

THE ACADIAN.

WOLFVILLE, N. S., MAY 22, 1908

The Block of Progress.

Whenever you hear a collection of little men talking about politics, or science, or business, or government, you will discover that they have a tremendous respect for a thing they call precedent.

Precedent is merely the way things have been done before, the way their grandfathers and their great-grandfathers, and so on as far back as history has been recorded, have been doing them.

And the little men who do not think for themselves fancy that because a thing has been done a certain way for a thousand years that must be the right way to do it.

In this world just now there are very few people who are entirely governed by precedent. The Zulus and the Hottentots still observe most of the manners and customs of their ancestors; the curious subjects of the Lama at Lhasa are governed largely by precedent, and there are many sections of the vast Chinese Empire, with its four hundred millions of people, where precedent, and that if he sailed straight on around the world he could reach India, he gave all his friends a shiver of horror.

But Columbus had a practical mind. He used current knowledge of the wealth of India in his arguments. He pointed out that if he could reach India he might be able to put most of its gold in his ships and bring it back to Europe. Thus he aroused the avarice of a greedy government, and when avarice gets into competition with superstition, superstition is destined to defeat.

So Columbus was fitted out with a fleet by Ferdinand and Isabella, the Spanish rulers, and his return from his newly discovered country, which he at first believed was India, delivered another staggering blow to precedent.

Since the time of Columbus's death all the really great things that have been accomplished by the human race have been without precedent.

But they have, nevertheless, been great, actual accomplishments, and they have made the difference between our civilization of to-day, imperfect as it is, and the barbarity of other days.

Religion is no less the great world force to-day than it was in the time of the Inquisition, although our abandonment of the practice of burning doubters at the stake is unprecedented, or was unprecedented in Calvin's day.

Invention, which has made much of the material progress of the world, and supplied the poor of to-day with comforts unknown to the rich of a few centuries ago, has had a continuous and heroic battle with the idea that whatever was right.

Just now precedent is more firmly entrenched in the law than elsewhere. But even in the courts and in the law offices men are beginning to discover that because certain rulings have obtained since the days of Blackstone they are not necessarily the best rulings that can be made.

A few years ago any legislation for the good of humanity was looked upon with disfavor. To-day the National Congress is discussing the necessity of abolishing child labor, and although precedent is still victorious over that great reform, it cannot remain so always.

We do not mean to say in this editorial that anything that is sanctioned by long use must be wrong, or that anything that is new must be right.

There are many instances, many laws, that are centuries old that still stand to-day, and will stand for all time.

No lawgiver of ancient or modern times has been able to improve upon the Ten Commandments as a perfect rule of life. No philosopher or sage has been able to supply a substitute for the wisdom and grace of the beautiful Sermon on the Mount.

But the fear that any new thing cannot be good because it happens to be unprecedented retards the progress of the race to-day as it has retarded it since men first began to use their minds to think.

It is important that any young man beginning life should know what has been done before him, and what has been done since, but he must also learn to choose between what has been done and what he has done better.

Then he can apply himself to the task of doing better.

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Manitoba Election Act.

Should a crisis occur at Ottawa over this high-handed act it will be the fault of the federal government, and one of its own making. A government which gives a square deal does not get into tangles, but if crooked it soon finds itself in trouble. Revelations that are continually coming to light have affected the public mind and the opinion is abroad that if the country, or any part of it, is to be saved from absolute disaster there must be a change. Ministers of the crown, members of parliament and certain private citizens in close touch with these same ministers and members have, within a short space of time, advanced from actual poverty to being counted millionaires. The public have of late been curious to learn how this vast wealth has been acquired, and as to whether their trusted servants have been stealing; and as a result of these investigations, thwarted by all sorts of means though they were, have learned some marvellous facts—and the public eye is now wide open.

This latter fact is apparent when the by-elections in Ontario, the provincial elections in New Brunswick, Manitoba, Ontario and British Columbia are considered; and in Nova Scotia evidences have been apparent of late that the people are growing cold as to the fate of the present government.

