

THE GUYSBORO GAZETTE

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EDITORIAL.

In about a month, or soon as the plates are engraved a series of illustrations of local views and portraits will begin in the GAZETTE. This feature we believe will enhance the popularity and value of the paper. In the mean time do not neglect the newat of your subscription.

In another place we have chronicled what Mr. Stead has to say regarding the facilities provided by the British methods of government in the matter of a change of the executive. Writing to the Halifax Chronicle, from London, attorney general Langley intimates that even more expeditious methods than we in Canada now have might be beneficial. He is probably right. A general election of time and turmoil would be saved the nation if it were so provided. Some well defined stages should be provided respecting the dissolution of parliament, which would prevent bringing on elections for partisan purposes only, yet election contests should be short, sharp and decisive. We are of opinion that such methods would result in a better preparation of the electorate for an intelligent decision upon the main questions which divide the parties, and lessen the liability of being misled by side issues promulgated during a campaign for purely campaign purposes. A full discussion of public affairs from public platforms would take place during the regular parliamentary term, when the heads of the people would be cool and their judgements be less biased by an impending contest, and when a mischievous statement on the part of a public speaker could be traced to earth and its effect dissipated. The statesman then would take precedence over the mere strategist, and a spirit of intelligent independence would have its place among the electors.

Nothing is more valuable to communities than have had recently emerged from what may be regarded as the African principle of general election, where the supreme ruler is selected from among and chosen by the primitive but effective process of killing of his competitors, than to have the extreme party which has power change hands in Great Britain. The constitutional machinery is very antiquated in parts. The front wheels seem often as if designed for no other purpose than to revolve in an opposite direction from the back wheels. There are brakes here and there, and the machine, to a casual observer, seems often as if it were constructed in order that it should stick in the mud rather than carry on the government of a great empire. But in one respect the British have almost attained perfection, and that is in the arrangements which have been made for a change of government.

On Friday, June 21, the House of Commons, by a change majority of seven, passed a vote of censure upon one member of the administration. The vote in question was that Minister from £3,000 to £4,000; but, like Mercutio's wound, although it was not "deep as a well nor wide as a church door," still it sufficed to wreck the administration. It was in twenty-four hours Lord Rosebery had placed his resignation in the hands of Her Majesty, and in less than one week from that time an entirely new set of administrators were sworn in with new aims, different policy, and different following. The ins had become outs and the outs had become ins, with less inkblot on a cricket field. Nothing could be more tranquil, that is to say, in less than eight days, the whole of the administrative and executive power over the most widely extended empire in the world was transferred from one party to the other without a single ripple on the smooth surface of national life. There was talk of a crisis in the newspapers, but there were no crises anywhere else. The solid and stable machinery of the Government, which is controlled by the permanent experts of the Civil Service, went on functioning without the slightest interruption of its parliamentary chief.—W. T. Stead, in Review of Reviews.

THAT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Editor of the GAZETTE, Sirs—I would not reply to Mr. McMillan's last letter but for some particular remarks made in it. It is long controversy

with councillor McMillan is so nonsensical in his estimation—he being the father of it what must it be to the public. He began the controversy but fails to notice even my passing remark, any of the other districts of the municipality except the one I at present represent. I wish now, quietly and respectfully to let him know that I am able to look after the district in which I live, in municipal matters, without his interference, unless my business qualifications be small or great. I have said nothing disrespectful of councillor McMillan's religion or of his religious views, or of his business capabilities while in the council, but I have changed my mind. I consider him now nothing but a crank. I fail to see where he has contradicted any of my statements on public affairs.

Now I wish to ask councillor McMillan if, with the rest of the finance committee, were not asked by the council to apportion the road and bridge money? As my memory serves me Mr. McMillan was the first of the lot to declare that he would have nothing at all to do with it, and then went home to abuse other people for not doing what he thought was right toward himself in this matter of the road and bridge money, about which he has so much to say. Now sir, from a business point of view it matters very little how the money is apportioned to the people of the town. Harbor think of old Tom Ferguson, or what Mr. McMillan has to say about his business capabilities or his religious views, for the good whom I serve is Truth and as for being returned to the council next time I care not, that is a matter solely for the people, but while there I am going to look out as best I can for their interests, and if the people among whom I live want to replace me with another man anything councillor McMillan may have to say for or against me will have no effect. Now for that document of permissive license which Mr. McMillan says is contrary to his own views, "is entirely without foundation in fact." Following is a full copy, over the signature of John McMillan, councillor, of Isaac's Harbor.

