

## The Hamilton Times.

THURSDAY, JAN. 3, 1901.

## BETTER GET TOGETHER.

The rate of civil taxation for the coming year will not be affected one iota by the election or the defeat of Major Hendrie. The estimates will be prepared in the usual way by the City Treasurer, and they will have to be cut down by the Aldermen in Council if the tax rate is to be reduced. The Mayor's power in the matter is less than that of any single Alderman. Major Hendrie has a very good chance to become Mayor of Hamilton, by reason of having two opponents in the field who belong to the other political party, and there is no sense in the Spectator making promises on his behalf which it knows very well he has no power to fulfil. While we think his chance of election is very good under the existing circumstances, we doubt very much that he would have dared to take the field against either Ald. Ten Eyck or Ald. Findlay alone. If he had done so, he would have been badly beaten. Indeed, there are many who think he will be beaten, even in the three-cornered contest. Ald. Findlay and his supporters show every sign of confidence, and there may be a slump at the last moment, something like that which made the late A. D. Stewart Mayor, when Mr. Van Allen and Mr. Caracal were his opponents. The age of miracles is not past. The Times prefers to avoid the prophet's role, but if three-fourths of the electors who do not want Major Hendrie to be Mayor can unite on one of his opponents, the trick will be accomplished.

## HE HAS DONE WELL.

Does it ever occur to the good people of Hamilton that a modest little man named Alchison, who dwells "in our midst," is entitled to a bouquet, or a Christmas box, or some token of public acknowledgment? He calmly reports that Hamilton's fire loss in 1900 was only \$34,000, and we taxpayers and property owners congratulate ourselves on our "luck." Toronto frequently loses more than that sum by fire in a single night. Paris, Hull, Hanover and other little towns suffer from fires that almost wipe them off the map. The year's fire losses in Canada and the United States run away beyond the hundred million mark, but Hamilton lost only \$34,000. That is because big Alchison gets to the fire quickly, and knows just what to do when he arrives. He has himself invented a good many appliances for fire-fighting, and he has kept posted on what the rest of the world is doing. He is a persistent fellow, and he manages to convince committees and Councils that Hamilton must have the very best. He can tell at a glance whether a fire is accidental or the work of an incendiary, and had men do not dare to try to deceive him. He keeps all the fire department machinery in good order, has no lame or lazy horses, and sees to it that every man knows and does his duty. Keeping down Hamilton's fire loss is like adding so much wealth to the city. Shame hands with Alchison when you see him, and don't be ashamed to tell him that you are proud of him and his report on fire losses.

## REDUCED DOMINION TAXES.

In Montreal, Hamilton and other Importing centres the customs receipts for the half year which ended December 31st, 1900, show a decrease. The Mail and Empire's Montreal correspondent says that the amount of the falling off of \$81,792 in Montreal's collections lies in the fact that on the first of July the Canadian tariff preference over British goods was increased from 25 per cent. to 33.3 per cent. Montreal Importers discriminated in favor of goods of British manufacture and of their pocketbooks. More than a million dollars worth of goods were imported from Great Britain. Had the duty been collected at the rate which prevailed during the first six months, and during 1899 there would have been an increase of about \$6,000 instead of the decrease.

Collector White said that the comparative statement for the last six months of 1899 and 1900 was hardly in Toronto the statement for the whole year had been published, and a surplus was shown. The year's operations in 1900 of \$81,792 in Montreal's collections lies in the fact that on the first of July the Canadian tariff preference over British goods was increased from 25 per cent. to 33.3 per cent. Montreal Importers discriminated in favor of goods of British manufacture and of their pocketbooks. More than a million dollars worth of goods were imported from Great Britain. Had the duty been collected at the rate which prevailed during the first six months, and during 1899 there would have been an increase of about \$6,000 instead of the decrease.

The total revenue for the first six months of 1900 was \$4,407,445, compared with \$4,189,766 for the corresponding period of 1899, an increase of \$217,679. The total revenue for the last six months was \$4,647,139, compared with \$4,728,002 for the corresponding period of 1899, a decrease of \$80,863.

The net increase for the year was \$138,888. That is a very satisfactory statement and explanation, yet it does not prove that there will be no decrease of revenue as the result of the increase of the preference. It shows that Importers are buying more from Britain and less from the United States, which is exactly what we all want them to do, not only for reasons of loyalty, but be-

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

China is becoming civilized. Last year she imported from Germany \$238,000 worth of beer.

