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LONDON, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8.

WRITTEN AND UNWRITTEN CONSTITUTIONS.

The Toronto World argues from wrong premises in an attempt to prove that the British constitution is superior to that of the United States.

The World says truly that the people of the United States, through their House of Representatives, "have virtually not even control, much less decisive power, over legislation either general or special." There is no reason, however, for its assertion that this defect exists because the United States' constitution is a written one. Canada also is under a written constitution, but its system is framed on the British model, which combines the legislative and the executive functions. It is because these functions are separated in the United States, and because the chief legislative power resides in a chamber not directly elected by the people, that the Federal Government of the republic is not as sensitive or responsive to public opinion as is the Federal Government of Canada.

To say, as the World does, that in Great Britain, "there is no ironbound written constitution to control by its dead hand the voice of the living," is merely a rhetorical flourish. The present political crisis has warned the British people of the dangers of an unwritten constitution. It has been too long a fetish. The Lords have trampled its tacit understandings under foot. It has been thrown into the melting pot and it must come out written and even "ironbound," before one of the great political parties can assume office again.

It is amazing to hear the World say that the House of Lords "concedes the supremacy of democracy by the terms of the resolution passed by its Conservative majority." The House of Lords attacks democracy by usurping the rights and privileges of the democratic chamber. If the Government is successful in this election the budget may be adopted, but the Lords will be able to throw out every other House of Commons' measure and turn the administration out of office by rejecting the next budget, unless prevented by an amendment to the constitution in black and white. Precedent has been dethroned by the House of Lords, which has thus pulled down its own central pillar.

ANOTHER IMPERIAL CONFERENCE PROPOSED.

The Canadian Gazette, of London, England, suggests, as a means of settling Canada's vacant places with the sons of the empire, the holding of an imperial conference to consider the questions of emigration and immigration. In the opinion of the Gazette, a conference of experts in emigration, both British and Canadian, would be a good advertisement for the Dominion, and if thoroughly representative would serve a most useful purpose in encouraging the methods which experience has shown to be most suited to British and Canadian needs, while discouraging those who are proved to be unsuited.

Some of the subjects upon which the Gazette believes such a conference would throw needed light are: How far is emigration a panacea for British unemployment? What is to be learned in this matter from the work of the Salvation Army and other agencies? Is it feasible and desirable to encourage colonization of the Salvation Army type, with some provision giving the organization control over the immigrant in Canada for a period within which he may, if unsuited, be returned to the old country without cost to the Dominion? What part can the churches of the motherland best take in creating links between their communities there and in Canada, and in building bridges over which suitable emigrants of their several communities may pass from homes in England to homes in Canada? What place is there in Canada for the English public schoolboy of the class with which Dr. Fry, of Berkhamstead school, has settled his western farm, and how may this bridge from the old land to the new be widened and strengthened? What room is there in Canada for more picked child emigrants of the Barnardo type? And, lastly, what can be done in the way of Canadian welcome committees in each suitable centre to smooth the path of young women emigrants of the British middle and lower middle classes who cumber the ground of the old land, and are sorely needed for the upbuilding of the new?

The Gazette has little faith in Government intervention in these matters, and declares that neither the mother country, nor Canada cares for state emigration schemes, which are full of awkwardness, and more often than not destroy the initiative and self-reliance upon which success in a new country must ever depend. It is rather, the paper says, in showing how existing agencies may be turned to better account, and emphasizing the failures and successes of the past, that a conference would prove of service.

One important advantage of such a conference would undoubtedly be that it would enable Canadian experts — immigration officials are others who have given the subject close study — an opportunity of impressing upon the British public the kind of people who are needed in Canada, and the kind who are not, with the view of discouraging "undesirables" from seeking an easy existence in this country.

DO CANADIANS WANT IT?