Isaac's Harbor, May 23rd, 1895. Mr. Matson, Piddler: I will allow you to sell in this district only until Wednesday evening the 15th inst. As in which time you must come and take out your license from me or I will have to move to have you fined.

Yours truly, (signed) JOHN McMILLAN, Municipal Councillor.

Mr. McMillan requested me, through the columns of your paper to produce the best I can do through the columns of your paper. Judge you, readers, whether my charge is "groundless and inefficient." Now I have been asked to justify my own report regarding the appointment of Isaac's Harbor as a municipal council, and I have already done so, but I can do it again. Isaac's Harbor has but 25 miles of road, about half of which the Local Government assists in if it does not fully maintain it, and about 150 miles, large and small. No further "justification" is necessary. THOMAS W. FERDINAND, Intervale July 31st '95.

BRITISH RULE.

The task of ruling her great Asiatic dependency, as everyone knows, was not liberally undertaken by Great Britain. The possessions originally acquired by the trading company became in the course of time too great to be governed by any power that was not sovereign, and when the responsibility had once been assumed it could not be laid down. It is common to hear the English rule denounced as illustrating "the first conquest," and to speak of it as favored upon the inhabitants of India without their consent. But no sober writer can deny that where England has for generations maintained unbroken peace there would have been without her control no incessant and intricate war, or that the fact of conquest would have been indulged in for the sake of a few millions of men and women who lived tranquilly and in comparative freedom who would have been slaughtered or enslaved had she withdrawn her aid, and the country has gradually acquired many of the conveniences and comforts of modern civilization. If such government can be called oppressive, it must yet be admitted that any government that would have sprung up had the English not maintained their dominion would have been more oppressive. The management of this great trust has been largely in the hands of Englishmen of the highest order of ability, and there are few communities in Europe that present rulers, if their legislation, and general jurisprudence could be planned and moulded by Macaulay and Maine and Stephen.—N. Y. Evening Post.

There are altogether over 111,000,000 women in India.

SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

In the Popular Science Monthly we have a severe analysis of the average "jury of twelve" by Dr. T. D. Crothers, and in the Atlantic Monthly an article by Mr. Harvey N. Shepard which depicts the wrongs of the juryman. These two articles taken together set forth perhaps the principal faults of the jury system, and are valuable to our present jury system, and are valuable to the suggestions for reform they offer.

Dr. Crothers does not doubt the motive and intent of the average juryman to be just and fair in his conclusion, but declares that from a medical and scientific point of view the average twelve men who are appointed by the counsel and judge to wisely determine the issue of a case are usually incompetent naturally, and generally placed in the worst possible conditions and surroundings to even exercise ordinary common sense in any disputed case. He cites several cases in support of this declaration and then says: "It is evident to any general observation that the average jury is unable to pass judgment on, or even to comprehend in any adequate way, many of the questions submitted to it—such as motives and capacity of the mind and the power of control; the analysis of conduct, and the dominant and influences which have been the conditions and support of the application of the law, and the distinctions of responsibility and accountability; the distinctions of science as to the meaning of certain facts, or the recognition of the application of facts from the mass of statements. This incapacity are added the passionate appeals of opposing counsel, who draw the most opposite conclusions from the same set of facts. Then the judge charges that if they should find such and such conditions to be true they shall bring in such and such a verdict; and if such and such conditions are not true, they should not bring in such a verdict. This charge then puts the jury into a state of the most bewildering mental confusion, from which only the most trained judge could extricate himself. The wonder is that they are able to reach any verdict that even approximates the levels of human justice."

