

# The Free Press, LONDON, ONT.

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FREE PRESS SPECIAL AGENTS.

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## THE CLAIM FOR DIVES.

The electors will be sure to note, without any reminder, that the most that the Mowat party can say for their candidate in this election is, that he is a man well to do in the world, has made money, etc. It is not urged that he has ever done much, if anything, to advance the cause of labor beyond giving occasional work to such men as he might find necessary to serve him, and that can be said of every man who carries on business. We have yet to learn, however, that the possession of wealth means necessarily fitness for the work of legislation. It was the very opposite plea which led to the abolition of the property qualification in a member. Any man can be elected to the Legislature of Ontario provided he is twenty-one and a British subject. Any man who can qualify as a voter in the present registration is eligible to represent this city or any other constituency. The attempt to discredit the candidature of Mr. Essery because he is thought to be a "poor man," therefore comes with a very ill grace from those who seek to curry favor with the poorer element of the population by setting up a "rich" man as a candidate for their votes. What have Mr. Hobbs' "riches" to do with the matter? How inconsistent these people are! They say in one breath that a man who gets rich out of the National Policy is "a robber of the people," yet in another instant, when one of these self-same rich men is their candidate for legislative honors, they advise the people to vote for him, and say what a fine thing it is to be "rich" and prosperous. The people wish Mr. Hobbs well of his riches, and no doubt would like him and every other citizen to keep on heaping up wealth. It is that which the National Policy was designed to do to enable men of business habits to become independent of labor. But when men get into this happy condition they are apt to become too independent of labor as public men, and less qualified to speak and act for the toiling members of society than one who has not been so fortunate, one whose business has not perhaps been so happily affected by the National Policy as that of the Grit candidate in this contest. The poor of the city will see it, perhaps, more to their interest to select a representative who is in direct sympathy with them, and who knows more deeply of their struggles against poverty, and can feel more acutely for them, than the "rich" man who, having gained an independence, takes rank among the "contented classes," not apt to disturb his serenity with the knotty questions with which workmen are so deeply concerned at present, and will be more so in the time to come. It is this view of matters which is telling so strongly in favor of the candidature of Mr. Essery.

## REGISTRATION HELPING THE CONSERVATIVES.

It is amusing to note the efforts of the Grit organ in this city to make it appear that the FREE PRESS is opposed to registration and the enfranchisement of the young men. Such efforts do more credit to its ingenuity than to its honesty.

Seeing that the FREE PRESS gave Mr. W. R. Meredith full credit for being one of the first to introduce the manhood suffrage measure, and complained that his action in so doing had been persistently obstructed by the Mowat Government, we fall to apprehend how it can be truthfully charged that we have opposed it.

If the Mowat party agreed to the measure at last, it was only under extreme pressure. In fact, it has been one of the standing complaints among our Grit friends for years past that Sir Oliver was a "Tory" as regarded his unwillingness to budge for any reform until he was forced into adopting it by the Opposition.

There is no fault to be found with the extension of the franchise. But we feel at liberty to object to the cost of this special registration being saddled wholly upon the municipality of London.

The taxes of the workmen of this city will be increased in order to pay the thousand dollars or more that this registration will cost. That is no small fly in their pot of ointment, but a good-sized bluebottle.

So far as the political effects are concerned, there is reason to rejoice in the Conservative ranks, for we understand that the majority of Mr. Essery will be very materially increased by this extension of the Voters' List. The friends of that gentleman will be the last to offer objection to the most complete revision and the utmost fulfillment of the law's intention. The more new votes that can be gathered in the more will his support be swelled on the 20th November.

It is only by running in bogus votes that the Grit ranks can hope to increase their influence in this city, but their opponents are quite prepared to checkmate any such antics. They will, as in duty bound, promptly put under arrest anyone caught infringing the law in this particular.

## A SLIGHT MISUNDERSTANDING.

The Guelph Mercury remarks:—"The London FREE PRESS suggests that Mayor Essery, the Conservative candidate, be allowed to go in by acclamation in view of the recent general election. It is surely too early yet for the Conservatives to show the white feather."

