunately the fluctuations in industry are such that the most competent and willing workers are thrown out of employment periodically, through no fault of their own, or of their employers; and it is this class alone that the scheme devised by Winston Churchill is intended to help. The labor exchanges are essential to the plan as a means of identifying the deserving and the undeserving. They are to deal with the personal equation, which is the core of the problem.

The insurance provisions are to be made compulsory in three trades—engineering, building and shipbuilding—which are peculiarly liable in Great Britain to acute depression, alternating with long periods of activity. These trades account for about 2,500,000 men. The cost of insurance is to be divided equally among the employees, the employers, and the state. Each man is to be provided with a card, upon which three stamps, costing a penny each, must be affixed every week—one by himself, one by his employer, and one by the nearest labor exchange. When the workman is thrown out of employment he will report to the labor exchange, and will be allowed a weekly benefit for three months. The amount of the benefit has not yet been ascertained, but it will be at least sufficient for bare subsistence. A time limit

of three months has been set, because there must be a financial limit. There is an assumption also that competent workmen need rarely be idle longer. A rough test of a workman's fitness or unfitness will be the frequency or infrequency of his applications for insurance benefits. If he is continually coming upon the funds, his case will be one for personal investigation by trained officials of the labor department. They will disqualify him if he is blameworthy, and he will be handed over to the poor law, or to the new social machinery which is to replace the present poor law. Here he will be disciplined by methods which have been indicated in the recent report of a royal commission. Workers in trades other than building, engineering, and shipbuilding will be permitted to enter the scheme if they so desire, and eventually it may be made compulsory in nearly all trades.

The plan is an effort to deal on scientific lines with one of the most pressing problems of modern civilization. Old age pensions, insurance against unemployment, the reform of the poor law, the new fund for afforestation, road-building, and the economic development of the country, the small holdings act, and the tax upon undeveloped land, are all parts of the same gigantic scheme for the uplifting of the British masses and the diminution of the sum of human misery. The humane and progressive Britain at the head of affairs in Great Britain are trying to blaze new paths of progress, which the whole world may some day tread.

WHY NOT?

Two hundred and seventy Ontario municipalities have asked the Legislature for permission to tax improvement values at a lower rate than land values.

The assessment committee of the Legislature has reported adversely upon their petition. The majority of the committee argue for the principle of uniformity. They profess to fear that if the matter were left to local option, there would be confusion and irregularity and perhaps injustice.

Is there no confusion, or, rather, is there no lack of uniformity under present conditions? A large degree of local option in regard to municipal assessments already prevails. In one community the ratio of assessment to market value may be much higher or lower than in another. In this city the assessment department has for some time been wisely assessing land at a higher rate than improvements, in relation to the selling price. Unregulated local option in such matters had made no difficulty for the Legislature. It could safely go a step further and permit the municipalities to modify the present system of levying fines upon improvements. A great deal of urban land owes its value to the community, not to the owners. Why should it not be taxed more highly than the values created by private industry and enterprise?

THE GEORGIAN BAY CANAL PROJECT.

The recent debate in the House of Commons on the Georgian Bay Canal scheme revealed a unanimity of favorable opinion. The growth of population and production means that transportation needs are rapidly increasing. Canada has the natural routes to the seaboard and with adequate facilities all Canadian-grown grain and a large percentage of the United States' export surplus would be shipped via Canadian ports. As it is, during the last four years thirty per cent of the grain from the Canadian West went by way of United States ports.

The engineers appointed by the Government to make a survey of the proposed route of the canal has reported that a 22-foot waterway for the largest lake boats from Montreal harbor to French River village, on Georgian Bay, a distance of 440 miles, can be constructed in ten years at a cost of \$160,000,000. The annual maintenance would be approximately \$900,000, including the operation of storage reservoirs for the better distribution of the flood waters of the Ottawa River, a most important feature of the scheme. With tributary basins thereto required for the navigation project, a reliable water power supply would be secured at various dams amounting to 1,000,000 horsepower, which could be developed at \$50 per horsepower.

