

The Planet.

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PATRONAGE.

If there is one question more than another that is perplexing to a Government, it is the question of patronage, and the leaders of any political party rarely look upon it as a matter of strength to the administration. Vacancies are occurring from time to time that must of necessity be filled, and it is only natural that these vacancies should go to their friends, but to remove office-holders simply for the purpose of giving it to a political follower is wrong, and should be condemned by both political parties. Since the incoming of the Whitney Administration many changes have been made for cause, but in no case has an official been removed simply because he was a Liberal, whose efficiency has not been questioned nor a charge of incompetency or dishonesty made against him. Hundreds of Liberal officials are still holding office under the Whitney Administration, and they will continue to discharge the duties of their office so long as they continue to administer the affairs honestly and in the best interests of the public; and in taking this course Mr. Whitney has preceded to follow.

When Edward Blake took office, upon the defeat of the Sandfield Macdonald Government, the old officials were retained in office, and during the long term of office held by the late Sir Oliver Mowat the positions of competent Conservatives were secure. These premiers confined their patronage to Liberals in the same manner as it is expected Mr. Whitney will do, and vacancies caused by death, or some justifiable reason, no true Conservative will ever wish that this course should be departed from by the adoption of the spoils system.

When Sir Oliver Mowat resigned the premiership in 1896, there were some thirty-seven out of sixty-four Conservatives on the Ontario permanent civil service holding office who had been appointed before he became premier in 1872, and out of the twenty-seven, twenty had died in office, six had resigned, and one had been dismissed.

Sir Oliver himself said in a speech in 1882 that "when the Reformers came into power in this Province almost all the officers of the Government were of another political party, and many of them had been appointed for that very reason. Apprehension was not unnaturally felt by Reformers that some of these officials might be spies for the political friends from whom they had received their appointments, and that it would be disagreeable to have to work with officers in whose fidelity the Ministers had not yet acquired confidence, but not a single officer was discharged on that account, nor was his position in the public service changed. Most of them held their offices still, and I am bound to say that I am not aware of a single instance from that day to this in which any officer played the spy. A different policy would have involved the adoption of the American system, and every new Government would feel at liberty to remove all officers not appointed by themselves or their political friends."

This speech was delivered after Sir Oliver had been premier for a period of ten years, and there is no reason to think that the Liberals under Mr. Whitney will prove less faithful than were the Conservatives under Sir Oliver.

In the United States every officeholder is expected to be a politician, but this Great Home Journal is heartily in accord with the utterances of the members of the Whitney Cabinet, who have given unmistakable expression of their opinion that as soon as appointees are sworn in they must abstain from taking part in politics. Unless this course is adopted the efficiency and impartiality in the discharge of the duties of the office are brought into question, and there is too often good cause to doubt the honesty of these officials. What we want are good laws and good officials to carry out the duties assigned to them; not in the furtherance of the interests of any political party, but in a manner that will meet with the commendation of the people as a whole, irrespective of party considerations, and it is only in this way that we can ever expect to have a proper administration of the law.

Women may be more constant than men, and they are more apt to talk about it.

Minard's Liniment Cures Diphtheria.

PHIL BOWYER'S FINE SPEECH IS ADDING TO HIS POPULARITY

Popular Member for East Kent Speaks his Mind in the Legislature—Reviews the Work of the Present Government and States Clearly his Position on the Various Issues

P. H. Bowyer, member for East Kent, has been complimented in all quarters for his very excellent address delivered in seconding the speech from the Throne at the opening of the Ontario Legislature. It will be read with much interest by the electors of East Kent, where the popular representative is held in the highest esteem by members of both political parties.

"Mr. Bowyer (East Kent), in seconding Mr. Clark's motion, expressed his concurrence in his colleagues' commendation of the work of the Premier and the Cabinet. On assuming office, the Premier had been confronted by a difficult task in forming his Cabinet, for he had an embarrassment of riches at his command, a large following and an enormous popular majority. The Premier had made good his proud boast that he was a Premier, not of a party, but of the people."

"Mr. Bowyer proceeded to refer individually to the good work done by the different members of the Cabinet. The Attorney-General had made the forces of the Province understand that their duties must be carried out. An especially commendable act was the entrusting of the bail bonds of a notorious election operator. The Provincial Secretary had introduced the business methods into the administration of public institutions, had put into effect a new system of auditing, and was taking steps to collect the vast amount of arrears due the Province from the relatives of patients maintained in the asylums. The Minister of Public Works had seized the Booth fish trust, and compelled it to supply the Canadian market first. He had also ensured a better enforcement of the game laws. The Minister of Education was prepared to bring about important reforms in the schools of the Province. The strongest men in the late Government, Hon. John Dwyer, had several times publicly testified his approval of good work being done by his successors, the present Minister of Agriculture. Magnificent service had been rendered the people by Hon. Adam Beck in connection with the power question, and by Hon. J. S. Hendrie as chairman of the Railway committee. The members of the Cabinet, said Mr. Bowyer, had by

their year's record gained the admiration of the whole Province, and a leading independent organ in Toronto had admitted that it was mistaken in its disparaging estimate of some of them.

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE VIRTUES.

"In addition to these positive virtues, said Mr. Bowyer, there were many of a negative nature, which counted for the Conservative Government. Since the present Government had come into power, no vast portions of the Province had been handed over to corporations. Another matter which was a great change over the days of the Liberal Government was the manner in which deputations were received. No more evasion was used, and members of deputations no longer quarreled with each other on their way regarding what the Premier meant in his reply to them. There was no delay, now, for months, and even years, in the issue of writs for by-elections, and there was no machine, controlled by a captain or an admiral, to assist the Government in holding power."

