

there is perhaps little room to hope for the substitution of a non-partisan system. The only, or at least, the most probable immediate result that could be hoped for, would be a reconstruction of parties upon new issues. Yet, if these issues were broad and the division honestly made, even that would be an indication of progress. The most discouraging feature of the present upheaval is that those who are acting in disregard of party seem to be doing so under the pressure either of narrow and sectional or of purely selfish considerations, and are hence very unpromising pioneers of an independence movement. We may be thankful, however, for any indications that the old purblind subservience to party is on the wane both in the United States and in Canada.

The citizens of Toronto will no doubt regard favorably any well-considered scheme which promises a permanent and satisfactory solution of the water supply problem. Through the energetic and skillful efforts of Engineer Keating, we are temporarily supplied with what there seems good reason to believe is a tolerably pure article. But, unfortunately, as Mr. Keating himself is forced to admit, there is no guarantee for the continuance of this state of things. At any moment another accident may produce serious leakage of the sewage-laden water of the bay into the submerged conduit, and the health and lives of citizens be placed in jeopardy. Under these circumstances Mr. Keating has done well to come forward with a project for the removal of this state of uncertainty. To the common-sense of the inexpert, the plan he proposes, that of a tunnel under the bay at its narrowest point, seems the best, if not the only absolute safe method, of bringing the unquestionably pure water of the lake uncontaminated into our homes and places of business. It is gratifying to be informed on so good authority as that of the Engineer that the cost of such a tunnel will not be so great as to put it out of the category of the practicable. On the contrary, he assures us, and we know no reason to question the correctness of his calculations, that the water can be procured by this means more cheaply than it could be obtained by gravitation, even were a supply procurable by that method from a reasonably accessible point. No one can, we think, doubt that in view of the constantly increasing danger of contamination of any supply that could be procured from an inland source, the water of the lake, provided it can be brought in without deterioration, is the best that can possibly be procured. It is to be hoped that Mr. Keating's report will be considered in a straightforward and business-like manner, and that action will be taken with as little delay as possible. The water question is one of supreme importance to the progress as well as to the health of the city.

The certainty of having for all time to come an ample and absolutely certain supply of pure water would add much to the inducements the city has to offer to incomers.

We are glad to learn that the Toronto Relief Society, which has been in active service since its organization in 1875, is again preparing for its winter's work of charity and mercy. The officers elected by the board at the annual meeting are: Patroness, Mrs. Kirkpatrick; Honorary President, Mrs. Brett; President, Mrs. Forsyth Grant; 1st Vice-President, Mrs. C. Morrison; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. Owen; Treasurer, Mrs. Henderson; Secretary, Mrs. Paterson; Convener of Industrial Room, Mrs. Richardson. The depositories will be open early in November. The citizens are begged to remember the Society with their usual generosity; and also to bear in mind the fact, that the most direct and effectual mode of relief to the poor and suffering is through the channels of the Society. The officers of the Society investigate every case brought to their notice; and by their well-ordered supervision are enabled to furnish work and assistance to the deserving, and expose fraudulent representation. They most strenuously ask citizens not to encourage vice by indiscriminate giving of money or clothing. The Society will be thankful to learn the names and addresses of all who will volunteer to work through the coming winter, in their own districts, for the aims of the Society. Every busy citizen, who has a heart to feel for the sufferings of the destitute, must be often much perplexed because of his inability to know whether good or harm would result from the bestowal of that aid which he is importuned to give, and would gladly give if he could but be assured that it would be right to do so. Few have the time and still fewer—more's the pity—the patience and tact and discernment, necessary to enable them to investigate individual cases personally to any great extent. From the point of view of benefit to the individual giver it would doubtless be better if the charitably disposed could become wise almoners of their own bounty. But if they aim to do the utmost possible good with the amount to be bestowed there can be no doubt that the best way is to entrust its distribution to such a Society as this. Every good citizen should be personally grateful to those who are willing to devote their time and energies to so noble a service, and ready to give them all possible aid.

The cold-blooded murder of Mayor Harrison of Chicago affords a striking illustration of the danger attending the barbarous practice of carrying revolvers, which seems to be almost universal in some parts of the United States. The state of civilization in which this practice prevails

is in some respects worse than that of the olden times when every man above a certain rank wore a sword. To draw a sword and make an attack upon another similarly armed and presumably equally well trained, required at least a good degree of personal courage, and courage is usually accompanied with a certain manliness which scorns to take a mean advantage. But the revolver is the coward's weapon. It lends itself readily to the purposes of the assassin. To point the weapon and pull the trigger requires not personal courage so much as murderous intent. Any human being who has fallen so low in the moral scale as to desire the death of another is pretty sure to find in the deadly revolver, which may be concealed in a small pocket, an ever ready and tempting instrument for the gratification of his treacherous hatred. Surely it may be hoped that with the progress of civilization in the West the day will soon come when it will be considered as disreputable to carry a concealed revolver, as it now would be to go armed with a deadly poison, as a means of resenting an affront, or ridding oneself of an adversary, in old Oriental fashion. The fact that the revolver is so easily concealed makes it, of course, difficult to enforce any prohibitory law in regard to it. But the operation of the Blake law in Canada proves, we believe, that prohibition may not only be made to a certain extent effective, but that it serves a still better purpose in stamping the practice against which it is aimed as illegal, and therefore, disreputable. In the case in question, on the other hand, we are told that Mr. Harrison's coachman, running into the hall when the alarm was given, fired three shots at the assassin, the inference being that he also was going about his duties with a loaded weapon in his pocket, or within easy reach. Here, then, is room for a great moral reform, since it may safely be asserted that no people has reached a very high plane of civilization so long as a large proportion of its citizens go about the streets with arms concealed on their persons.

The action of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick in sentencing Mr. Ellis to fine and imprisonment for an alleged contempt of court, committed several years ago, bids fair to afford another illustration of the truth of the saying that the best way to secure the repeal of an unjust law is to enforce it. The announcement of the sentence of the court and its execution, has sent a wave of indignation all over the Dominion. The state of feeling aroused, which is happily not confined to one party, is such that the matter will no doubt be brought before Parliament at its approaching session. It is not unlikely that the result will be a modification of the law which now gives so much arbitrary power to judges in the matter. There is something repugnant to

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