A PRIZE ESSAY.

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Why Tennessee Needs a New Constitution.

The Defects of the Existing Regime Laid Bare in a Concise and Convincing Manner.

The following essay, on "The Needs of a New Constitution for Tennessee," was written by Mr. Raymond Manogue, a student of the Christian Brothers' School, for which he was awarded the prize of \$100, offered by Col. Wm. H. Carroll. The writer, who is only 18 years of age, is a member of class '97:--

Our Federal constitution opens, as it were, an avenue through which the gleamings of centuries may be read. It is the climax of freedom and civilization. This heaven-born freedom of the Federal constitution is brought to our very doors

by the State constitution. When we behold Tennessee, a pioneer settlement, directly influenced by the revolutionary war, we cannot but expect to find many flaws in her constitution of 1796. It was, however, entirely conformable to the existing conditions, and, according to Jefferson, "It is the least imperfect and the most republican" of State constitutions.

But times changed, civilization advanced, and, hence, its demands increased. Consequently, a new constitution was drafted and approved by the people in 1834.

Tennessee, at this period, was among the leaders of the Virginia group. She continued to advance, when a barrier loomed up that changed the foundation of her whole system. The industrial, so cial and commercial relations were completely appearance and had to be recompletely overthrown and had to be reconstructed after the civil war. The convention of 1870 was, therefore, called.

The solons who were called upon to revise the constitution were seemingly inspired. They wisely abstained from wholesale changes, because, said they, we are not in a condition to meet the requirements of the times. They acted with greater wislom than they knew. Men had not yet recovered from their terrible blow, and projudices still prevailed. Hence they concluded to do as little revision as possible, leaving that work to be done by men of another generation, who should and would be in perfeet accord with the demands of the age and conditions of things.

But never did they dream of the political corruption which to-day passes current as patriotism. Happily the true situation is dawning upon the people. Their duty is clear in the matter, and their patriotism will now exert itself to crush and wipe out forever what may tend to retard the "Old Volunteer State" in its line of advance.

Therefore, as the people must decide their own destiny, we will essay to show the necessity of changes in our present constitution.

No one disputes the right of a State to impose a just tax. It is even essential to its general progress. But we emphatically protest against this section of our constitution (section 28, article 2), because a double, and even a triple tax is

Let this section be more explicitly worded, so as to preclude all ambiguity. Frame it to invite enterprise and to build up new industries. We must put a stop to the ever ready refrain, "It is unconstitutional." To-day our constitution is a check, and even a menace, to material progress. The legislature is not above corruption; and, therefore, it may regulate the privilege tax, not according to the best interests of the public, but for personal aggrandizement. We all know from history how we indignantly rejected the unjust tax of England. Let us avoid the dangerous rock of tyrannical

its citizens peace. This depends upon our judicial system and methods of prosecuting delinquents. Should this limb of the law be weak, either through ineffectual enactments or by default of application consequent upon corruption, then the citizens live in constant fear, and happiness is impossible. Now, it is evident from the constitution that we cannot expect men of learning, executive ability and manly independence to abdicate their honorable and lucrative positions for the Supreme bench when their services are requited with the begardy stipend of \$3,500 per annum. No office is more onerous than that of the Supreme judgeship. Therefore, to enlist men of eminent abilities and qualities, we must amend the constitution to give them a salary that will render them in-This is mocking justice. Look again at the enormous outlay of wasted moneys for witness fees and prosecutions. The State and county pay all costs. Georgia's constitution was wiser. In New York all that is over and above fixed salaries for clerks and other officers becomes a sinking fund. Just think, Hamilton county pays annually \$17,229 for wit-nesses and prosecutions. The State pays nearly \$1,300,000. Contrast Georgia's petty \$55,000. We unquestionably need a constitutional reform.

Honesty is not compatible with ignorance. However, under our present jury system learning goes for naught. The administration of the law is left to illiteracy and depravity. A man is incompetent as a juror if he reads the papers or forms an opinion of the point in litigation. Exalt ignorance and corruption generally follow. Unscrupulous lawyers pack the juries with unworthy men and justice is derauded. Again, hundreds are summoned from ten to twenty miles -around, which is decidedly irksome to

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those depending upon their daily wages. Several attempts have been made to remove this flaw from our constitution, but each time was heard the retrain, "Unconstitutional." With a more nonest, explicit system much wrangling, time and expense would be saved.