Whether or not it was inspired by Joseph Chamberlain, the tariff programme published by the Birmingham Post agrees in the main with the recent speeches of the aggressive tariff "reformers." Mr. Balfour speaks in riddles, but Mr. Wyndham, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Mr. Chaplin and other front-benchers declare frankly for a tax upon imported foodstuffs. This is the only feature of their policy which seriously concerns this country. Canadians have all along interpreted the Chamberlain scheme to mean that the duties upon products entering Great Britain would be wholly remitted in favor of the daughter nations of the Empire. Such is not the intention. The British farmer would not be won by such a policy; he must have his share of the spoils. A Unionist budget would impose a duty of two shillings a quarter (eight bushels) upon foreign wheat, with a preference of one shilling to the colonies. There is the authority of Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Mr. Wyndham, the London Morning Post and the Birmingham Post, for this assertion. Corresponding duties would be placed upon other foodstuffs, including bacon and maize. Flour would pay a higher rate in order to encourage the British milling industry.

Whatever else the triumph of tariff "reform" means, it means an end to a free market in Great Britain for Canadian producers. Canadians would have no right to complain. They tax British goods at a rate higher than anything at present proposed in Great Britain. But it is well that they should thoroughly understand the situation. They are represented in the mother country as clamoring for a preference in the British market, as a condition of their loyalty. There are also people in this country who profess to believe that the integrity of the Empire is bound up with the success of the tariff "reform" movement in the old land. Now that Canadians know what tariff "reform" really is, will many of them cry for it?

The Rev. Mr. Lanceley's proposal to separate the sexes in church is ingenious. If the women were all seated on one side, only those in the front pews could see anything but headgear. Serve 'em right!

President Taft's references to Canada in his message to Canada are entirely friendly. There will be no tariff war if he has the deciding. The olive branch is better busines than the big stick in dealing with so good a customer as Canada.

The Canadian farmer has had a great year. Agricultural exports were $16,000,000 greater in the fiscal year 1909 than in 1908. Here are the figures: Animal produce—1908, $53,113,403; 1909, $53,944,809. Agricultural products, 1908, $58,061,903; 1909, $74,133,017. Totals—1909, $111,175,306; 1909, $127,077,826.

Two thousand prominent British manufacturers and businessmen have signed a manifesto in favor of the budget. They are consulting their own interests. The budget lays no burden upon industry. The new taxes fall chiefly upon the classes that levy toll upon industry.

A Unionist government would collect a trifle over 3 cents on every bushel of Canadian wheat imported into Great Britain. Either the Canadian wheat grower or the British consumer would pay the tax. Some politicians argue that it would be divided between them. If the Canadian pays any of it, how much better off will he be than at present?—If the consumer pays it, or any of it, the British tariff "reformers" have been telling him a lib.

The famous British economist, Mr. Chiozza Money gives some statistics as proof of the entrenched position occupied by the wealthy as compared with the masses of the British people. Of the 80,000,000 acres of land in the United Kingdom, one-half is owned by 2,500 persons. In England and Wales together, about 38,000 people own more than three-quarters of the land. Moreover, a million families, making up a ninth of the population, own about 95 per cent of the whole of the capital of the country, while only 5 per cent is owned by the other eight million families.

CAUGHT.

[Catholic Standard and Times.]

"Pshaw!" exclaimed Miss Yerner, impatiently. "I'm sure we'll miss the first act. We've waited a good many minutes for that mother of mine."

"Hours, I should say," Mr. Sloman retorted, rather crossly.

"Ours? Oh, George!" she cried, and laid her blushing cheek upon his shirt front.

DETECTED.

[Tit-Bits.]

The consul in London of a continental kingdom was informed by his government that one of his countrywomen, supposed to be living in Great Britain, had been left a million of money. After advertising without result, he applied to the police, and a smart young detective was sent to work. When a few weeks had gone by his chief asked him how he was getting on.

"I've found the lady, sir."

"Good. Where is she?"

"At my place. I got married to her yesterday."

THE TRIUMPH OF THE HEN.

[Watford Guide-Advocate.]

The long-despised hen is coming into her own. Farmers who used to chase her out of the yard with a flail now coax her to eat breakfast food out of a nickel-plated crumb tray.

WALKING ADVERTISEMENTS.

