

**W**E have been getting a taste of government by libel suit lately in this country. The Quebec Government has been put on trial by an article in "Le Nationaliste," a Montreal weekly, which its editor undertook to justify before the courts. The ex-Minister of Railways is still on trial by reason of a short sentence or two printed in the Fredericton Gleaner, and for which he arraigned the editor for criminal libel. Then the church—not to be outdone by the political world—revived the Workman affair through a libel suit instituted by Dr. Workman against Rev. Dr. Shaw, principal of the Methodist Theological College of Montreal, in which institution Dr. Workman is now a Professor. This latter, however, was an action before church courts only, and a happy compromise seems to have been hit upon in which both parties come off victors. A curious feature which these suits have in common is that in each of them it is really the man who takes the action who has been on trial before the wider court of the people. That is, the people did not care much what became of Asselin, but they wanted to know whether or not the Quebec Ministers were tarred again with the old stick; nor were they concerned in sending genial "Jim" Crockett of the Fredericton Gleaner to gaol, but in discovering whether or not Hon. Mr. Emmerson had been ejected from the St. Lawrence Hall, Montreal, under disgraceful circumstances; while in the Workman-Shaw case, it was not really a question whether Dr. Shaw had been libellous so much as whether Dr. Workman was unorthodox.

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Government by libel can not be presented as good for the country. But it sometimes remains as the only method of government open to us when our political institutions fail of their duty. That it should be appealed to in the case of the Quebec Legislature is not surprising; for Quebec has chosen to attempt to get along with a Legislature without an Opposition. If Dr. Goldwin Smith's theory that the party system is wholly evil be sound, the Quebec Legislature must be the best parliamentary body in the Dominion; for it has practically no party, but only factions. The result, however, is that the Government is not subjected to effective criticism. If it is giving the province good and pure government, it is doing so voluntarily; for there are too few critics in the Legislature to arouse attention, and there is no alternative party to which the people may appeal. This may or may not be the reason why we have witnessed an appeal to the libel suit; but it is a distinct relief to find so well-entrenched a ministry subjected to some sort of criticism.

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Again, the Emmerson case arose from the effort of a newspaper to supplement what had been said in Parliament. Mr. Fowler had made his "women, wine and graft" charges against the Ministers, but had refused to mention any names or instances. The Fredericton Gleaner undertook to supply this desired information. With what success, the courts have yet to declare. But if Parliament had cleared up its own door-yard, there would have been no room left for the Fredericton editor to attempt to complete its job of "muck-raking." All of which goes to show that the Press is still one of the estates of realm. It is to be reckoned with. No con-

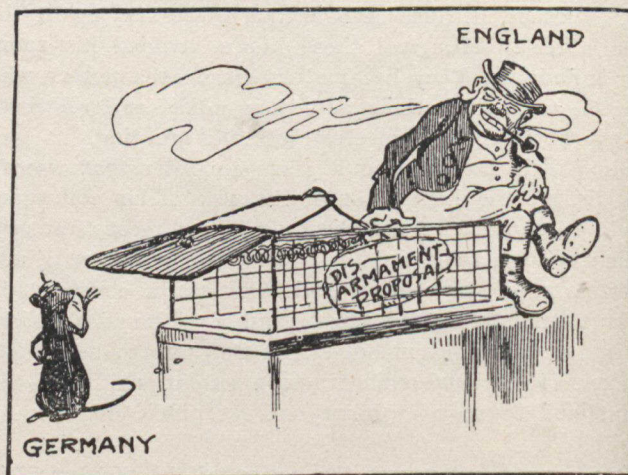
spiracy of silence can be quite secure to which the journalists of the land are not parties; and they have a constitutional antipathy to silence. A politician may gain by silence; a journalist, as a journalist, never.

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That Dr. Workman and Dr. Shaw should get into a tangle while attempting to teach together in a Theological College, is not wonderful. They stand at the opposite poles of thought within the Methodist Church. There are, of course, lots of men more radical than Workman and lots of other men more conservative than Shaw; but they are not within the bounds of Canadian Methodism. "Bob" Ingersoll and the Archbishop of Canterbury would not have made congenial colleagues on the same theological teaching staff; but then neither of them would have found himself at home in the Methodist Church. Dr. Shaw is, however, a man of natural breadth of mind. This is demonstrated by his attitude during the various religious controversies we have had in this country. He has always had a sympathetic understanding of the Roman Catholic position. He was never what we called facetiously "An Equal Righter." One of the men responsible for Protestant education in the Province of Quebec, he could never be got to join in the outcry that the "Protestant garrison" there was ill-used. He knew at first hand that it was, in reality, treated very fairly; and he had the courage to come up into Ontario and say so. Mr. Ames, M.P., another member of the Protestant Board of School Commissioners, similarly refuses to give support to the common Ontario legend that the Protestants of Quebec are oppressed educationally by the Catholic majority. Still, in theology, Dr. Shaw is of the old school, though more tolerant of the new than some veteran defenders of the old. Dr. Workman's position is well known. He drank at the stream of German thought in his youth, and he has never since been able to reconcile himself to the fact that, if there is anything which Canada detests more than a Sabbath made in France, it is a theology "made in Germany." I have often wondered why Dr. Workman, with his great scholarship, does not go where German wares are more marketable.

## Royalty in South Africa

The Prince and Princess of Wales, should they carry out the intention with which they are credited of paying a visit to South Africa, will add another to their record of things which no Prince and Princess of Wales have done before. The first prince of the blood to visit South Africa was the Duke of Connaught. Prince Arthur of Connaught made a brief appearance there, in his regimental capacity toward the finish of the war. As Prince George of Wales, the present heir apparent and his brother, the late Duke of Clarence, saw Cape Town in their midshipman days, when the "Bacchante" touched.



The Bait Doesn't Work.

—Kladderadatsch (Berlin)