We believe in a government by the people and for the people. The system of granting the legislature the appointment of subordinate officers and judges is not productive of good to the people, and it interferes materially with the carrying out of the law. The baneful influence of a political ring needs no demonstrative proof. Its effects are withering to healthy administration. In nearly all States the people elect their minor officers; why should Tennessee remain an exception? Let us be true Americans in every department of our State government. Let us so construct our organic law that the people may elect the judges, and that for a period, say, of ten years. In Pennsylvannia, the judge's term is twenty-one years. The wisdom of this law is obvious.

situated in large cities like Memphis and Nashville should be such as to in duce able and experienced lawyers to criminal and circuit judges should have handsome salary. Thus we insure the honor of the bench.

Moreover, the Supreme Court should have a permanent seat. Its dignity ought to be maintained. It is not a traveling comedy. The framers of the present constitution were undeniably rustic in their conception. Let us be modern, progressive. We believe its permanent home ought to be in the capital of the State. It would give satis faction, convenience, comfort, and save useless expense.

Now we come to the officers who enjoy a princely salary for playing the gentleman. Every house, it is said, should be able to keep one gentleman. We say the State is in no such condition. Our present fee system is a disgrace. Words could not be too strong in its condemnation. Let us, by abolishing this system, save the thousands that now leed corruption, and follow the example of the federal government. If we must have coal oil inspectors, assessors, trustees, bick tax collectors, then let us regulate their salaries. Hermuch expense could be cut down with the ax of reform. VIII.

Again it is inimical to all progress to deny local self-government. No city, according to our constitution, can sell a bond or enlarge its taxable district with out the consent of the legislature. Note the words, " consent of the legislature." Do these words imply that the consent could be bought? Let us cast aside the snackles that bind us to such narrowminded legislation. Let us follow New York and Missouri and our cities will be the hoast and pride of the South. Now all attempts at municipal advancement ere checked by our county system, and Tennessee would do well to establish that of the township. Large cities would be especially benefited.

It is universally acknowledged and vehicle known. proven by the growth of cities in other implied.

This cripples all business enterprise and is a decided protest against capital its investment. A constitutional limitation to the power of the legislature to interpret into the power of the legislature into the power of the legislatur impose privilege taxes is most urgent. States, all improvements of roads and impose privilege taxes are charged to the aljoining Still the Irish Jaunting Car Club is. property owners. An attempt to convert a part of Reelfoot Lake basin into a levee and assess the adjoining property was declared unconstitutional. Such a clause checks local improvement.

We now come to an erroneous clause of our constitution, under which all road enactments are effective for the entire Sate. Therefore, the roads passing through the suburbs of Memphis are subject to the same laws as the mountain trails in East Tennessee. Such legislation displays much ignorance concerning different existing conditions. We hold that each county should have Every efficient government guarantees | the power to improve its roads and levy tax for the same. Then we will have roads suited to the locality at a much less expense.

> Again, the error of uniform legislation is shown by the fence law. In some counties wood is abundant and fences are easily built, while in other woodless counties the expense is simply enormous. Here, again, legislation should be according to existing conditions. But this would be unconstitutional, our usual refrain.

Unfortunately for Tennessee, no provision for the gubernatorial succession exists, and the way is paved for out-bursts of anarchy. To avoid such dan-gerous consequences, our constitution should explicitly legislate for the elecdependent, say from \$8,000 to \$10,000 per annum. Under our present constitution the clerks and petty justices are much better paid than the principals. A clerk better paid than the principals. A clerk secretary of S'ate, treasurer and comparave get from \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year. troller should also be elected by the people. Such an organic law commends voted whom it shall engage as watchitself.

Convict goods should be positively prohibited. The State taxes manufac-turers for privileges; why, then, allow unhallowed importations? This is putting a premium on criminals and is a protest against honest labor. Protect home industries. If convicts must labor, let them build our country roads.

