

Wife beating has always been a cruel practice with too many brutish men in England, and it is a well known fact that the too frequent cause of this crime is beer drinking. The crime continues to grow worse in England, and thoughtful men are casting about for some more efficient remedy than anything now tried. Fines or imprisonment have long been the penalties attached as the punishment for wife beating, but the facts show plainly enough that any such penalties have not the effect of stopping, or even of lessening, the evil. A brutish fellow, fined for his cruelty at home, takes that much out of his net earnings, after his own personal wants are met, and the wife already misused has to suffer additional want; the punishment falling to a large extent on her and not on the real criminal. The besotted and idle husband, imprisoned for home cruelties, gets well fed and nothing to do in prison and so has but little care, while the family must often resort to even theft to keep starvation from the door. It is a deplorable state of things for a Christian nation. A Bill has just been introduced in the House of Commons making flogging the penalty for wife beating. Probably any measure less severe will not have its effect with many of the brutish criminals now disgracing the country.

Reports come almost every day of some new dynamite plot being discovered and nipped in the bud in England. Such reading is becoming almost monotonous, as well as painful. How does it come that so many men manage to get a plot so far under way and yet always get frustrated before any practical harm comes out of it? Are these men always fools as well as fiends? If they are not they would, some time or other, get a stage farther than the one that always manages to get unearthed. TRUTH don't want to see any of them get a stage further and blow some building, or some couple, or both, to pieces, but TRUTH suspects there is a little design in all this, on one side or the other. Either the dynamiters don't want to go any farther, and just keep matters moving as they do in order to keep up an excitement all the time, or else they have not the wit and wisdom necessary for the successful general slaughterers they aspire to be. Or, is it just possible, that the police authorities have any object on their part in keeping up an excitement, and therefore don't care to lay bare the plot until it has gone about as far as it will can without somebody getting hurt? Any way, how strange it is that while so many of these plots are being discovered, and so many men must be implicated in them, there are so few of them actually discovered and arrested.

The plan of offering high rewards for the apprehension and conviction of certain criminals is always well intended, but it is certainly subject to great abuse at times. It is just stated that at Windsor a large number of deserters from the United States Army have found refuge, and of course they cannot be extradited. There is a good reward for their arrest on United States soil, and so some harpies are constantly lurking about Windsor, inducing the deserters to drink and then getting

them across the river when in an intoxicated state. A much worse case was mentioned in the House of Commons a few days ago. A member stated in his place that one Roger Amero, an uneducated Acadian, a citizen of Nova Scotia, was arrested and taken to Massachusetts charged with a murder that had occurred in that State, on which a large reward had been offered. Amero, it seems, was in the State at the time of the murder, but there was no evidence whatever that he had any hand in it. The facts go to show that he was arrested on mere speculation, and hopes were entertained of having him convicted and getting a fine reward for the business. As it was, the man was kept in custody for months and he returned home to find his two sisters driven to insanity and in an asylum on account of the trouble. He has since become himself insane and is now also an inmate of an asylum. This is certainly a very extraordinary and very serious case, and it may not turn out as bad as was represented, but the dangers are too great of grasping at high rewards to be lightly considered.

The question of the propriety of reducing the number of members in our County Council has had a pretty good airing in the Legislature during the past week. Mr. Drury, of Simcoe, has given a good deal of attention to the question, and he has had a good deal of practical municipal experience. His speech was, therefore, of interest and value. The facts and figures he gave in regard to the costs of County Councils are of great importance to the tax payers. In Simcoe, Mr. Drury's own county, the cost of the Council foots up something like \$6,000 a year. It is one of the largest and most populous counties in the Province, and the expense is therefore among the greatest, but in most of the others the expense is probably as great proportionate to the population and extent. There are few who have given this question much consideration but are convinced that there is really no actual necessity for such a large number of county councillors as we now have, and of so many meetings of those bodies as are usually held.

Considering the number of members and the time occupied in meetings the expenses are certainly not at all great, for the pay of county councillors is usually low, and they are moderate in the matter of luxuries in the shape of flunkies and understrappers, as compared with our Legislators of a higher order; but is there any need of so much machinery any way, and of so many men to assist in the running of the machine?

As things stand there is a very great disproportion in regard to the size and the population of the counties. It is very desirable that there should be a thorough remodelling of these, at least for municipal legislative purposes, and then a lessening all round of the number of representatives elected by the people.