To Sir Wilfrid Laurier the situation is plain. Shrewd politician that he is he has read the signs of the times. Fearing lest disaster should come suddenly and the power he so loves should slip from his grasp, a scheme is introduced the adoption of which would hand him over completely to the loaded dice, and the limitation of the power of the people to protest by their votes against wrong doing.

The liberal doctrine was for provincial franchise, and that worked to suit this government so long as the several provinces remained faithful in their allegiance, but now that Manitoba and British Columbia have been lost to them in local affairs the fear arises that in a Dominion contest a like result might occur. So Sir Wilfrid, through his minister of justice, the celebrated Mr. Aylesworth, has produced a bill in parliament that virtually disfranchises every conservative in either Manitoba or British Columbia. This Mr. A. B. Aylesworth was the legal adviser of the notorious Ross government in Ontario. "This Aylesworth bill is said to be aimed at Manitoba in particular, and a more villainous scheme to disfranchise political opponents could hardly be imagined."

The Manitoba franchise act is now in force in that province. The applications which the registration clerks receive to add and strike off names are posted up in several places in the different counties so that every person can see exactly what has been done during the time of registration. The county court judge holds a court of revision and it is he and he alone who has the power to add to and strike off from the lists. Where is the unfairness in this or advantage to either party? The Aylesworth bill on the other hand is no doubt the most unfair way possible to make up a list, because a partisan appointee of the federal government, upon the recommendation of his friends in the constituency, makes up the lists and his decision is final, and he can put on this list any person, whether he be Canadian or foreigner. Further, this partisan official can strike off anyone he sees fit. He can also have marked any ballot he or any polling officer desires. Thus if a voter is paid one dollar or one hundred for his vote, it can be traced as to whether the money was earned or not, these ballots to be numbered, and each voter, if the polling officer and the partisan briber so requires, can be traced by this marked ballot.

The conservative opposition at Ottawa protest, and say that no such iniquitous bill shall be allowed to pass this parliament, and unless it is withdrawn or some of the objectionable clauses cut out, they will refuse to permit a vote for supply. A crisis is on, or nearly so. If a decision is decided on by the government, the opposition say they will fight out the question at the polls. They seem to welcome the prospect of an early election.

Manitoba and British Columbia are asking all Canada, east and west, to stand by them in their fight for freedom, and unless all signs fail, their appeal will be enthusiastically accepted.

Since the above was in type it is reported that a compromise had been effected by which the government agreed to withdraw the clauses objected to by the opposition. The fact that the government was allowed to proceed with business seems to warrant the conclusion.

For Little Babies and Big Children. Baby's Own Tablets are good for all children, from the feeblest baby, whose life seems to hang by a thread, to the sturdy boy who occasionally gets his digestive organs out of order. Baby's Own Tablets promptly cure all stomach and alling children, and make sickly or ailing children well and strong. And this medicine is absolutely safe—the mother has the assurance of a government analyst that this is true. Mrs. Alfred Goodland, Haldimand, Que., says: "I have used Baby's Own Tablets for constipation, stomach troubles and indigestion and had them a splendid success. They have made my little children, they have made my little children healthy, and my child, I always keep a box of Tablets in my house, sold by medicine dealers or druggists, or by mail from The Canadian Northern Co., Montreal."

A Montreal paper says: The longest train which ever pulled into the I. C. yards here, arrived yesterday, C. B. yards here, arrived yesterday, made up of fifty-one empty box cars, from Blonnie & Curry, of Amherst, for the Canadian Northern. Two locomotives hauled the quarter of a mile long train. A hundred cars for this railway from the Amherst shops have passed through yesterday and today.



BEST VALUES IN SHOES.

Hundreds of People depend entirely upon this Shoe Store for their Footwear. They come here season after season, not only because they know that the best values are here, but because the Lowest Prices are here as well.

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- Men's Dongola Kid Lace Boots 1 75, 2 00, 2 25, 2 50 and \$3 00.
- Men's Low Shoes, good value 1 75, 2 00, 2 50, 3 00 and \$3 25.
- Misses and Child's Boots and Low Shoes. A big variety, best makes at Cut Prices.
- Boys' and Youths' Boots in Box Calf & Fine Leather. The wear well kind at Lowest Prices.

