

TRUTH.

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WHAT TRUTH SAYS

The announcement that the governors of McGill University have decided to present the University of Toronto with a collection of specimens for her museum will be received with thankfulness by every friend of the unfortunate institution. The gift will be exceedingly valuable, and will consist largely of geological specimens, in which McGill's museum is particularly rich. There will be specimens from the earliest geological periods all the way down to the modern age. Many of these have been collected by Sir Wm. Dawson himself, whom Canadians are proud to know is recognized, the world over, as an authority upon this stony subject. Beside the geological and fossil remains which represent every stage in the world's upward movement, there will be a number of specimens from the late Dr. Carpenter's collection of molluscs, said to be unrivalled in America in its extent, arrangement, and richness in varietal forms; also a special collection will be added of sea stars, sea urchins, crinoids, and sea slugs. The entire donation, it is expected, will number several thousand specimens. This valuable present at a time so opportune cannot fail to strengthen the cordial feelings now existing between the two institutions. But besides its intrinsic worth it is of value as serving to show that the authorities of that old and successful institution are above allowing any petty jealousy to influence their action. Having it in their power to aid the cause of education elsewhere they did not permit the consideration of future competition to check their generous resolve. Certainly this is only as it should be; nevertheless it is refreshing in these days to find the "is" harmonizing with the "ought." For her generous gift thousands of Ontario's citizens will wish McGill ever-increasing success, and will hope that the only rivalry that will ever exist between the sister institutions will be that healthy competition in which each will strive to excel in thoroughly furnishing the young men and young women of our young Dominion with an education that will better qualify them to serve their country and their race.

It may be presumed that the Toronto Vocal Society is quite equal to the task of settling their little trouble without the aid of outside help; nevertheless the spectacle of men, whose melodious voices have been wont to delight and entertain their fellow citizens, bandying words with each other that cut and sting and burn is highly suggestive. It tends to call up what the preachers have been dining in our ears, "Doth the fountain send forth from the same opening sweet water and bitter?" and that othersaying of profound wisdom, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand." A little reflection upon this latter truth might have a wholesome effect in tending to settle the present unseemly quarrel.

The Prison Commission appointed by the Ontario Government last session have entered upon their work. This, as will be remembered, is to examine the best penal systems in other countries, and to inquire into and report upon the following, viz.: (1) the cause of crime, such as drink, over-crowding, immoral literature, Sabbath breaking, truants from school, etc. (2) The best means of rescuing destitute children from a criminal career. (3) The best means of providing and conducting in

dustrial schools. (4) The propriety of the Government assuming larger control of county jails. (5) Industrial employment of prisoners. (6) Indeterminate sentences. (7) The best method of dealing with tramps and drunkards. At Kingston the other day five gaolers and two sheriffs were asked to give their opinion touching the questions proposed by the Commission. With remarkable unanimity they pronounced in favor of county poor houses, classification of prisoners, governmental control of prisons, and industrial schools for the training of bad boys or the boys of bad parents. Concerning the employment of prisoners, the best method of dealing with tramps and habitual drunkards, considerable diversity of view prevailed. Mr. Appleby, Belleville, recommends that prisoners under certain conditions should be made to work on the streets. For the habitual drunkard he would have an asylum provided. In extreme cases he would have prisoners locked up for an indefinite period. Sheriff Hope would punish prisoners brought up a second time for being drunk by giving them a long sentence, together with hard work. Gaoler Carter, Kingston, would administer the lash to a married man who went to goal the third time for being drunk. The carelessness of parents in allowing their children to run upon the streets was condemned as a prolific source of crime. A significant statement was made concerning the boys who appeared as criminals in the institutions over which the witnesses had charge. Gaoler Appleby testified that most of the boys passing through his goal had been brought to Canada from the Old Country. A similar remark was made by Gaoler Patterson, of Picton. This view is also entertained by Mrs. Elizabeth Bradley, of Birmingham, who gave evidence before the Commission in Hamilton the other day. Mrs. Bradley attributes the wave of immorality which is sweeping over the United States and Canada largely to the immigration of boys and girls with the seeds of physical and moral disease inborn in them. Now, though it would be manifestly unjust to charge all the crime committed in our midst and by youthful criminals to these imported waifs, who in many cases are taken from the scum of London society, it will not be questioned by those who are familiar with the fact and laws of heredity that there is much truth in the contention that it is next to impossible to make good and worthy citizens out of such material. This bringing in of youths of vicious tendencies and practices and scattering them abroad through the country, in many instances to prove a moral pest, is one that is attended with serious difficulties. Calling themselves Christians Canadians do not wish to close their doors against these helpless little ones, whose tendency to vice is more their misfortune than their fault. At the same time a prudent regard for the best interests of the community seems to forbid the practice. Perhaps when the commission shall have finished its labors sufficient light will have been secured to enable our rulers to act more intelligently in this important matter.