[Advertising World.]

It is estimated that 2,500 men gain their livelihood by carrying sandwich boards in London at the present time.

PRACTICAL MAID.

[Chicago News.]

He paced the floor for an hour or two,
With hopes that he'd win her hand;
"I'm wearing my heart away for you,"
He warbled to beat the band.
Alas! she gave his feelings a start,
And soon put him to rout,
When she said: "I don't give a fig for your heart—
But you're wearing the carpet out."

CLEVER.

[Exchange.]

"He's a clever man."

"So?"

"Yes; he can carve a turkey without standing up to do it."

CANADA'S HIGHEST PRODUCT.

[Ottawa Citizen.]

May it not be said that Canada can produce nothing higher than stalwart manhood. Can anything be of greater value to the country than the production of men who shall be truly men, standing strong in their own conviction of right and daring to be true to those ideals that make for nobility of life and the uplift of his race? If it be true that man is the last product of evolution and the expression in highest terms of the divine energy that created and creates the universe, it is equally evident that the noblest creation of any country is the nobility of the life of her citizenship.

FOOTBALL.

[Detroit Free Press.]

He made a run around the end,
Was tackled from the rear;
The right guard sat upon his neck,
The full back on his ear.

The centre sat upon his legs,
Two ends sat on his chest,
The quarter and the half-back then
Sat down on him to rest.

The left guard sat upon his head,
A tackle on his face—
The coroner was next called in
To sit upon his case.

THIS WELL-MINERALIZED PROVINCE.

[Toronto Star.]

British Columbia is called a mining province, and Ontario an agricultural. Yet in 1908 the mineral products of British Columbia reached a value of about $24,000,000, and those of Ontario $25,637,000.

A LAUDABLE AMBITION.

[Sydney Bulletin.]

Wifey—There are times when I wish I were a man.

Hubby—When?

Wifey—When I pass a milliner's shop.

Wifey—When I pass a milliner's shop wife by giving her a new bonnet!

AND THEN HE FAINTED.

[Punch.]

Candidate for part of Juliet (to manager of Shakespearean company)—Oh, yes, Mr. Stormer, I'm awfully gone on Shakespeare's stuff. D'you know, I think he's a man in a thousand.

NOT THE RIGHT ATMOSPHERE.

[Smart Set.]

Mrs. Askit—Do you intend to have an Italian garden on your place?

Mrs. Newrich—No. I'm afraid I could never get used to that garlic smell.

NEVER AGAIN.

[Louisville Courier-Journal.]

"Why don't you give your wife an allowance?"

"I tried that once, and she spent it before I could borrow it back."

LOOKING FOR AN EXIT.

[Birmingham Age-Herald.]

"The audience is calling you," the playwright was informed.

"I hear them," he answered. "Show me the quickest way out of here."

CONDITIONS TO MATCH.

[Human Life.]

First Girl (looking at statue of the Venus de Milo)—What terribly thick waists girls must have had in those days.

Second Girl—Yes, but perhaps the gentlemen's arms were longer.

A LA POCKET.

[Judge.]

"Don't the French words on the menu trouble you when dining a la carte?"

"Not a bit. I just run my eye down the list until I see something for twenty-five cents, then point to it and say, 'Please.'"

PROGRESSING.

[Life.]

"How's your son getting along in his art studies?"

"Fine! fine! His pictures are hanging in some of the best saloons in Paris."

ALLANS READY TO GIVE FAST ATLANTIC LINE

Would Establish a 21 or 22 Knot Service.

Montreal, Dec. 7.—It was announced today that the Allan Line was ready to enter into negotiations with the Government to establish a 21 or perhaps a 22 knot service when the Allan Line mail contract expires in 1911. This statement is an effective reply to the many rumors of amalgamation which have been rampant.

"With our geographical advantage," said Sir Montague Allan, "a 21-knot service would be sufficient to establish a faster service than via New York, even taking into consideration the fast Cunard Line. Then, of course, we could deliver the best mail service to the west and the Pacific coast. It is for the Canadian Government to decide whether they want such a service or not, and the Canadian public should support the project. The St. Lawrence route is the best in the world and we should do our utmost to take advantage of it."