The project is, as Hon. Mr. Fielding expressed it, an attractive and fascinating one commercially and from the point of view of military tactics and naval defence. The present Government is known to be heartily in sympathy with it, and hopes to be able to realize it, though not at once. The finance minister points out that the Government has rather heavy burdens upon it, and is naturally disposed to give more consideration to the financial aspect of the question than do those who are pressing for immediate action. "It is one of those big things of Canada which we must do and do at an early date," said Mr. Fielding, "but if we are asked to undertake it immediately, I frankly say that I do not think it is good politics; I do not think it wise."

Toronto has named a new street after Harry Lauder. This is almost as funny as Harry Lauder.

The styles in feminine headgear this winter are bizarre, but have you seen Doc Chisholm's naval policy?

"I have been 21 years in this House and have never withdrawn a statement," says Sir James Whitney. Is this infallibility or impertinence?

The proposal to hire British ships and tars to defend this country is based on the assumption that we are

an inferior people. Perhaps we are, but we don't intend to admit it.

The Montreal Gazette still insists that the German surtax was "a foolish law, the outcome of spite, not policy." Germany has surrendered, but the staunch old Gazette holds the fort.

A lynching mob in Cairo, Ill., was fired upon by officers, with fatal results. It is refreshing to record one triumph of justice in connection with a lynching bee.

Here's a pointer for the local street railway company. The Metropolitan Railway Company of Old London, the underground, report a large increase of receipts through putting on Pullman cars and serving tea and cake!

Mr. Asquith may tell the public on Monday what he intends to do. So far as we can gather from the Associated Press dispatches, he will raise the question of the veto first, and will insist on giving precedence to the budget.

Poor Chamberlain! The man who was too feeble to sign his name in the House of Commons' register a few days ago was only a few years ago the most active spirit in that assembly, the very embodiment of tireless energy. Today he is a symbol of the institutions and policies which he championed in his later years. Like himself they are weak and tottering.

A LONELY PLACE.

Lonely, lonely place. Hostess: "You won't come to church with us, then, Phyllis?"

Phyllis: "I don't for the week-end—I don't think so, dear. You see, I shouldn't know a soul there!"

MOST OF US CONTRIBUTED.

[Calgary News.] The estate of the late Sir George Drummond is estimated at \$200,000, and every one of us who have used sugar for some years back helped to put the ciphers on.

CAUSE FOR REGRET.

[St. Paul Pioneer Press.] Isn't it a shame that good men have to be pushed into a political race and the bad ones cannot be kept out with a club?

IN 1920.

[Detroit Free Press.] Father's in his airship. Gone to spend the day. Looking after loans and bonds in Europe over the way. Mother, who likes comfort, And does not care to roam, Is shopping in a dress, In Paris, at her home. Brother, who in deep seas, Has a coral grove, Is going in his submarine. Among the evens to rove. Uncle in the navy. Who's left his ship a span, Is shooting through pneumatic tubes To join her in Japan. Sister, who's a suffragette, Has worked reforms so rare, That even the ward meeting They open now with prayer; And when, tired by their labors, She'll body rest and soul, She goes to spend for pleasure A week-end at the Pole.

OF THE UNDER DOG.

[Birmingham Age-Herald.] "Jolins," which is meant by undertones.

"Please, ma'am, they are the yells of the fellow what's on the bottom."

TOO FULL FOR ENJOYMENT.

[M. A. P.] "Why, Willie, you don't seem to be enjoying yourself."

"No, uncle, I'm having a miserable time. Auntie told me to eat as much as I wanted—and I can't."

TO BE KEPT DARK.

[Boston Globe.] Miss Kidder—Said Carrie has dyed her hair black—Don't tell anybody. Miss Ashitt—Is it a secret? Miss Kidder—Yes; she wants to keep it dark.

CORNERED AGAIN.

[Life.] "Mr. Eskimos," remarked Dr. Cushman, "eat and drink?" "Preventative," hissed the irate commander. "The always blow them out first."

EACH HIS PORTION.

[Yonkers Statesman.] Patience: They say she got all her furniture on the installment plan. Patience—She did. She has had four husbands, and she got a little furniture with each one.

ONE FOR MR. BECK.

