

TORONTO AND ABOUT.

The desecration of the Sabbath is becoming a matter of course, despite the indignant comments to the contrary of our excellent weeklies. Five years ago such a thing as a Sunday excursion was not tolerated; now the boats are thronged Sunday after Sunday with both young and old. York street on a Sabbath evening is a mass of moving humanity returning from some advertized excursion perhaps with a sermon thrown in. People of every class, rich and poor, high and low, male and female patronize these religious evils. The boast of the city churches of the quietness of our streets is gone. Toronto can vie now with Chicago, as we are but little removed from horse racing on the Sabbath. One half of the clergy cry down these excursions, the other half uphold them. The clergy set the example, and the laity follow suit. Although we purpose having one of the best exhibitions in Toronto Canada has yet seen, it is no reason that in open defiance of God's law, men should be hired on the Sabbath to roll grass and generally look after things at the exhibition grounds preparatory to opening the Fair. If the clergy and civil authorities persist in their loose system of observing the holiness of God's day how long will it be before our children become wiser than their fathers, and with the sanction of their religious teachers, and the example of those in authority hasten us on to a continual desecration of God's holy day. Shall we break out in open rebellion against the dread command given in Mount Sinai: "The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God, in it thou shalt not do any work?" There is not the slightest necessity to work at the exhibition on the Sabbath neither is there any good end to be gained by patronizing Sunday excursions. If we denounce Sunday concerts, to be consistent we should also discountenance Sunday excursions and such like. But so long as civil bodies are permitted to hire and labour on the Sabbath there is little hope that the sanctity of the day will continue to be observed.

Truly the City Council is in a deplorable condition. We have no engineer yet, nor is there any one likely to be appointed for some time to come. We have no one authorised to grant certificates for putting in drains, nor is there any one authorised to sign the pay sheets of the workmen. As I hinted some time ago, there is a clique of aldermen in the Council who desire generally to have things their own way, but who do not appear to have the real interest of the city at heart. I believe half-a-dozen practical men would accomplish more real good for the city than our twenty-seven aldermen with all their wisdom and sagacity.

The Great International Exhibition is open, and is said to surpass the expectations of the Committee. What with the extensive additions to the main building, and large improvements to the other attractions, the present exhibition may confidently be said to take a foremost rank amongst the exhibitions of the country. Nevertheless there is always a very considerable degree of dissatisfaction felt and expressed after the termination of our most successful fairs, and I think this arises from the fact of there being such a large number of so-called first-class fairs in the Dominion at one time. A healthy rivalry is beneficial, but a superfluity of awards and medals is conducive of distrust, and is an advocate of deceit. There is probably no organ or piano, made in Canada, that has not received a first prize at some Provincial fair, while the number of sewing-machines to which medals have been awarded is countless. And this undoubtedly is owing to the fact of there being such a large number of exhibitions to which manufacturers can send their goods, when failing to receive an award at one place they can succeed in another. Industrial exhibitions are very excellent institutions, but it would appear as though a limit should be placed upon the number of such fairs being held at one time within a given section of country.

Without a question the *World* is a spicy little paper; it contains abundance of news; its printing is good, and its reading matter passable; but what could induce the proprietors to start such a daily in the face of such opposition? The enemies of the *Globe* say the *World* is a part of that influential journal, published upon their capital and with their type, for the sole purpose, if possible, of cutting out the

Telegram and *Mail*, which papers are fast taking the lead amongst the Ontario circulation of daily journals. The above report is current in private circles, for, say the wise ones, the *Globe* is losing power, and the *Mail* is gaining ground, but the *Globe*, not to be beaten, is going to drown the *Telegram* out of existence. We shall see.

The *Globe* publishes with peculiar glee from time to time deprecatory reports relating to the efforts being made to form a syndicate to build the Canadian Pacific R. R. It seems to me that there is nothing particularly humourous in the failure even if this should happen to be the case, but that the failure would be a matter for sincere regret, as it would leave us in a heavy financial predicaments and from which their appears to be no escape except by effecting the shouldering of the responsibility by other parties, who can, most probably, better develop wild lands than any governmental departments, while ridding the country of a probable source of political corruption.

With respect to the report of John W. Langmuir, the Inspector of Prisons and Hospitals, it appears that \$65,829 is the revenue derived from paying patients at the Asylum and Central Prison, when with the deduction upon the annual expenditure the net charge upon the Provincial Treasury for the maintenance of asylums, prisons and hospitals is \$499,174. However large or small the amount may seem, there certainly appears to be a great waste in labour somewhere, when with so many competent prisoners and able lunatics so little return is made. The authorities of the Penitentiary at Sing Sing would have us know that that prison is self-sustaining. Now, although it is a doubtful boast for a country to say its prisons are self-sustaining, for if they are self-sustaining they necessarily must interfere with honest labour, yet the men should be made to do some useful work, instead of idling their time in foolish drilling, as is the case in the Central Prison at Toronto. The two hundred or so half-time-employed men at the Toronto prison might be very lucratively employed in reclaiming the harbour and preventing the washing away of the island. The men at Kingston could be very readily accommodated with some large public improvement that would help to bring a return in revenue indirectly. This is the true way of making these houses of correction self-sustaining, and without interfering with legitimate employment.

The Sovereign Grand Lodge of the I. O. O. F. meets in Toronto next week. Addresses of welcome are to be presented by His Worship the Mayor and John Withrow, President of the Exhibition Association. It is expected that the largest congregation of Odd Fellows ever brought together in Canada will meet here next week. However grand their processions may be, and however great their numbers may be, it strikes me as being a very peculiar proceeding on the part of the Government officials to grant the use of the Parliament Buildings for a week to such a body of men. It is adopting a bad precedent to alienate the Government Buildings, for however short a time, to any incorporated body of private individuals for whatever purpose. The excuse that the international change of courtesies warrants the loan is insufficient. The buildings in which the government of the country is carried on should be used solely for Government or Parliamentary purposes, and to loan such buildings, or use them for any other purpose than the object for which they were designed, is to violate a principle that should be recognised amongst us as law.

I have attempted from time to time to give a cursory glance at the irregular proceedings of the Toronto City Council, and the manner of conducting municipal works. At last the citizens appear to be awakening to the fact that falsification, defalcation and mismanagement are the order of the day. The *Telegram*, the lively exposé of such proceedings, is waxing hot over the scandal, for a serious scandal it is, and has opened its columns to attempt the exposure of the fraud. In an elaborate article last Monday it appears that certain appropriations for sewers were made by the Committee on Works, but the actual expenditure did not reach the amounts by some hundreds of dollars, and in order that no balance should appear, the overplus of the cost of the sewer was said to have gone in constructing culverts, &c., which said culverts &c. were never constructed. The question is, where is the balance?

Queen City