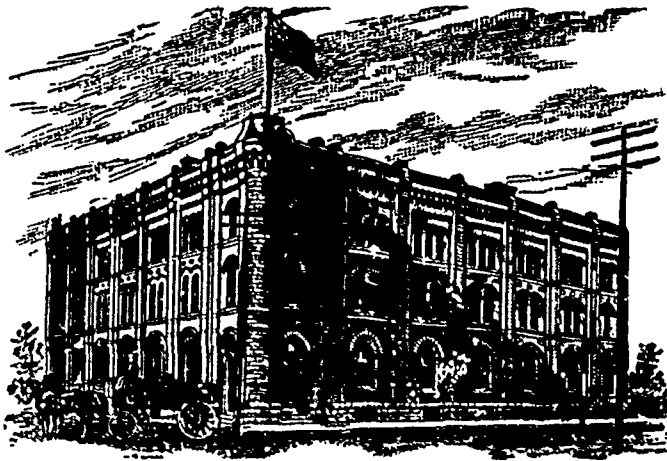


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Editorial Notes.

Smudging was resorted to during the recent cool dips, and the evidence is generally favorable as to the result. In Minnesota and Dakota smudging to ward off frost, was far more general than in Manitoba, and many instances are reported where crops were saved, while other fields of grain not protected in this way, were injured. In Manitoba a few tried smudging in some sections, but there was nothing approaching a general effort to use this means of protection against frost damage. The weight of the evidence goes to show, that in case of a light frost, damage may be prevented by smudging. In the more closely settled districts, at least, we believe the crops could be saved even in case of quite a heavy frost, by a general resort to smudging. Manitoba farmers burn their straw as a rule, after threshing. It would require very little labor to place this straw along the north and west sides of their crops, and thus be prepared to burn it in case of frost. Usually any damage from frost is done in one or two nights in the season, and it would not be a great hardship for farmers to remain up two or three nights in a year to watch their crops.

The steals in connection with the printing bureau at Ottawa, will not surprise people

much, or at least people who are informed in such matters. It is a well known fact, that a great deal of public hoodling has been connected with printing and publishing establishments in some way. There is usually a newspaper at the bottom of the worst cases of political corruption, and printing contracts have been so frequently associated with underhand dealings, that they are usually taken for granted as corrupt in some particular. Manitoba has had its scandals in connection with printing contracts and government organs, and Ottawa has had them ad nauseam. The fact is, government advertising is carried on mainly as a system of bribery, or pay to the papers receiving such support. Political corruption has occurred to such an extent in connection with the press, that some crookedness is almost considered a matter of course, in any association of the press with government matters. The establishment of the Ottawa printing bureau was therefore regarded from the first as a hoodling appendage. There is much need of reform in the matter of government advertising and general patronage of the press, while ministers and prominent officials should not be associated in any way with newspapers, for past experience has shown, that where such association exists, there has usually been official corruption.

A new feature of Premier Abbott's act res-

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pecting bribery and frauds in official circles, is that which provides equal punishment for the briber as well as the receiver of the bribe. Officials who receive presents, or allow members of their family to receive presents from parties having government contracts, will be subject to a fine of \$500 to \$1000, and up to the value of the present, if the latter is in excess of \$1000. In default of payment, imprisonment will follow. Contractors will also be debarred from tendering in future. All these measures are good in themselves, but their one valuable feature lies in their enforcement, and this is too often neglected. Better than all measures against official corruption, however, would be the placing of reliable men only in office. The spoils system, political favoritism, etc., prevent this. Officials are not selected on the grounds of their honesty and fitness for the positions which they are to occupy. They owe their position to the influence of their friends and relatives, as a rule. Worthless characters and disreputable fellows are frequently appointed to office in this way. Men who are unable to keep themselves respectable, are pitchforked into public positions, through the influence of relatives or friends. Persons of this class have been secured positions in the public service, in order to relieve their friends of the necessity of sustaining them, or perhaps to relieve them of the unpleasantness of having them about. The number of disreputable officials who have been thrust upon the west, has no doubt been brought about through the influence of eastern people, who wished to get rid of their impetuous friends or relatives, and who have sought for them a government office in the west.

Napoleon Brodeur, grocer, Montreal, has assigned.