[Hamilton Times.] In the Legislature yesterday Adam Beck attempted to meet criticism of the hydro-electric commission's treatment of the farmers in securing easements, by presenting a number of cases in which the farmers ultimately accepted a sum not much larger than he says the commission's agents had offered them. Does Mr. Beck think it is honest or clever to present the matter in this way? Is he not well aware that in many cases only a small fraction of the amount was offered, and imposing-looking formal notices used to scare them into acceptance? Is it not true that these average farmers, of "scarcely" many into acceptance? Is it not true that the figures mentioned by Mr. Beck were only reached when the farmers refused to accept, and insisted upon something like their rights? What about the large number who accepted, though feeling that they were being wronged, under the impression that it was no use to fight a government which had already deprived the citizens of their right of action in the courts to defend their property against its creatures? Were you quite fair, Adam? Are you proud of the position you occupy in this matter? If so, the farmers will know how to regard you and your government.

ARE YOUR HANDS CLEAN?

[Simcoe Reformer.] Dirty hands clean? More soap. KNEW THE DRUG BUSINESS. [Buffalo Express.] "Have you had any experience in our line?" asked the owner of the drug store. "I was stampeded out of the postoffice for several years," replied the applicant for a job, confidently.

AN ENGLISH VIEW.

[The Spectator, London, England.] From the point of view of Great Britain, which must expect to use herself in the future outstripped in population and resources by her colonies, nothing more important than this beginning of a naval policy can be imagined. When a considerable Canadian navy will be in existence, manned by the splendid seamen

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\$1.29

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who inhabit the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Canada, England will wonder that it was ever proposed that Canadians should pay other sailors to do their work for them. Our final but not the least important point in favor of local navies, is that our total naval strength will be greatly increased by the extension of the shipbuilding resources of the empire.

A MODERN AFFINITY.

[Judge.] "And will you love me always?" asked the hero, in the sixth chapter. "O, Morton! I will love you until—until the end of the chapter!"

THE PROCESSION.

Cook—"I'll be lavin' yez, mum. Mistress—Very well, Bridget. Keep to the right. Incoming cooks keep to the left."

ENOUGH.

[Judge.] Mrs. Gramery—What is your opinion about the right of women to vote? Mrs. Park—It's enough for me to know my dear, that it is fashionable.

PRETTY PERSONAL.

[Harper's Magazine.] In one of the large cities a street car collided with a milk cart and sent an after-con of milk splashing into the street. Soon a large crowd gathered. A very short man came up had to stand on tiptoe to see past a stout woman in front of him. "Goodness!" he exclaimed. "What an awful waste!"

POLITE INTERRUPTIONS.

[Kansas City Times.] "And it's awfully impolite to interrupt one who is talking, isn't it, mother?" "Except when a woman is describing clothes, my dear, and then it is polite to constantly ejaculate. 'How lovely' or 'How ridiculous' as the case may be."

ALARMING!

[Punch.] Alarmed Motorist (after collision)—Are you hurt? Butcher's Boy—Where's my kidneys?

THE HAPPY MEDIUM.

[Washington Star.] "Father," said little Holo, "what is a happy medium?" "I suppose my son, that it is one who can earn several hundred dollars a day by making tables and chairs move around the room."

AFTER THE QUARREL.

[Sydney Bulletin.] "Ah, now, suppose you will go home to your mother?" "I will not. I'll get mother to come here."

CLOSING OF TRACKS WOULD STOP BREEDING

And Expert Say Betting Absolutely Necessary If Meets Are to Continue.

Ottawa, Feb. 18.—Dr. Routledge, of London, Ont., was an expert witness before the anti-gambling bill committee yesterday.

He was thoroughly familiar with the breeding of horses, and had his horses at many trotting meetings. There was no betting at the London meeting and the bookmaking privileges were sold to bookmakers. The revenue from these privileges contributed towards the purses of the meet. He said the passage of the bill would mean a loss in revenue and probably the closing of the track. "What is the revenue?" "Well, during the four days I should think it would average \$600 or \$800." The witness considered that racing was important in the development of horse breeding. "You do away with the track and you do away with the industry which is very beneficial to the farmer of the country," he said. As to the behavior at race meetings, Dr. Routledge said he had never seen anything at a race meeting which was degrading there than he had seen at other large gatherings. He was satisfied that there was betting every horse race, and at every foot race. It was human nature. He was in favor of open betting on the track, rather than the more secret betting away from the track. The witness said he was satisfied there was a revenue from bookmaking at the track. He had seen it in Ontario. He knew that to be the case at London, Stratford, Lis-towel and Strathroy.

