

**Speech of His Excellency the Governor General.**

With feelings of great gratitude, bedad, I rise to-night. That is, that I can rise at all; I thought I never might. And how those Scotchmen do stick out on freezing ice all day, And slide big stones, I can't make out; it's not the Irish way. When Providence makes days too cold for people out to go We don't fly in its face, 'twould be extremely wrong, you know. We sit by fires religiously, and let the whisky flow, Not raw, as those who love to curl upon the icy plain, But in the form of glorious punch, enlivening the brain. That's how we grow your Sheridans, and Governors, and such. Ah, mighty is its helping force—if you don't take too much. Where was I?—Ah, I'm nearly froze, and I've been sliding stones Till I can't tell which aches the worst of all my aching bones. Oh, hard it is on Governors who come along this way, And out of compliment have got these jolly games to play. What's this I'm saying? listen, now I'm meaning, in this speech To-night, the use of Governors unto you all to teach. Your government machinery, and cranks and wheels and cogs, He oils, and keeps out dust and things which would occasion jogs. You know,—I'm sure the last three years have given proof of it.— How things smash up when you by chance have let in any Grit. This might be thought ambiguous; so I'll just tell you all, Political significance it has none great nor small. Some of you think, perhaps, although you don't it say, that I, Do mighty little, and receive a thumping salary, I tell you what, there's no one knows the half the good I do. I don't myself; and mind me, now, you mayn't think it true, But all those Yankee chaps across the line, I understand, Would give me quite a rise if I'd take their affairs in hand. They'd millions give to grab me—faith, when I was passing through, I got a couple of police, and walked between the two, Or else I was a goner; but I'm back with you to stay, And nothing (till my time is up) shall make me go away. In vain shall TILDEN rage for me, and Mr. HAYES may squall For me to cut their Gordian knot, I shan't go there at all. I'll stick to you, if I have got to live at the North Pole. (I might, you know, for Captain NARES found out a seam of coal.) (On second thoughts, I won't, for there some Scotchmen would be found, As everywhere—and there they'd make me curl the whole year round.) No, not to be the Pasha of Bulgaria would I leave Especially as he will be hauged some day; you perceive. And to conclude, the health I give of this National Club, It's liquor I declare first-class, as likewise is its grub. To leave the Empire, I'm aware, you have a right good will As far as that's compatible with staying in it still. That is your scheme political, if I can make it out. If practicable it is grand, there can't be any doubt. And once again, your right good healths I here with pleasure give, I'd like to stop here always if I'd nowhere else to live.

**The Municipal Franchise Act.**

Oh, the *Globe* did right  
To get in a fright  
A bill like this to see.  
"For as I live,"  
Said the *Globe*, "they'll give  
Some rights to property!"

The lowest class  
Must govern, as  
They govern here to-day;  
For if the rest  
Once get the best  
The *Globe* don't see its way.

Low folks and such  
The *Globe* don't much  
Admire; it oft' has kicked 'em.  
But still it knows  
That only those  
Obey the *Globe*'s-ite dictum.

**We must Economize.***Scene.—Grand Trunk Office.*

1ST OFFICIAL.—We must economize. Peremptory orders from England. As fast as possible, introduce engineers who are willing to work for low wages.

2ND OFFICIAL.—But will it not be dangerous? 'Tis lots of property—lots of lives, depend on these men being first-class.

1ST OFFICIAL.—Must economize! Besides, can't let the Brotherhood run the thing. Probably come out all right. The new men will learn. Must economize! (*Telegraphs home—"Am economizing."*)

Same office, three months later.

1ST OFFICIAL.—Well, how do the new men do?

2ND OFFICIAL.—Oh, nothing very bad yet; more freight train smash-ups than the average; but of course we keep them out of the papers. Passengers all right yet; been some very near touches, though.

1ST OFFICIAL.—Oh, they'll learn. (*Telegraphs home—"Economizing; saved \$20,000 already."* Receives answer—"Highly satisfactory; shall raise your salary.")