There is no white feather in the case. Our suggestion was in reply to the whining appeal made on behalf of Mr. Hobbs that he should be permitted to misrepresent the majority by being returned by acclamation to avoid a contest. The piteousness of the appeal was one of the best Joe Millerisms of the season. This city could never consent to minority representation on any pretext. The London Conservatives believe in constitutional government, or majority rule. The Mowat party stole one of the seats in Toronto, under the minority plea, but it became so glaring a fraud upon the people that the law had to be repeated, and now Toronto is properly represented by four Conservatives in the Legislature, elected by vast majorities. We should expect that the white that was set up in behalf of Mr. Hobbs would excite a smile in so judicious a commentator as the Guelph Mercury. But that journal seems to have misunderstood the answer which the FREE PRESS thought most appropriate, that if a contest should be waived it was more fit that the man who stood on the Meredith platform, which was successful in June last, should be chosen representative rather than the man who was defeated.

## GIVING WRONG CREDIT.

The Advertiser credits the Mowat Government with the following legislation:—"The Mechanics' Lien Act, the Employers' Liability Act, the Factory Act, the Railway Accidents Act, the Act for the Relief of Cooperative Associations, the Creditors' Relief Act (which applies to wage-earners) and the Franchise and Representation Act of 1885."

It is a well-known fact that the present Chief Justice Meredith, leader of the Opposition, was the father of the Mechanics' Lien Act, and the Act for the Relief of Cooperative Associations was a measure brought in by Mr. Durney, as a private member, and the bill crowded on to the Mowat Government by the then Grange organization.

The Mowat Government never thought of any of these acts until they were forced on to the Legislature by public agitation.

The Government is no more to be thanked for any of these acts than the Conservatives, as the latter never opposed any of the measures in the interests of the working men, but helped to make them law.

No matter who had been in power, Mr. Meredith or Mr. Meredith, the same legislation would have been forced on to any Government in Ontario. There is no State in the American Union but has equally as advanced legislation on all these matters as we have, and Mowat has only done what he could not help doing in the popular interest.

## PRINCIPAL WILLIAMS ON CANADIAN CATTLE.

Principal Williams, of the Veterinary College, Edinburgh, who has under examination the Canadian cattle suspected of being subjects of pleuro-pneumonia, but whose evidence was not available at the time, made special reference to the matter in his opening exercises of his college on the 3rd of October. He had been of the opinion that the disorder affecting the cattle was broncho-pneumonia, a comparatively harmless one. After carefully reading the evidence in the blue book, he maintained his former opinion. He said he would give them the opportunity of seeing the difference in three slides of photographs from sections of lungs—one set showing what broncho-pneumonia, or Canadian lung disease, was like, and the other, the pleuro-pneumonia of Britain. The Principal pointed out that broncho-pneumonia was a disease which commenced in the bronchial tubes, and any discharge which might take place from the tubes was that which was expected; or, if it were retained, it had been washed off in the preparation of the sections. In the case of pleuro-pneumonia, however, the disease came from the blood. It was due to an organism which was not yet quite recognized, and which was contained in the blood, causing the development of the disease at the outside of each lobule of the lung. There was another great characteristic, and there, in his opinion, the Government were entirely wrong in not having a microscopic examination of the lung. There was always a disposition in the Canadian disease to the development of new tissue. In the case of pleuro-pneumonia the great characteristic was that there was an exudation of fibrine from the vessels into the tissue, but there was no tendency to the organization of that fibrine. It remained fibrine so long as the animal was in life. Principal Williams said that he had brought this matter before them to show that, although the weight of evidence was against the opinion he had given, and that although the Government was acting upon the weight of evidence in excluding Canadian cattle, at least he had

some grounds for maintaining the position that he perhaps too strongly maintained from the beginning up till the present time.

