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## The Mayor and Constable Maguire.

Since HON. MR. MC SHANE'S accession to the Mayoralty of Montreal he has worked hard in the best interests of the city, and deserves praise without stint; even many of those who strongly opposed his election have since recognized the value of his services in many ways. Had the honourable gentleman retired gracefully on or about the first of August, or gone abroad on a prolonged holiday at that time, he would have vacated his office with the thanks of almost the entire civic community. But during the past few weeks his evil star has seemed to be predominant, and a more extraordinary series of blunders has not been committed in Montreal for many years. The ordering out of the civic police and firemen to take part in a political procession,—the coarse and unwarranted epithet applied to a police officer for an act necessary in the performance of his duty,—his personal authorization of a low type of gambling on a special public occasion,—form part of a list of errors in judgment inexcusable in the Chief Magistrate of this city. All are bad; but the worst is the gross language used to CONSTABLE MAGUIRE, and the singular want of tact by the Mayor in the introduction of the religious question into the matter; a more silly piece of conduct cannot be imagined. The policeman did perfectly right in his treatment of the prisoner—in fact, the latter well deserved far worse treatment than he received. There is a great deal of maudlin sympathy in Montreal on this subject, and it is a serious drawback to the efficiency of the police; in not another city in the world, where a first-class force exists, is the same amount of kindly attention shown by press and public to criminals who forcibly resent capture by the officers of the law, and thereby incur harsh treatment. In London, Liverpool and Glasgow, cities which possess police organizations unequalled anywhere, constables are permitted to do what they think best in order to capture their men; being perfectly drilled and under strict discipline, they are trained to use force only when absolutely necessary, but when that does occur, they are not reproached and attacked for it. Fancy the Mayor of any one of the three cities mentioned lowering himself by calling a

policeman a "blackguard" for rapping over the head a drunken rough who was probably kicking viciously at his opponent's shins; he (the Mayor) would be the laughing-stock of the city. CONSTABLE MAGUIRE is entitled to an out-and-out apology from the city, from the manner in which he has been treated by its Chief Magistrate.

## Our Police.

It is well worth considering how detrimental to the efficiency of the Montreal police is the practice of this continual worrying of the men by blatant, would-be philanthropists, who seem anxious to throw all their influence in favour of the criminal. The force is far more efficient now than it was a few years ago, thanks to the energy of the present chief, but it is still much inferior to what it should be. It is far from being strong enough to stand the strain of continual carping at its methods of arresting unruly offenders; and, indeed, one of the reasons why it is not up to first-class mark is this same hostile criticism and un-called-for treatment, often from the very men who should aid and encourage the force. Another element it has to contend against is the continual dragging of its affairs before a committee, whose members apparently have the power of appointing and dismissing, regulating and ordering, just as political and national pressure is brought to bear. This plan is theoretically not bad, but practically is a steady drawback to the success of the force, and largely militates against its discipline; it is decidedly unfair to the chief, and affects his control. Another feature unfavourable to the force is the limited class from which it may draw recruits. The classes from which policemen usually come do not as a rule make the study of modern languages an essential feature of their training. As a matter of necessity most French-Canadians in and about Montreal know a little English, but extremely few of their English-speaking brethren know anything of the French language, and this applies with even greater force to men from Great Britain and Ireland; so as a matter of fact the very class of men who are by long odds best adapted to police duty—ex-policemen or ex-soldiers from Ireland or Scotland—are practically debarred from our force, while to the police of every other large city they are eagerly welcomed. The two finest civic police bodies in the world are those of Glasgow and Liverpool, whose members have to contend against an extremely rough and pugnacious population; in both cities the force is drawn largely from ex-members of the Irish Constabulary and of the Imperial army, from which the present short service system sends out each year thousands of men in a state of physical perfection, trained for years to habits of drill, discipline and self-command. Montreal should have at least a hundred of such men in her force; and any inconvenience that would be felt by their inability to speak French would be more than made up by their grand bearing, physical strength and experience in times of danger.

## Life of Sir John Macdonald.

Of the many startling events that have been crowded into the past few months, the sudden death of SIR JOHN MACDONALD was undoubtedly the most important. It is extremely creditable that within a few weeks of his demise a biographical sketch of his life should appear, and one of

Anecdotal Life of Sir John Macdonald, by E. B. Biggar  
Montreal: John Lovell & Son.

such a novel and interesting character that even the most casual and fitful reader will find his attention chained to its pages. Friend and foe alike will experience this. SIR JOHN'S nature was such that while, as the greatest man of his country he had many thousands of political enemies, few of these carried their opposition into private or personal matters; his geniality, love of fun, fondness for joke or cartoon, either on himself or his opponents, naturally gave rise to a vast fund of anecdote, almost exclusively of a humorous nature. To collect these anecdotes and present them to the public in a readable form has been MR. BIGGAR'S aim; and, chronologically arranged as they are and connected with a light thread of biographical statement, they form an unusually interesting work. The first few chapters are devoted to birth, early years, and education; and although treating of events which occurred over sixty years ago, are not by any means devoid of amusing anecdote. Some of them are not specially creditable to young MACDONALD, but this fact shows the impartiality of the compiler. The VON SCHULTZ incident of 1838 is well described and is worthy of special note, although it has little to do with the subject of the biography. The story of his civic public life commences with the ninth chapter, followed by anecdotes—full and copious—of his Parliamentary career; an interesting item in the first pages devoted to this is that one of his earliest acts in the House was to present a petition from certain shoemakers asking that a duty be imposed on boots and shoes imported from the United States. Thus he was early in contact with N.P. principles. During the stormy scenes of the Montreal riots in 1849, his attitude is thus described:

"JOHN A. MACDONALD took no part in the riots. He had protested in the debate against passing the bill, and had warned the Government that they were drawing down grave dangers, not alone upon their own heads, but upon the peace of the province; and to kill time and tire out the ministry, he kept the floor through the night, reading thirty of William Lyon Mackenzie's letters. But he took no part in the riot. A bosom friend, still living, says he was not in town that night; but others say he stood a silent spectator of a rueful scene, digesting, no doubt, some valuable thoughts on political agitation."

Of anecdotes relating to SIR JOHN'S political life there is an almost boundless supply. Some are good, some are of little value; but from the quantity the reader can pick and choose as he pleases. In a brief sketch, such as this, it is impossible to quote; but many of them well illustrate the veteran Premier's kindly heart as well as his ready wit. Quotations from his speeches are frequent; few of them are above the level of the utterances of a quick-witted political leader, but here and there is one in which the speaker has risen into eloquence, such as the little speech on Imperial pensioners, in reply to a caustic remark from MR. MACKENZIE directed at SIR FRANCIS HINCKES. Humorous incidents are mentioned very frequently; the vivid description of the great all-night sitting of the House in 1878 is very amusing. Much space is devoted to his family matters, particularly of his marriage, home relations, and social life, are fully told; and the details of the veteran Premier's last days in Parliament, his illness, death and burial are narrated with great feeling and delicacy of touch. In all, the work will be found of great and unusual interest to all patriotic Canadians, and to the many admirers of the Old Chief who live beyond the borders of the Dominion.