These facts are recognized by all observing men, and have been the subject of serious discussion for a long time. It has not occurred to any one to consider the conditions and surroundings of the jury who are to decide the great questions of life and death, so often submitted to them. Practically and liberally the twelve men are certain intelligence, and thoughtful capacity and training essential to determine the diverse hygienic conditions for healthy brain and functional activity. Supporting these are to have fair average intelligence with honesty of purpose, they are placed always in close, badly ventilated court room, and are obliged to sit in one place for five or six hours a day; in cases of capital crime they are huddled at some table at night, and have changed diet, changed sleeping quarters, perfect exercise, continuous mental strain, and this may be continued for a week, two days or even longer. Intelligent and sound reasoning would be impossible under these conditions. Even judges, trained to examine and reason from facts along legal lines, display weakness and confusion of mind at the close of a long trial on many occasions.

The practical observation of any jury in some important trial will show after the first day a listless abstraction that slowly deepens into a veritable mental confusion. At times, some one of the jury will appear impassioned, but soon he settles back into a prolonged, steady, vacant stare at the counsel and witness. As the case goes on the faces of the jurors become pale, or increase in redness; their eyes lose their intelligence and become vacant or watery. Some show restlessness in their frequent changing positions of body; others become somnolent and inclined to stolidity; others are constrained, and seem to be struggling to keep up some degree of dignity, and imitate the judge in severity of manner. When the counsel flatly tells them they start up and assume the appearance of more dignity and wisdom. Every lawyer has some curious stories of the schemes and devices to capture juries and induce confusion of mind which come from changed surroundings and the functional disorders, resulting from confinement and unusual exhaustion.

Mr. Laurence has appointed Mr. H. V. Condon agent in Guysboro for the celebration of the centennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Mr. Condon will keep a full list of any pair will be fitted to give perfect satisfaction. There will be no need after this for people to buy their spectacles of so-called professors, or their jewelry, who charge exorbitant prices for inferior articles. Mr. Condon has arranged for periodical visits of Mr. Laurence to Guysboro, and all those whose sight is so defective as to require the services of a celebrated oculist optician can consult him on those occasions free of charge.

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ODDS AND ENDS.

Negligence looks at the battle-field, then makes its arrows. In Hamburg the authorities tax a dog according to its size. A woman without jealousy is like a ball without elasticity. It is said that a house well built of first class brick will outlast one constructed of granite. The highest temperature recorded is 124 degrees and a fraction, taken in Algeria, July 10th, 1879. On the west coast of Africa the taxes assessed by the petty kings are payable in palm oil and ivory. Since the outbreak of cholera in Japan, 1000 persons have been attacked with the disease, and over 200 persons have died. The west coast of Africa the taxes assessed by the petty kings are payable in palm oil and ivory.

I kissed her once, and she got mad. Oh! I am such a dunce; I know now 'twas because I had Just kissed her only once.

She got a pass to Paradise. And when she reached the gate The question that she asked was this: "Is my new crown on straight?"

President Cleveland evidently believes in increasing the native population of his country. "Americans for America," is his way of putting the old motto, and while he may not be strictly an A. P. A. he is a fully accredited third degree P. A. P. A.

An extensive conspiracy has been discovered among the priests of the seminary and society of Kief, aiming as the introduction of a plan of greater freedom of attack upon the prevailing system of despotism in governmental positions, and it is also stated that the discovery has been made that the students' union in the University of Moscow is planning to assassinate his czar.

If a man dies, folks say his veins killed him. If he lives, they say he's so tough the Lord doesn't want him. If he dresses stylishly, he is called a dule, and if he doesn't he is a slouch. If he marries he is no account, and if he remains single he is blamed for it. If he stays at home nights he's a poke, and if he doesn't he's a rake. If he is good-looking he is set down as conceited, and if he isn't he's called as ugly as sin.—New York Recorder.

D. H. MacKinnon, Barrister, Solicitor, Notary Public. GUYSBORO, N. S. Merchants' Bank of Halifax, Incorporated 1869. Capital Authorized, \$1,500,000. Reserve Fund, 1,100,000. Cash Paid up, 250,000.

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