

## What Canadian Editors Think

### ELECTIONS AND TRADE.

(Mail and Empire.)

THE slackening of trade incidental to political campaigns of national sweep is irrespective of the nature of the questions referred to the people. In the campaign just terminated neither tariff revision nor any other proposed legislation pertaining to trade and industry was prominent as an issue. Yet commercial business slowed down, because the general public rightly gave part of their energy to the political business that was laid before them. It is undeniable that the general interest excited by an election campaign is not always wholly serviceable to the state. Across the line much of the popular interest concentrated on the Presidential election campaign is not of more real political value than was the tremendous national enthusiasm that for weeks was sustained at a high pitch over the event of the struggle between the champion teams of the great baseball leagues. However, whether or not the interest abstracted from trade in election times all conduces to the country's political welfare, it certainly does not of itself put money in the people's pockets. Now that the elections are past, Canadians can settle down to the every-day business of life. There seems to be plenty of that business for everybody's attention.

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### STREET EDUCATION.

(St. Thomas Times.)

A MOVE has been made in London, Ontario, to keep children off the streets at night, and observation goes to show that such a movement is no less needed in St. Thomas. Street education is a poor one. If all the boys and girls were good they might be allowed to walk the streets at nights to a reasonable hour, but they are not all good, and the pity of it is that like a bad apple, a bad boy is likely to affect those with whom he comes in contact injuriously. Boys and girls are seen and heard, too, on the streets of St. Thomas at unreasonable hours. There are here and everywhere parents who have no sense of the responsibility of the position they occupy—some of them immoral, but it is to be feared that there are many respectable people, moral people themselves, who neglect their children, at least, to the extent of knowing where they are and with whom they associate at all times. Is it going too far to say that it is just possible some of them are interested in moral and religious work, and yet forget all the duty they owe to their own progeny?

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### PROGRESS OF HUDSON BAY ROAD.

(Victoria Colonist.)

THERE has always been considerable hostility in the East to the Hudson Bay scheme. Some of the eastern people have feared that the northern route will seriously impair the business done by way of the St. Lawrence. They have been too narrow-minded and short-sighted to recognise that, if the Hudson Bay route fulfils the expectations of its promoters, there will be such an enormous development in the West, that the East will get likewise a great access of business and wealth, and the net result will be to increase instead of to diminish the traffic by the channels which are already in existence. Some of the eastern hostility was also based upon financial grounds.

The eastern electors did not see why they should spend millions in developing a purely western route. This of course was a rather narrow view to take, but it was one which was strongly held by many. The Government have met this difficulty by providing that the entire cost of the road and the terminals is to be defrayed from the proceeds of sales of land owned by the Government in the West, to settlers. To-day the route to the Bay is being surveyed, and construction will begin within the year.

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### THE DIME NOVEL BOY.

(Catholic Record.)

A CASE well worthy the attention of the Government recently occurred in Montreal. Four boys, all under fifteen years of age, appeared before Judge Bazin on a charge of theft. The boys had read dime novels until they had determined to lead lives of crime. Between them they stole \$220, and with the money purchased a new suit and winter overcoat each, a plentiful supply of cigarettes, hunting knives, seven revolvers and a Winchester rifle and a liberal supply of ammunition. When captured they were about to leave for the wild west. There is surely a pressing need of setting the criminal law in action so that our boys may be protected from the deplorable results of the dime novel pest. These books come to us by the ton from the printing presses of the United States and frequently we have evidence that they exert a baneful influence upon our youth, that in fact they are direct incentives to crime. We are pleased to notice in Toronto the retailers of immoral post cards have been brought to justice and we trust they will, if found guilty, be severely dealt with. It is passing strange that no action has been taken to correct these evils by those gentlemen who are so frequently to be found attempting to lasso yard engines and locomotive whistles on the Lord's Day.

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### DEMONS OF NOISE.

(Ottawa Journal)

THE steamboat whistles are not the only steam whistles which torture the air in Ottawa. The residential portions of the city are hemmed about with railway tracks from which by day and night comes the nerve-racking screech of the locomotive whistle. At the railway round-house at certain hours of the day the whistle noises are infernal. From the factories at the hours of the going-on and coming-off of the hands ascends an ingeniously irritating cacophony. And the ordinary noises of the street from the trolley cars, the freight trucks, the delivery waggons and the automobiles in the more crowded thoroughfares, the rags, bones and bottle merchant, the piano organ and at night the Salvation Army band; the gramophone barkers in the shop doors, all swell the chorus which we have learned to endure but shall never really love. It might be possible for the authorities to separate necessary from unnecessary noises. It is plain that many of the noises which we suffer are necessary to the prosecution of the useful activities of the community. As for these, of course, we must grin and bear it. But there is no reason why we should tolerate the unnecessary noise and we should take steps to provide that no noise which is not one of the ordinary concomitants of useful industry should be allowed within the city limits.

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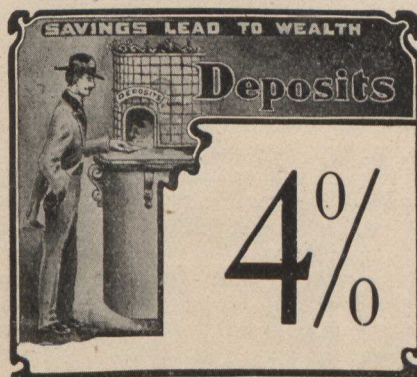
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