2ND OFFICIAL.—(*receives another telegram*)—Good heavens! Awful collision, over a hundred killed, many wounded, two trains smashed to atoms!

1ST OFFICIAL.—What engineers were on?

2ND OFFICIAL.—Both new hands: I feared this. The damages against us will be half-a-million, besides the loss of property.

1ST OFFICIAL.—Accidents will happen. (*Telegraphs home—"Am economizing. Send us a million."*)

**Letter of an ex-Alderman.***To the Editor of Grip:—*

SIR.—No longer a member of the Council, shall I see it exposed to unfair criticism? No, sir. I shall not, sir. The criticsers, sir, show more ignorance than the Council, sir. The Council knew a precious sight more than the criticsers did. Yes, sir. They did, sir. I was one of 'em, sir.

Wasn't there general dissatisfaction about the streets, sir? There was, sir. Were not the Council to meet the popular demand for expenditure? Yes, sir. It was a popular demand, sir. I am in a position to say that it was very popular in the Council, too. Then what were we to do but to pay an engineer a big salary, and give him a big staff and pay them big salaries, and stick lots of sand on the streets instead of gravel, and scrape it off again for mud; and lay cedar and gravel roads, and cut 'em all to pieces at once to lay drains through 'em; and build markets and police offices and morgues and lots of things that might have been done without; and lay sewers in lots of places and buy the tiles from aldermen; and build great fences elsewhere and buy the boards from aldermen; and buy whole avalanches of carpet, stoves, paper and painting for the City Hall; and set aldermen sawing blocks and making frames, and increase lots of salaries and stick on lots of new officials not wanted, and spend money generally and furiously? What else could they do? Was not expenditure clamorously demanded, urgently pressed for, literally bellowed for? It was, and with a promptness that did them infinite honour, my council hastened to grant it. They did it, sir. They expended money with such a good will and rapidity that you would have actually thought they were getting a commission on all they could put in the contractors' way. You really would, sir.

Why, sir, the Council before us left a big deficit. They did, sir. Did the people make a fuss, sir? No, sir, they elected most of 'em back again. Proof of confidence, sir, sign of approbation, sir, yes, sir. We, of course, try our best to emulate 'em, sir. We did emulate 'em, sir. We surpassed 'em, sir. Piled up four times as much deficit, sir. And what did the people do, sir? Did they carry us round in processions and things, sir, as we might reasonably expect, sir? No, sir. Turned most of us out, sir, frightened us into not running, sir. Gross ingratitude, sir?

And other things we did, sir. Worked a whole month to make the citizens pay their taxes six months sooner next year, sir—pay taxes twice within six months, in fact. In other words, we get a half-year's taxes more clear out of every one than he would else have paid. And you do not thank us, sir! I demand to know whether the article of gratitude is extinct or not, sir, in Toronto, sir!

Mistakes were undoubtedly committed, sir, in expending thirty thousand dollars on the Avenue and York street, by which it is very doubtful if either were rendered any better than before. But dear me, sir, what's thirty thousand dollars? If you only knew how little the Council thought of it, sir.

I do not hesitate to say, sir, that the new Council will have an easy task in comparison. They can't have so much to do, sir. I defy 'em, sir. They can't spend so much, sir. It isn't there, sir. Nor they can't borrow more, sir. No, sir. We took care to do all the city can in that line for some time.

Yours, sir,

AN INDIGNANT EX-ALDERMAN.

The American factories make 47,000,000 pins daily. They import 25,000,000 pins daily. Therefore, 72,000,000 pins are lost daily. It is astonishing that DARWIN, HUXLEY, and those fellows whose business it is to search the future are not aware of the awful fact proved by those figures, namely, that the day is rapidly approaching when the world will be nothing but a mass of pins, and the inhabitants will terminate their existence in prickly and prolonged tortures.

Toronto, Jan. 16, 1877.