The fact is, Canada needs some pretty heroic treatment just now in regard to government machinery. There is entirely too much of it, and on too expensive a

scale, for the actual demands of the people. We have probably double as many bodies in existence with the power vested in them to tax the people. There are the School Boards, the Town and Township Councils, the County Councils, the Provincial Legislatures and the Dominion Parliament. Possibly some are now forgotten in this long list; but with each one of these bodies exercising the dangerous prerogative of laying on tax burdens, each quite separate and independent of the rest, and all laying them on the same shoulders, is it not a wonder that the poor tax-payer escapes as easily as he does?

Is there any necessity that the less than three millions of actual tax paying population in Canada should have possibly a thousand or so local Councils, hundreds of County Councils, seven Provincial Legislatures; everyone with a Lieutenant-Governor, a Cabinet and all the paraphernalia of a Parliament, and all "playing at Parliament," with all the tom-foolery, unnecessary waste of time, and expense, besides one or two other Lieut.-Governors thrown in; and a Dominion Parliament with its expensive luxuries of a Governor-General and full sets of Cabinet Ministers all decked off in Windsor uniform, and waited on by awfully impressive ushers, and all such? One draws a long breath as he thinks of the whole thing, and possibly consoles himself with the thought that, at any rate, we ought to be the best governed people in the world, considering the large number of persons having a hand somewhere at the Government crank.

Surely the time must come for some pruning out of the officials we have, and the sooner the work is commenced the better it will be for the actual burden bearers of taxation.

The member for Lennox has just been letting the public a little bit into the family secrets of the members of the Ontario Legislature. Last week he made known a fact not generally known, that at the refreshment room, kept up for the special benefit of the members, liquors are kept constantly on sale, and that too without even the semblance of a liquor license. The fact is simply disgraceful, and Mr. Roe, who is generally a very out-spoken man, any way, did well to expose the business. The only wonder is that Mr. Fraser, a member of the Government, should stand up in his place and attempt to defend the whole business, on the somewhat slender plea that the House might be considered somewhat like a large club, and have liquors on hand for their own use. The Government is certainly to a large extent responsible for this state of things, which very few expected. The *Globe* draws the curtain still further aside and states that any person going to the House refreshment room can buy drinks if he desires to do so. Surely the Ontario Legislature ought to set a better example than all that. A groggery is not needed in the precincts of the House at all, and an unlicensed one is simply disgraceful. How can a House so situated legislate with any show of consistency for the summary

stamping out of unlicensed liquor sellers all over the Province? TRUTH sincerely hopes that some one will prosecute the unlicensed seller before the Police Magistrate and put several M. P. P.'s in the witness box as necessary witnesses.

#### The Woman's Hour.

The Woman's hour evidently is coming pretty fast. In the Provincial Legislature last week a Bill passed its second reading giving to unmarried women and widows the right of voting in municipal elections providing they were tax payers to the same extent as the male electors. There was a fair majority for the measure. The only wonder is that there was any opposition at all. The women owning property and doing business are assessed and taxed just the same as men are, and why should they be deprived of all voice in the selecting of the men who are to levy the taxes and to spend the money thus raised? It is too late in the day to say that the women holding property are not sufficiently intelligent to vote. Under our present system of co-education in all the public schools it is quite probable that the average of intelligence among women has become higher than among men, and it will probably continue to rise. To raise the objection that one hon. member did about the "sphere of women" sounds many years behind the times. Women have the legal right to do business, to employ labor, to purchase property, and to pay taxes, and you might just as well object that all these things are outside of the charmed "sphere," as to draw the line right there and say that though compelled to pay her full share of all municipal burdens she shall have no voice whatever in municipal affairs.

In Toronto to-day thousands of dollars of the municipal funds raised and expended are collected from women, and the proportion becomes greater each year. It is quite possible to imagine a locality in which three fourths of all the property taxed belongs to women, and yet some men, who have evidently outlived their age, would go for the one-fourth of the tax payers in that locality having the entire voice and the whole control of things simply because they happen to be males. In some localities four tax payers may reside side by side, paying about an equal amount of tax; three of them may be educated and intelligent women, but they, forsooth, must have no voice whatever, while the fourth, a man, may not be able to either read or write, and yet he, and he alone, has all the voice and control! Such is the idea of justice and right some intelligent men still carry about with them!

The Legislature, too, adopted a resolution in favor of the doors of University College being thrown open to females. Of course there are some with terrible misgivings about the moral and social result of such an innovation. As matters now stand a female is entitled to her degrees at the University if she can only pass the necessary examination, but the college where she ought to go in order to obtain the necessary training is shut against her! For years and years there has been co-education in our common