Mr. Francis Nelson, sporting editor of the Toronto Globe, and presiding judge at the Canadian tracks, was called and gave evidence in favor of the pari-mutuel machine. He said they had very many recommendations as a convenience to the individual bettor. He regarded the mutual bookmaking and pool-selling as a means for the

convenience of the individual bettor. He considered that the adoption of pari-mutuel did a lot to eliminate the camp followers.

Answering Mr. Leighton McCarthy, he said that the people who went to the race tracks were no worse than those who attended other large gatherings.

At the evening sitting Mr. Nelson, describing the good effects which racing has had upon the breed of horses, mentioned that Mr. Raymond Dale, of Qu'Appelle, was sending a Saskatchewan bred horse to England to compete in next year's derby.

John E. Ryan, director of the Canadian National Bureau of Breeding, testified that the work of the bureau was done largely under the auspices of the British war office. The terrible army, he said, was under horses. The British army would buy remounts in Canada to the extent of three million dollars a year if they were available.

To destroy racing, he said, would be to destroy the work of the bureau, which was the taking of evidence. The committee will receive a written argument from counsel before making a report to the House.

CIVIC GOVERNMENT BY COMMISSION

The regular meeting of the Bacons Club, which will be held in the Forsters' Hall on Richmond street tomorrow night, will take the nature of a debate on the subject of municipal government. The wording of the debate is as follows: Resolved, "That civic government would be more efficiently conducted by an elected and salaried commission than by the system now obtaining in London and other Ontario cities."

MISS ELKINS DIES OF SELF-INFLICTED WOUND

Kansas City, Feb. 18.—Miss Agnes Leslie Elkins, niece of Senator Stephen B. Elkins, of West Virginia, who attacked the subject at the Willard Hotel, Wednesday, died tonight. The young woman was apparently on the road to recovery, when shortly before 2 o'clock this morning she had a relapse and sank into unconsciousness. Miss Elkins shot herself in a moment of despondency, inflicting a dangerous wound just over her heart.

CORRESPONDENCE

Re Commercial Failures.

To the Editor of The Advertiser: On page 2 of your issue for 18th inst. Mr. Bergey replies to my criticism of his reported statement before the hard-ware convention. Accepting in the meantime Mr. Bergey's qualification of his statement re the failure of 95 per cent of retail merchants, it is quite fair to think to ask him to favor us with the authority on which he makes this assertion. I quite appreciate the high ideals of the Sheldon school, and at the same time hold the opinion that the matter of statistics regarding the percentage of commercial failures, both R. G. Dun and Bradstreet's are on as high a plane as the Sheldon school. I do not think Mr. Bergey's reply is satisfactory, and would much appreciate (as a student of commercial economics), a statement from Mr. Bergey as to the authority on which the Sheldon school authorizes his assertion Yours sincerely,

HENRY B. ASHLPLANT.

West London Breakwater.

To the Editor of The Advertiser:

Some people are pitying West London in anticipation of a flood, while others say "You are all right; you have a good breakwater." Yes, good as far as it goes; good if it had ever been completed. I wrote several letters to the press on the matter, at the time the city spent \$15,000 to raise and strengthen the old embankment, and make it a breakwater that would really be a protection, but it is a delusion. The true way raised and strengthened the old embankment all round as far as Wilson avenue, about three feet higher from Wilson avenue to Kensington bridge, but not an inch was added to the old breakwater as first built in 1855-56, leaving us practically with no better protection than before. It is true that Mr. Wm. Scarrow has partly filled in this unprotected part, but there are places where nothing has been done, places where the water came over in torrents during the last freshet, low places between the cottages as anyone can see, where the water is sure to come in again if it should rise as high as it did before. Now a few loads of earth could be put in these places and raised a couple of feet higher, at a cost of \$10 or \$15, practically completing the breakwater.

between Wilson avenue and Kensington bridge, and by so doing might save a loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars to West London. Everything possible should be done to keep the water out of this part of the city, as a flood now would not be a good thing to boast London. Will the engineer see to this in time? From the 29 years' experience of those who have been at the worst points and where the water is likely to come over.

JOHN CHAPMAN.

76 Dundas street, West London.

London and Higher Education.