M reover, under the present constitution the criminal docket is called through once a year, and this is another source of expense. For instance, after April all appeals must wait until the succeeding April, and, as a rule, the appellants, being unable to furnish bond, are detained in jail at a great expense for their board. This expense would be

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much lightened by calling a hearing three times yearly, and with more satis faction to the people in the way of speedy

These are some of the most important changes demanded in our State Constitution. The State, like the Federal go ernment should guarantee good admin istration in its three branches-the executive, judicial and legislative. When the organic laws are detective whether actually or by implication good

vernment is a mockery. Let the judicial be so strong in honesty and integrity that c rruption and intimidation will be impossible. In this consists our greatest security. Criminals will then both fear and respect the 1.w, knowing that justice everywhere reigns supreme.

Let the legislative body be composed of men of honor and intelligence, and let them be independent of trusts and corporations.

Our organic laws will then have the rue ring o: that manly independence that marked our ancestors of revolutionary fame, and our State, receiving new lite and vigor, will shake off its lethargy and inaugurate a glorious era of enter-Again, the salary of county judges prise and material prosperity, and give a fresh impulse all along the line, whether physical, intellectual or moral. And when old Tennessee shall have accept the honor when proffered. Our donned her new and splendid constitu tional robes, then, and then only, will she be entitled to hold high rank among her progressive and distinguished sister

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JOYS OF THE OLD COUNTRY.

THE IRISH JAUNTING CAR CLUB WILL PERPETUATE THEM.

UNIQUE ORGANIZATION FORMED IN BRIGH TON-ONE OF ITS MEMBERS BUILDING A GENUINE JAUNTING CAR-THE CLUB WILL USE IT IN PARADES AND ON OTHER

Here is a tip for all who delight in the unique, says the Boston Herald. The n xt time there is a big public celebortion that includes among its teatures a parade, look out for the first and only Irish Jaunting Car Club of Brighton Here is something quite new to Boston. if indeed the idea is not original in all the country.

No name could have been selected for the new club that would have given a better idea of its purpose and the reason for its being. It is its intention to perpetuate in the new country the national vehicle of Ireland in the old, and the members of the club intend to get all the 'un possible out of the perpetuation.

As there are 26 members, and, so far as or sent plans go, only one jaunting car (some learned authorities write it 'jounty car") it is not apparent how all are going to enjoy riding in it, or rather on it, at one time; but perhaps those who walk will after all have their just share of the fun, for the jaunting car is said not to be the most comfortable

Some there are so unmindful of sacred States that the right of assessment for tradition and age-old custom as to abuse local improvement is absolutely indis- the jaunting car as a means of convey-

and it expects for an indefinite term of years to be. As for the car itself, it is in process of building and will be finished in a little time. When ready for use it will be the only one in Boston-the only original, simon pure article to be seen on the streets of the city.

Now the jaunting car, as cotten up by fancy carriage builders, liberal in the use of fine woods, costly upholstery, paints and varnishes, is not altogether unfamiliar to Boston. There are at least one or two such in the city, and perhaps there are more, but they are not the real thing, except that the seats are made back to back so that the passengers ride sidewise, and generally built after the genuine Irish model, but with modifications.

But the one that Michael Conway is making out in Brighton will be the "realest of the real," as typically Irish as it can be built. Michael Conway says so, and he ought to know for he used to make them in Ireland, where, once upon a time, he was a carriage builder. Now, with his own hands he is building another, just as he used to do before he came to America. And as his hands have not forgotten their cunning and as his tongue has not cleaved to the roof of his mouth so as to prevent his speaking truth, his word may be depended upon; and Michael Conway is one o the 26, so he is bound to do the proper kind of a

And when the car is done Daniel Quill will have the keeping of it. Daniel Quill has a stable somewhere on Chestnut Hill avenue, and there the model vehicle will he safely and tenderly cared for when it is not in use. The club has not yet man, nor has it been decided what make of combination lock shall be put upon the stable door, but the members are confident that satisfactory arrangements can be made when the proper time comes, so that there can be no chance of the car getting away from them.