London Camp Officers.

London Camp, No. 120, W. O. W., elected officers as follows: Council commander, Charles Talbot; adviser-lieutenant, James Brown; escort, Geo. Willox; clerk, W. Willox (re-elected); banker, A. B. Greer (re-elected); watchman, W. Pass (re-elected); sentry, W. Tamlin; manager, W. Vanderveer; Dr. George Wilson, recommended; delegate, H. Hardingham; alternate, C. Talbot; sick committee, James Brown, George Willox, and Sovereign Vanderveer.

Christmas Neckwear

Stylish New, Novel and Unique

This season we expect twice the business of former Yuletides in our Ladies' Neckwear Department. The dainty effects (not seen elsewhere) are one of the most attractive features. Our Neckwear shows individuality and differentness, which appeals to every woman.

Brettonne Net Collars, with tab gilt and Oriental trimmings, each .....50¢
Black and White Satin Collars, with jet trimming, each .....50¢
Black Net Collars, with jet; very new and stylish, each .....50¢
Black Net Collars, trimmed with Valenciennes lace and jet, each .....50¢
Black Net Collars with folds of silk, each.....50¢
White Net Collars, cascade front; trimmed with jet; latest style; in very neat box, each .....75¢
Black Collars, sequin trimmed, with neat tab, each $1.75
6 Ruchings, in very dainty Christmas box.....25¢
Ruchings of Satin Folds, the new Cords, etc., in nearly all colors. Prices, per yard .....10¢ to 25¢
Tourist Frilling, boxed, 6 yards in box. Regular 25c, for .....15¢
3 yards in box, regular 15c, for, per box .....10¢
Silk Opera Scarfs, with or without fringe, in all shades ..... $1.00 and $1.40
Also some with tassels.
Maline Bows, in Mauve and White, each.....25¢
New Chenille Scarfs, in navy, brown, taupe, purple and green $1.75
Feather and Ostrich Boas (imported), very fashionable. Colors are white, grey, black, brown, white and grey, white and brown, black and white, etc. Prices from .....$2.50 to $18
BOWS—All the newest designs and effects in a very large assortment. All colors. Many of these are imported from Paris, and all possess that uniqueness which adds to their beauty and style. Prices .....25¢, 50¢ and 75¢
JABOTS—In white, trimmed with Valenciennes lace, each .....25¢
Other neat Jabots, in white, black and colors at ..... 25¢ and 50¢
The "Dernier Creation" just arrived from Paris, is a very pretty jabot, most fashionable, with satin ribbon running through a copper bow. It has gilt or copper tassel and is very neat. The frame can be used with different colored ribbons. We have them in all colors. Price, each .....75¢
Others at, each .....90¢

Have You Seen the NEW WAISTS?

The styles are chic, the qualities are best, the prices are least. Silk Nets, Cable Nets, Brussels and Point d'Esprit Nets, Silk Lace, Silk and Chiffon and Japanese Taffeta, also Messaline, Ecru, Black, Paris and White are the favored shades. We most cordially invite your inspection.

$3.25 to $15.00

SPECIAL

White China Silk Waist, trimmed with fine Valenciennes Lace, and beautifully embroidered in silk. An excellent Christmas gift. Made to sell at $3.00,

Special, $2.25

A CHANCE TO BUY GLOVES AS CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

Kingsmill's Standard $1.25 French Suede Kid Gloves, in tan, mode, champagne, taupe white and black at, per

Pair, 79c

For Quality and Economy, Shop Here **KINGSMILL'S** *The Reliable Store*

Amusements

"The Battle."