To the Editor of The Advertiser: The reception accorded the deputation which waited on the Premier of Ontario to secure a grant for the Western University came as a surprise to all. It is certainly new to find a public man who remains uninfluenced by the colossal proportions of such a deputation or the influential character of its individual members. While I admire the Premier's courage, as a citizen of London I regret that he should feel as he does about the matter. Yet it is easy to understand at least some of his reasons. Sir James Whitney does not go through the world with his eyes shut, and he has much cause recently to doubt the zeal and enthusiasm of London's citizens on behalf of a higher and broader education.

To begin with: The City of London bill, now before the Legislature, contains a clause, in which the council asks power to curtail the expenditure of the board of education. Evidently, while anxious to obtain money from other sources, they are not disposed to be generous with their own. Nor has that same board shown itself worthy of much consideration. It will take more than a few years to wipe out the memory of the manner in which they filled the most important educational position in the city, and the petty principles—if principles it is not too good a word to use—by which they allowed themselves to be influenced. That the department in Toronto is not less shown by the fact that Mr. W. C. Ferguson, who left London as a result of that action, was at once appointed a lecturer on methods in moderns in the faculty of education. Then last year there was the kindergarten embroglio, by which we got rid of a few more of our best teachers, without showing much regard for the interests of either education or justice. And, not least, the Government must know that the money sent by it to be given as a bonus to teachers of experience has not been so given, but has been used to other uses, or, as the press reports say, "the board is sitting tight and taking no action." Is it not natural that the Premier, with his hatred of hypocrisy, would like to see some proof of true educational zeal in those things which lie in our own power, before trusting to us the funds of the Province at large.

The best argument in favor of the grant was, according to your report, overlooked by all the speakers. May I commend it to the members of the smaller deputation to be heard later. It is one furnished by President Falconer himself, who said recently that the number of students attending Toronto University was so great as to render it almost impossible to bring them into personal touch with the professors, and thus they miss that most potent factor in the development of character. To prevent that overcrowding, to allow that personal contact, we need a well-supported university in London, as well as to give a broad training in the subjects that make for culture to those of our western peninsula who cannot go to Toronto.

CITIZEN.

PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER ROUTS CRITIC CROCKET

The Latter Comes Out of Wharf Controversy Badly Worsted.

Ottawa, Feb. 18.—The navy debate resumed this afternoon, had an unusually discursive character. The member from the Yukon quoted Scripture, and the colonel from Haliburton paraded Buddha. Mr. Congdon was in his best constructive vein. His message was peace. The German scare he laid quietly to rest. The tenor of his speech was strongly pro-British, without being anti-German. He denied the phantom notion that Germany's naval programme contained any sinister intention regarding Great Britain, also the booby that a couple of hundred thousand German soldiers could overrun England. He also intimated that if the Englishman's home could be so easily invaded, the modern Englishman was of very different calibre to that accredited him by loyal Canadians.

Crocket Corrected.

Before the House got back to the naval debate, Hon. Dr. Pugsley and Mr. Crocket had their semi-weekly

skirmish. On Monday last Mr. Crocket, on a question of privilege, drew the attention of the House to what he claimed was an erroneous statement in the Globe's report of the debate of Friday evening, in which Mr. Crocket charged that public money was being spent on a wharf at Pink Rock in New Brunswick owned by the Albert Manufacturing Company, a politically ally of the Minister of Public Works. In the report in question it was declared that the minister had destroyed Mr. Crocket's pretty little piece of political patchwork by producing an agreement showing that the wharf had passed from the hands of the company into the control of the crown, and that the expenditures complained of were for the improvement of a public work in the public interest. Mr. Crocket declared on Monday that this summing up of the situation was absolutely correct. The minister noted that the whole trend of Mr. Crocket's argument on Friday had been to show that public money had been expended on a private wharf. The facts of the case were, he said, that not a single dollar of public money had been spent on private property, and the agreement with the company gave the crown absolute control of the extension to the company's wharf, for which the public money had been voted. The reporter of the Globe was entirely justified in saying that the control of the extension of the wharf had passed from the company to the crown.

"I think it is time," he said, in conclusion, "that the member for York should drop his small tactics and devote his attention and that of the House to something larger."

At Tourcoing, France, five couples of working people celebrated their golden wedding the other day. Great festivities were provided for the occasion by the municipal authorities.

London Life POLICIES

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provided for those who are dependent upon you?

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will not count for much when your widow is struggling

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