Every time the tariff is raised for purposes of protection, a blow is aimed at labor, agriculture, and the other natural industries.

A number of the lesser Tory organs are passing about an article headed, "Sir Wilfrid as an Angel." That is not as they would like the public to view him.

Henry Clews estimates the population of Europe at 370,025,000, an increase of 206,574,264 over 1880. As the estimate gives the United Kingdom only 40,500,000 it is probably not excessive.

The United States spends \$9,000,000 a year in the management and support of about 150,000 Indian Indians. That is at the rate of \$600 per Indian. The red men should be well cared for.

Havana is to have an electric system of sewage pumps, the largest of which will have a capacity of 30,000,000 gallons a day. A great effort is to be made to improve the sanitation of the city.

Roberts is now an Earl. Nobody will begrudge the nation's hero many honors, only it will strike many that the rewards ought not to be lumped and given to one man. There are others who fought well; they should be remembered too.

After all, the Boer "invasion" of Cape Colony does not seem to be a very important matter. One of these fine days marauders of that sort will be ineffectually hanged, and then there will be a disposition to view that sort of thing more seriously.

Court rules and court trimmings at our respective provincial headquarters are as much out of place as cocked hats at a country fair. Mail and Empire.

Why restrict the exclusion to "provincial" Canada transplanters? Why should Canada transplant any of such customs to these democratic shores where one man is as good as another?

The net debt of the United States at the beginning of the year was \$1,099,191,310. Our neighbors might, were they content to pursue the policy of "the Fathers," avoiding a burdensome militarism, soon be out of debt and in a position to cut the people's tax bills in two. But the politicians and place-seekers will do their best to prevent such a consummation.

The United States have, it is now alleged, spent many millions for coast defence guns which would be useless in event of attack. What need have the United States for such defences anyway? A desire to attend to their own business and treat other people civilly—in short to be neighborly—is the only defensive armament people of this continent need. The men who for personal gain cultivate old world ideas and set up old world ideals are out of place in America.

There was little of retribution or triumph in beholding the miserable wretch in obedience to orders from his superior shot Von Ketteler, an German Minister at Pekin. In no civilized country would he have been held guilty. The execution is little short of a crime. The men who should have felt the executioner's blade are those who planned the murder and ordered the soldiers to fire on Europeans. The Tang-H-Yamen officials, and the princes in control of the Chinese policy should lose their heads; it makes little difference what happens to the tools.

When salt was less plentiful than it has been for a generation or so sudden deaths from heart failure were less common than at present. The aborigines who use little salt are not troubled with weak hearts. The fact seems to be that the people's too rapid these times; our hearts are overworked. Moreover, abuse of stimulants, tobacco, and drugs has much to do with deteriorating the heart fibre. Even if salt stimulates the heart's action it may be more useful as a remedy to be used on occasions of necessity rather than to follow up to excess as a regular diet.

U. S. Consul Schuman writes from Germany that a desperate struggle has begun between the industrial classes and the agrarians in Germany. The former want high rates of duty upon products of manufacture and lower duties upon foodstuffs, while the latter desire to increase the cost of foreign farm products while lowering the customs collections upon manufactured articles they must buy. There will probably come a time when nations will recognize the folly of taxing one branch of industry to enrich another. When that day comes there will be no more protective tariffs.

The Anti-Treating Society. To the Editor of the Times:

Sir,—There is evidence that the suggestion to form an anti-treating society, as a moral movement for the beginning of the century, has been received with great favor by many prominent citizens. I have heard it discussed in many social circles, and never adversely. I notice by this evening's Times that some gentlemen have begun already to experiment in a practical way with the symposium suggestion. Amongst the presumed results from an anti-treating society, these—a few of them—I have heard spoken of. As the custom now is, when a man of any social standing gets, manifestly, "under the influence," it

is remarked that he must have been at some social function, or that he no doubt had found himself in the midst of a coterie of his old friends, or that he had been attending a "meeting" at his club or elsewhere, or that he had been in one or other of a hundred ways, which might be suggested, brought in contact with his friends under those circumstances where "half-fellow" was second in the cry, and so the "boys" had had, as was said, a high old time. Had these gentlemen been all members of an anti-treating society, they would have been no "drizzle" in the "ee." This, perhaps, might have happened. One of them, let us say Smith, would probably have said, "Say, boys, let us have something; I am going to have a little Scotch." Each of the others would have announced, not to his comrades, but to the bartender, what particular beverage he proposed to consume. 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