"The Battle," a problem play—not in the usual acceptance of the term theatrically, but another glimpse at the problem of capital and labor—was presented at the Grand Opera House last evening by Mr. Wilton Lackaye and his capable company to a fair house. It showed this great actor at his best. The story concerns John Haggleton, a multi-millionaire financier. His son—taken from him in childhood, has been brought up amid the tenement district, surrounded by the poverty and sin of that sordid spot. He has ideas of social reformations, and has his father's tenacity of purpose in clinging to them. John Haggleton tries to win his boy's affections, and goes into the slums. His business ability and powers of organization work wonders in that district, and the boy feels in himself the capacity for great business affairs—what his father desired. But the battle for his ideals comes on. His better nature—that nature which would force him back to these people to help them—is personified in his sweetheart, the daughter of a man ruined in business by John Haggleton. They struggle, and at last the boy gives up his ideas for business and declares he will follow the people. This act wins for him his father's love, and he, too, decides to assist in this great work.

The play affords a new glimpse at the great problem, but it does not solve it. As a matter of fact, it is confusing. The apparent hopelessness of the question is summed up in a sentence near the end of the play: "How can you spend 10 millions of dollars on the poor of New York without demoralizing them?" That is like woman, the eternal question—somewhat of a riddle.

Mr. Lackaye's enactment of the role of John Haggleton was a masterpiece. It is one of the best roles he has yet assayed, and it was a performance not soon to be forgotten. As the keen, strong, masterly man of finance, he gave a vivid interpretation.

The supporting company was excellent. Miss Julie Herne as Jenny, the broken daughter of a broken man, ruined by the "system," showed great ability and proved herself worthy of her name as a character actress. Miss Clara Blandick as Margaret Lawrence, was clever and womanly, while Gerald Griffin as Moran, Jenny's father, gave as telling a portrayal of the character as could be desired.

The comedy part was in the hands of Charles Abbe, who was Joe, a poolroom habitue, and allround useless fellow, but who, under the spell of John Haggelton, becomes a businessman of ability. It was a performance that marked him as an actor of sterling worth.

The play abounds in clever dialogue, and there are many epigrams that start the listener on trains of thought that prove not only interesting, but inspiring.

"Kitty" at Popular Prices.

"The Arrival of Kitty," a decided and popular comedy success, is to be presented at the Grand tomorrow night. Music that is catchy, and songs that are original, are claimed for "The Arrival of Kitty." The cast is far above the average usually found in comedy offerings, and, judging from the list of names real fun is promised, and the laughing atmosphere looks exceedingly bright.

'Billy" Returns.

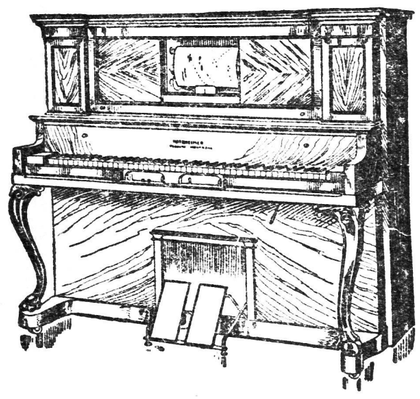
"Billy," the famous football farce, which created so much favorable comment on its appearance here last Saturday, will play a special return engagement at the Grand Saturday next, Dec. 11, matinee and night. The play is one of the funniest farces seen here this season, and should be greeted by capacity audiences on its return. Seats on sale tomorrow.

IRON ORE TONNAGE WILL BREAK RECORDS

Cleveland, Ohio, Dec. 8.—Shipping men now are of the opinion that the great record of 1907 in the movement of iron ore down the great lakes will be broken this year. In 1907 more than 41,288,000 tons were shipped. The total tonnage up to the 1st of December was only 124,396 tons short of the 1907 figure. Tonnage now loading and contracted for will reach 300,000 tons this month, thus topping the record of two years ago by probably 175,000.

The Nordheimer Player-Piano

A Perfect Gift for Christmas



This Instrument Plays 20,000 Pieces

There are thousands of homes where they love music and appreciate the compositions of the great composers, yet no member of the family can play. Such homes should have

The Nordheimer Player-Piano

Anybody can play it, as the mechanical equipment is perfectly simple and adapted to all the records made for player-pianos. There are over 20,000 pieces of music which even a child can play on this player-piano. A new piece could be played every day for six years without repeating.