## LOOK OUT FOR BOGUS VOTERS.

It is generally held as a virtue of the system of registration that it is at once simple and effectual in securing a true list of the voters. But this very simplicity may also give access to fraud if a close watch be not kept on the enrolment. This has been the case in the United States, to an extent which has been productive of grave scandal. Evidence produced in the police courts of New York on Saturday goes to show that a well-organized system of fraudulent registration has been in operation and that the number of names that do not represent bona fide voters is large. Several of the persons arrested for fraudulent registration had registered seven or eight times. Three or four men passing about among the registering places of New York during the days of registration could accomplish much in falsifying the vote of the city. Under the decisions of the United States courts, a man can swear in his vote and compel the inspectors to receive it. The only remedy is in a subsequent prosecution. Inspectors are powerless.

It is stated that already attempts have been detected in this city to enrol men "not qualified," and that a well-known Grit ward manager was found to be concerned in it. Such practices are akin to ballot stuffing in its worst form, and it behooves our friends to be on guard against any attempt to take unfair advantage.

## BURNING LEAVES.

Last week the citizens were annoyed by the burning of leaves in the streets all over the city. The police on Friday were sent around to stop the practice, but on Saturday night fires were again started up. The by-law relating to the subject is hardly definite enough. Section 14 says no person shall start a fire in the streets "without some person being in charge of the fire to prevent its spreading or doing damage." Section 15 says no fires shall be made except by tin-smiths, plumbers and other mechanics. The first mentioned clause seems to give permission to burn up the leaves if due care is taken to prevent danger. The second forbids any such fire being kindled. As it has been the custom each year to burn the leaves, and as no police objection has been hitherto raised, it was doubtless a surprise last week when the notice was served. The smoke from these fires is a terrible nuisance; it kills enjoyment of the bracing autumn air with its acrid element, causing headache, nausea, and general disgust, while no good purpose is served. Some put the leaves to a better purpose in using them as bedding for horses in place of straw. In the spring, when well rotted, it forms a good top dressing. Others sweep them into a corner and cover them with mould. In the spring there should be no trouble in disposing of them to those parts of the soil where they will do most good.

## A HAUNTED SCHOOL HOUSE.

They have a haunted school-house down in Durham County, Ontario, and at midnight strange sounds have been heard to issue—aerial knockings—the rattling of chains and groanings as if from perturbed spirits. According to a letter in the Globe the young teacher has been charged as the cause of the phenomena. She is suspected as being a master of one of the black arts, ventriloquism, and, in the same paragraph of a local paper, the noise was like that of a threshing machine in full blast. The correspondent thinks he can solve the mystery by first classifying the noise, then examining the parts of the structure that would be most likely to emit them. He has a recollection of a loose latch in a building being the cause of establishing the haunted house theory, and, however ridiculous this seems, it was the cause of it standing vacant for a long time, and, now, in this advanced age, when we have, by the aid of science, set at defiance the suppositions of the past, it would be a pity to leave this mystery unsolved, for, do what you may to reconcile the children in the neighborhood, some of them will carry this ghost story into their after life, and that spot will be the terror of some, and cause much inconvenience in the future.

Many houses have been condemned as haunted, and avoided by the weak and credulous from circumstances the most trifling in themselves, and which wanted a vigorous mind to explain at once and dispel all alarm. A house in Aix-la-Chapelle, France, a large, desolate looking building, remained uninhabited for five years on account of the mysterious knockings that were heard within it at all hours of the day and night. Nobody could account for the noises; and the fear became at last so excessive that the persons who inhabited the houses on either side relinquished their tenancy and went to reside in other quarters of the town, where there was less chance of interruption from evil spirits. Spectres in white habiliments were reported to have gibbered and chattered from the windows, but all these stories could bear no investigation. The knocking, however, was a fact which no one could dispute. Accident at last discovered the cause. The latch of the door was broken, so that it could not be fastened, and it swung chiefly up on the bottom hinge. Immediately opposite was a window, in which one pane of glass was broken, and when the wind was in a certain quarter the draught of air was so strong that it blew the door to with some violence. There being no latch, it swung open again, and when there was a fresh gust was again blown to. When the pane of glass was put in the mysterious sounds ceased. Many

instances of haunted houses might be given similar to the one here mentioned. But the most famous of all ghosts was that of Cock Lane, which kept London in commotion for a considerable time, and was the theme of conversation in every circle. There is no doubt that this Durham haunted school-house is the subject of delusion, which will be explained in time.