Eugene Sullivan was the originator of the Irish Jaunting Car Club. He is a member of the local order of Hibernians, and when he spoke of his scheme to a few chosen spirits they were pleased. It was a good thing, they said; it would be good to keep alive one of the pleas. ures—anyway, one of the customs—of their fathers, and so, as they were successful and well-to-do young men, they formed the club and limited the membership to 26, the members holding equal shares.

As yet the officers have not been chosen, but soon there will be a meeting at which this and various details will be attended to. It is quite likely of prizes ranging that the officers will be chosen from Tickets 10 cents.



the three already mentioned: John Murden. John Brogie, Frank O'Connor Michael O'Connor, Thomas Crosby, P. F. Egan, Thomas Casey, William Cunningham James Kelly, M. J. Coyle, Michael Kiernan and James O'Brien

This done the club will be ready and eager, when the car is finished, for the first opportunity of giving it an introduction to the public. It is not unlikely that the 17th of March will be the occasion selected. Then, beside using it for pleasure drives through the parks. the car will be pressed into service whenever the Brighton branch of the Ancient Order of Hibernians makes visitations to other lodges, and upon all similar occasions.

DISTRIBUTION OF SAMPLES

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WM. SAUNDERS, Director, Experimental Farms. OTTAWA, January 5th, 1897.

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PATENT REPORT.

Below will be found the only complete weekly up to date record of patents granted to Canadian inventors, which is prepared specially for this paper, by Messrs. Marion & Marion, solicitors of patents and experts, head office, Temple Building, Montreal, from whom all information may be readily obtained:

54468-James G. Penycuick, Toronto,

Ont. vault lights.
54469—James G. Penycuick, Toronto,
Ont. ventilated window lights.
54472—Andrew Johnston, Peterboro,
Ont. seeding machine. 54475 - Walter S. McDonald, Montreal,

water closet ventilator. 54489-Isaac M. House, Gravenhurst Ont , automatic band saw filling machines.

54493-Robt. Etherington, Paris, Ont. apparatus for producing raised figures in carpets and similar woven fabrics. 54496 - William R. Harrison, Toronto,

gold vs. silver game apparatus. 54501—Henry O. Wood, Billings Bridge Ont., ballot ticket holder. 54502-Donald J. McLeod, Harry Scott and Wesley Simons, all of Tilsonburg,

Ont., manner of printing on wrapping paper for grocers and others. 54503-William Maraden, Hamilton, Ont., remedy for piles, 54506 - John Seymour, Brampton, Ont.,

gas meters. 54550 -A. F. Stephens et al, individual tea service utensil. 54561-L. Barceloux, Stanbridge, bale

54563-F. W. Halm, New York, horse 54576-Louis Rousseau, Montreal, cor-

54577-0. L. Gadoury, St. Placide,

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From the Magog, Que., News. Mr. D. A. Bullock, boatbuilder, of Georgeville, is well and favorably known to all the residents of that village. He has passed through a very trying illness from which his triends feared he could not recover, but he is once more happily object in view in this distribution has been to add to the productiveness and improve the quality of these important agricultural products. The enjoying good health. To a correspondent of the Magog News Mr. Bullock recently gave the particulars of his illness and cure, saying that he would be very glad it his experience would prove helpful in enabling someone else to regain health. He says: - "There is no doubt in my mind that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills brought me from the horron of death to the glad cheerful world. Some years ago, owing to overwork and trouble I was reduced to a weak state of health, wherein the heart failed to do its work properly, and not unnaturally the stomach became inactive. I had visits from three doctors, but without beneficial results. The medicine given by one of them caused a nervous snock that prostrated me for reveral weeks. The last one who treated me gave me a prep aration of strychnine which upset my kidneys to such an extent that I was confined to the house and daily growing weaker. I had to keep stimulants con stantly at my side to keep the heart at work, and even with this artificial aid its action was very faint. Then I began to try advertised medicines, but still without any good results. I lost strength, flesh and hope. I was advised to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and that reminded me that I had a box of them at my place of business, which had been lying there for more than a year. Without very much confidence in them I decided to give the pills a trial. The result I must confess seemed to be almost magical. I had not taken the Pink Pills long when I was able to rest in my chair and take good refreshing sleep, something that had not taken place for months before.

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