Trunks, Grips, and Suit Cases.

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WOLFVILLE, N. S.

Potatoes for Export.

Now that the planting season is coming on we would strongly advise those who intend raising potatoes not to plant any Red Kados, Blush or other red varieties with the exception of the genuine Early Rose. The Early Rose and the white variety such as Carmen, American Giants and Burbanks are the only kinds that are wanted in Cuba. There is no call for other varieties.

The Early Rose is a potato that has gone out considerably in Nova Scotia, but Cuba requires a lot of this variety at the beginning of the season and we would advise growers planting as many of this variety as possible. It has been getting the most of this stock from New Brunswick but we Nova Scotians should try and control this trade as much as possible, and we can only do so by growing the kinds of potatoes that they want.

HOWARD BLOCH & SONS.

The Tourist Travel.

The Morning Chronicle says: That tourist traffic in Nova Scotia will be fully as good in 1908 as in any previous year, despite the financial stringency in this progressive age. The opinion of E. L. MacDonald, manager of the Halifax Hotel, who has recently returned from a business trip to New York. "While there are so many people leaving the United States for the summer, this year, I think Nova Scotia will get as many tourists as usual," said Mr. MacDonald. "Many people have been hard hit by the stock slump, and many people who ordinarily would take their vacations in Europe will come to Nova Scotia this year."

Union Agricultural Society.

Straightforward Statement of Secretary Donaldson.

DEAR SIR: Soon after I last wrote my answer to the progress made at the Union Ag'l Society by the Western Chronicle, I received the government grant for the Union in connection with the other societies of the province. Consequently for a time no further action was taken by the directors, as, although after the charges were made they were aware that the Union had not complied with certain legal technicalities, yet they were aware that in that respect they stood in the same position as a good many other societies of the province. How ever having subsequently learned from personal interviews with the heads of the Agricultural Department that they had been blamed by the Premier for paying over the grant without an investigation after certain charges had been made, the directors at once took steps to ascertain the wishes of the department and the Premier in regard to this matter. It was stated to them that the directors had not misappropriated any of the funds, but had been carrying out what they considered was the intention of the Agricultural Department and did not wish to retain any portion of such grant to which they were not rightly entitled. By the advice of Principal Cunningham to whom the Premier delegated the arranging of these matters the directors have authorized me to return the grant to the Department with the understanding that when we have complied with certain conditions the whole or that portion of the grant legally coming to us will be returned.

There has never been the slightest intention to defraud, nor has there been any misappropriation of any government funds in the Union Society. All government moneys have been strictly used for the purchasing and keeping of bulls for the use of members. There have been (in connection with all societies) efforts made to draw as large a grant as possible and here is where some irregularities have occurred. The bull keepers upon investigation by the directors were found to have made private bargains with the members and in most cases not to have collected the full membership fee as legally required to draw the grant. In doing this they never considered they were doing anything wrong as all funds from the bulls went into their pockets and hence they were not subject to audit. The membership fee from a man who had been in a position to do all kinds of the poor.

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DAVISON BROS.,

THE "ACADIAN"

J. J. Ellis

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A Pleasant Bitter. Purely Vegetable. An Energizer & Stimulant.

Composed of those vegetable Tonics, Bitters, etc., which supply the system with material that has been benumbed during the winter. At the spring season the body craves just these elements which are combined in the pro, or proportions to produce the greatest human energy.

An Excellent Tonic for any season, but particularly necessary in the Spring. Banishes that tired, lazy feeling that comes as a result of the too close confinement of the winter months. Gives a snap and spring to the indolent muscles, braces up the tired nerve, and stimulates the appetite. Makes work a pleasure. Gives a zest to the daily task and supplies that comfortable feeling of confidence and ability that comes when the whole human mechanism is working in a normal healthy condition.

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Opp Telephone No. is 69.

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