## CURRENT TOPICS.

The Cleveland Leader says:—"Eastern wool buyers predict that fine Ohio wools will be selling for 14 and 15 cents a pound by January 1. That would be just half the price for which the same wools sold before the election of 1892. Ohio sheep are being sold for almost anything they will bring, and one of the greatest industries of this State bids fair to be wholly destroyed by Democratic tariff reform."

The latest hygienic craze in Paris is the use of porous glass for windows. This is declared to possess all the advantages of the ordinary window-framing, and while light is as freely admitted as through the medium of common glass, the "porous" further admits air, too, the minute holes with which it is intersected being too fine to permit of any draught, while they provide a healthy, continuous ventilation through the apartment.

In the Faroe Island, between Scotland and Iceland, the temperature is mild and equable, the annual mean being 45° Fahrenheit, that of the summer 54°, and of July, the hottest month, 57°. Though the climate is somewhat humid, rheumatism and rheumatic fever are rare. The sea air gives the same advantages to persons needing to recuperate from overwork and mental strain, says the Lancet, and they have the additional advantages of grandeur of scenery and absolute quiet.

England has a woman recruiting sergeant. She is Miss Gould, of London, and she differs from the usual recruiting sergeant in that she does not lie in wait for young volunteers at public houses and attract them by the brilliancy of her attire. She has worked among the poor for many years, and has lately turned her attention to young thieves. Having once got hold of them she never feels safe about them until they have accepted the Queen's shilling.

A laborer named Purdy while digging a trench at Dayton, Ohio, was seized with cataplexy, and became suddenly rigid as a marble statue. Every muscle was taut as iron. One of the workmen who observed his condition got out of the trench and undertook to remove the shovel held by the silent workman. The shovel, though, was clutched with an iron grip, and, although he tugged hard, he was unable to remove it from the clutches of the possessor. Police Captain Alaback, assisted by several officers, succeeded in removing it from his grasp, although it seemed that they would surely break off his fingers in so doing. The man's heart beat with the ordinary pulsations, and the lungs were performing their vocation. Purdy remained in the same condition for two days, conscious of all his surroundings.

Dr. Veeder, of Lyons, N. Y., established the fact that there is a periodicity of the aurora and its attendant magnetic phenomena, corresponding precisely with the time of the rotation of the sun; and also that there is a curious relation between the occurrence of big storms and auroral displays. It is interesting to note that during the time when Mr. Peary and his men were camped on the inland ice last spring, unable to march on account of the terrible storm, there was a magnificent auroral display from March 29 to 31, inclusive, which was very generally seen in the United States and Europe north of the parallel of 45 degrees. Dr. Veeder has received Mr. Peary's records of observations of the aurora made at his camp last winter, and is now comparing them with similar records made in many other parts of the earth. The work has already advanced so far as substantially to confirm Dr. Veeder's conclusions as to the origin and periodicity of the aurora. These observations prove that the solar forces, of which the aurora is the visible expression, play an exceedingly important part in many ways, particularly with reference to thunder storms and to certain phases of atmospheric control.

## Harvest Home.

"Harvest home! Harvest home!" shouted Jack at the top of his voice from his high perch on the top of Farmer Johnson's last load of corn, as it passed through the farm-yard gate. The wagon came to a stand still, and Jack slid to the ground and stood watching the men as they unloaded the heavy golden sheaves.

"You have a grand harvest this year," he said to the old farmer.

"Aye, Master Jack, praise to the Lord, I have. And I hope you will have a richer and a grander one day yourself."

"Oh! I'm going to be a soldier," said Jack. "I'll never want to look out for the harvest."

"Aye! that may be, but ne'er the less there is a harvest you'll be bound to look out for—the one you are sowing for day by day. It's spring and seedtime with you now. But autumn follows the spring in its own time. Sow the seeds of an honest life, Master Jack, and whether you be farmer or soldier you'll reap a golden harvest sooner or later. The reaping and the loading will surely come in this life, but the Great Harvest Home will be above, when we'll bring in our wagon loads to the corn-loft of the blessed Lord Himself."

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