Two weeks ago an article appeared in *Truth's* columns from the pen of Henry Lye, Esq., on, "The Flax Industry in Canada." In his paper Mr. Lye says: "For several years past efforts have been made to develop flax-growing in Manitoba, and the reports of the Department of Agriculture in that province contain yearly references to the crop. There appears at present to be

a desire to not only grow flax there but to manufacture it into binding twines, with the praiseworthy object of producing at home an article so largely used by the farmers of our North West. It is well to remember, however, that there are limitations of soil and climate which affect the staple. Some samples from Manitoba are pronounced, we are told, too short in straw or fibre to be suited for such manufacturing purposes."

Now, either Mr. Lye has been misinformed touching the possibilities of Manitoba and the culture of flax, or the new Anglo-Canadian Flax Company is doomed to disappointment. This company, it is said, propose to encourage the growth of flax in Canada by establishing working centres of industry in various parts of the Dominion suitable for its cultivation. Winnipeg is to be made the chief centre of operation, around which numerous working centres, each containing about five hundred acres will be established, where flax will be grown by the farmers, who after taking off the seed will deliver the straw at the company's works to be steeped and broken. In this state it will be hauled back to the grower under contract to return the fibre derived therefrom when properly treated. The Company estimate that a capital of £1,500 will be sufficient for starting and working each centre, and that a clear profit of £1,000 can be realized from each, annually, if treated in the way suggested, and as flax is in great demand in Canada for binding twine and other purposes, it is thought that five hundred centres will be required to meet the demand of the home market, to say nothing of the large quantities which they expect to export to England. It is to be hoped that these expectations may be fully realized and that soon the culture of flax will be one of the distinguishing industries of our rapidly developing Dominion.

Shall the decision of June 5th be revoked? is a question which, it may be presumed is being asked by a full score of those who on the evening of that eventful day found themselves among the chosen representatives of the people. From twenty constituencies come charges of fraud, bribery, corruption, intimidation, illegal treating, &c. Twenty petitions are now filed against as many members-elect of the Ontario legislature. In glancing over the list, which is unusually large, one is not surprised to find Lincoln C. Rykert, the notorious trafficker in parliamentary influence, might be expected to show up when things discreditable, corrupt and scandalous are taking place. But Haldimand is not among the number. Have the electors of that election-cursed constituency learned wisdom by costly and troublesome experience, or was it the salutary influence of our respected townsman that enables that constituency to hold up its head and stand among the innocent ones at this time of trial? The spectacle presented by these numerous petitions is not particularly creditable to us as a province, and does not say much for our political morality. That it is an evidence of increasing corruption and fraud does not necessarily follow, however, seeing that a quickening of the political conscience would be sure to show itself in this way, compelling the honest citizen, who is withal a lover of his country, to raise his voice in earnest protest against the corruption which attacks the free and popular government, and every cherished institution of a bosom. And it is to be hoped that the feeling has been kindled in the minds of the electors of that constituency, that they will not be content with the

and that partizan charge is not responsible for the whole?

The Minnesota Farmer's Alliance and the United Labor Party are not satisfied with the manner in which the present political parties are managing the affairs of their country. Convinced that their leaders care less for their constituents than they do for the success of their party, these sons of toil have given the old parties notice to quit. At a largely attended joint convention held in St. Paul last week, it was decided to place a State ticket in the field and take independent political action. A platform was adopted which demands that the "war tariff" be radically revised; denounces the McKinley Bill as "the crowning infamy of protection"; demands government control of railways, that discrimination may cease, reasonable rates be established, watered stock not receive the reward of honest capital, and pooling of rates be absolutely prohibited. For producers it demands free and open markets for grain and proper facilities for transportation, etc. It holds that mortgage indebtedness should be deducted from the tax on realty; demands lower interest; an increase in the volume of money and free coinage of silver; asks for the Australian ballot system; holds that United States senators and railway commissioners should be elected by ballot, and finally considers that recent Supreme Court decisions are fraught with danger to our form of Government.—There can be no question as to the justice and desirableness of many of these demands. The present tariff, passed with a view of wiping out the enormous indebtedness created during the Civil War, is found to take out of the pockets of the people many million dollars more than the Government can use for paying off maturing indebtednesses, so that a constantly increasing surplus is gathering at Washington which puzzles the honest representatives to know what to do with it, while to the unscrupulous politician it offers a powerful temptation to apply it in ways that will benefit his party, without respect to the righteousness of the arrangement. Every principle of justice, of well-earned, and of revision in the iron with you were dead! as the Mr. McKim's home, my friend, is a slave and he is free! the burden is the one of bribery, intimidation, and the never be put down until the day is introduced, and God you believe! honest expression of the Government of the railways, the which honest politician for, as also upon the open market, the directors, the refuses to be a health, which will be the