The playing mechanism is concealed within the case, and the instrument has the appearance of an ordinary piano. It may be played upon by hand if desired, the mechanical attachment being thrown on or off by the simple movement of a lever. The tone, construction, design and finish of these Nordheimer Player-Pianos are equal in every way to the regular pianos.

It would be a pleasure to demonstrate these instruments any time you favor us with a call at our warerooms. If you can't call, write for a booklet.

Instruments intended for Christmas delivery should be ordered at once.

Nordheimer Piano & Music Co., Limited

188 DUNDAS ST., LONDON, J. J. CALLAGHAN, Manager.

PARENTS WILL SUE BOARD FOR DAMAGES

Sequel to Collapse of Chimney on Aberdeen School Last Spring.

Several suits will be brought against the board of education as a result of injuries received by pupils attending the Aberdeen school by the collapse of a chimney last spring.

Some time ago, several parents put in claims to the board for compensation. The board offered a sum of money in each case, sufficient, they considered, to cover the doctors' bills. These offers were not accepted.

Yesterday a communication was received from Mr. J. M. McEvoy, who is acting as solicitor for the parties interested, saying that he held the board responsible, and that he would bring suit if the claims were not settled.

Another Claim.

Another claim was also presented to the board at yesterday's meeting. Mr. Russell Greason, whose daughter, Madeline Greason, was one of those injured, put in a bill of $25 for medical attendance.

Mr. McEvoy's letter was sent to the city solicitor to take what action he considered necessary on the matter. Mr. Greason's letter was sent to No. 1 committee, although Dr. Tensdall declared that it should go to the city solicitor as well.

The board will defend the suits. They claim that they have no responsibility in the matter, and that their offer was merely gratuitous. The sums proffered to each were in the opinion of the board, sufficient to cover doctors' bills.

CORINTHIAN LODGE ELECTED OFFICERS

Large Attendance at Annual Meeting and Banquet Last Night.

At the annual meeting of Corinthian Lodge, A., F. and A. M., held last evening, the following officers were elected for the coming year:

I. P. M.—Wor. Bro. F. Talett.
W. M.—Bro. J. L. Whitehead.
S. W.—Bro. W. Hunter.
J. W.—Bro. L. Davies.
Chaplain—Bro. T. Whittaker.
Treasurer—V. Wor. Bro. O. J. Bridle.
Secretary—V. Wor. Bro. H. C. Simpson.
Tyler—W. Bro. R. Bonney.
Auditors—Wor. Bro. E. Hayden and Bro. H. T. Childs.

On the completion of the election the second degree was exemplified in a most efficient manner.

The Banquet.

After the lodge work was completed the traditional banquet was held, at which Wor. Bro. Whitehead presided.

The toast to the King and the craft was proposed by the chairman and responded to suitably.

He also proposed the toast to the Grand Lodge of Canada, to which Rt. Wor. Bro. J. W. Walker, D. D. G. M., made a suitable response.

"Our Visiters" brought forth a speech from V. Wor. Bro. Rev. Dean Davis, who spoke on the ideals of Masonry.

Rt. Wor. Bro. E. T. Essery made a good speech on "Canada." Wor. Bro. F. T. Tulett responded to the toast to Corinthian Lodge.

During the evening solos were rendered by Bro. W. A. McCutcheon and Bro. A. E. Dunn in excellent voice, Bro. E. G. Quantz acted as accompanist.

TO INVESTIGATE HOME.

Windsor, Dec. 7.—Owing to recent complaints about the treatment of inmates of the Home of the Friendless the board of management have set on a thorough investigation. The board of inquest will include the board of management, Mayor Wigle, John Query and George Bartlett, constituting the advisory council of the home and Dr. Brien, physician of the home. The investigation will be Monday afternoon.

Bled to Death.

Tried to trim a wart with a razor and severed an artery. The only wart cure is "Putnam's," which removes warts, corns, callousness in one day. Insist on getting Putnam's Corn and Wart Extractor. It's the best.