"Speaking of some of the matters in the speech from the Throne, Mr. Bowyer referred to the increased facilities from the bringing of immigrants to Ontario. Five or six years ago 3,000 immigrants had come to Ontario in twelve months, while during 1905 no less than 34,000 had settled in the Province."

"Changes in the mining law were proposed, and he thought the Government would be able to do a great deal in this way to assist the development of our great mineral resources. Whatever changes were made, they ought to see that the Province got some share of the productivity of the mines, either in the way of a percentage on the output or of a royalty."

HIGHER LICENSE FEES.

"The Government had done a great deal in the line of enforcing the Liquor License Act. If any changes were to be made in the Act, it should be in the direction of an increase of the price of licenses, especially in the larger centres. In Detroit the aggregate license fees amounted to a sum equal to an average of \$1.95 per head of the population. In Toronto it was only about 30 cents, and throughout the Province it varied from 25 cents to 30 cents. It

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S. F. GARDINER, BRANCH MANAGER

might be well to increase the license price and to give at least one-half of the amount to the municipalities.

"The speech from the Throne had referred to a proposed rearrangement of the grants made to agricultural fairs. Such a change ought to be based upon the work actually done by the fairs to encourage agriculture. Changes in the Companies Act were also proposed, and nothing was more imperative than that the people should be protected against the sharks and promoters, who imposed them to give up their hard-earned money by means of bogus prospectuses."

"In the matter of school books, Mr. Bowyer said that his own idea was that there should be a uniform series of text-books, of which the Government should own the copyright and the plates. Anyone putting up a sufficient security should be able to obtain the plates, provided he turned out books of a certain standard of printing and paper. The Government ought also to fix a maximum price for the books. In the end, such a course would lead to the creation of a Government printing bureau, and the Government

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White Lawns—Fine Victoria Lawns, 39 to 42 inches wide, matchless values at a yard, 10c, 12½c, 15c and 20c.

India Lawns, fine sheer qualities, pure bleach, full width, special a yard 15c, 18c, 20c, 25c, 35c, 40c and 50c.

Linen Lawns—pure Irish Linen lawns 36 in. wide, fine sheer qualities at a yard 50c, 60c and 75c.

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Embroidered Muslins—fine Swiss with mercerised embroidered figures, fine qualities at a yard 25c, 30c, 35c, 40c and 50c.

Swiss Organdie Muslin—fine sheer qualities, 50 in. wide, special at a yard 25c, 30c and 35c.

French Organdie Muslin—fine pure white, also black, 64 to 68 inch wide, at a yard 50c, 60c and 75c.

White Linen Suitings—2 yards wide, warranted all pure linen, extra bleach finish, special a yard 90c.

Linen Suitings—pure bleach finish, 36 to 52 in. wide, at a yard 40c, 50c and 60c.

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New Vestings—rich mercerised finish in choice range of spots, stripes and figures, pure white, special a yard 15c, 20c and 25c.

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would then be able to print its own text-books.

MORE TAXES ON RAILWAYS.

"After a reference to the wisdom of the Government's course in appointing a Hydro-Electric Power Commission, Mr. Bowyer spoke of the subject of railway taxation. He judged that the Government intended to increase the taxation on railways, though he did not know how far they would go. He could assure the House, however, that they could go a long way before any deputation of farmers would be coming around the House hoisting a semaphore."

The taxation on the railways in Ontario was only one-third what it was in Michigan, and one-quarter as much as the taxation on farm property in the Province. If a change were made it would be well to appoint a provincial assessment commission to take into consideration the value of the railway property. The commission should be composed of experts, and they should take into consideration the proportion of the companies' rolling stock, which was used in Ontario. It would be a good thing also if 75 per cent. of the taxes paid by the railways were given to the municipalities and the rest kept by the Province."

"Mr. Bowyer concluded with an eloquent reference to the course of the Government during its short period of power, and then seconded the motion made by Mr. Clark."

"Hon. G. W. Ross moved the adjournment of the debate."

THE STAGE

"All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players."

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

At The Grand—

Peck's Bad Boy, matinee and night—Feb. 21.

Little Johnny Jones—Feb. 24.

Summers Stock Co., week—Feb. 26.

(Supplied to The Planet by Press Agents.)

PECK'S BAD BOY.

The coming of the ever funny farce-comedy, "Peck's Bad Boy," at the Grand on Wednesday, Feb. 21st, for matinee and night, will delight every small boy, for there is nothing short of a circus that will make the eyes of the small boys sparkle with delight as quickly as a sight of the flaming posters along the walls announcing the coming of "Peck's Bad Boy." But not only does the small boy enjoy it, but adults as well, for it carries them back to days of long ago and for the time they forget all cares, and imagine themselves back to their boyhood days. The play is full of bright and sparkling specialties; catchy music, combined with the pranks of the Bad Boy, make it one of the most entertaining of plays. This may be taken on sale Monday.

"LITTLE JOHNNY JONES."

Our local theatre-going public will be regaled on Saturday, Feb. 24, with the first performance in this city of last season's greatest musical success, "Little Johnny Jones." "Little Johnny Jones" will be presented in Chatham by the largest company that has ever appeared here, and with the same elaborate scenic production which was witnessed for six months in New York last season and all last summer at Chicago's most fashionable theatre, the Illinois. Its tour of Canada will only embrace a few of the most important cities, the company going direct from here to the Princess in

Toronto and thence London, Hamilton, Kingston and Ottawa, which will conclude its Canadian tour. It was only by extra efforts that this big attraction has been secured for a date in this city and it is the sincere desire on the part of the Grand Opera House management to make the engagement a notable one in the history of local theatricals.

No musical piece was presented last season that scored a more emphatic success than "Little Johnny Jones." The interest manifested over the engagement in this city has been very great ever since the announcement was first made that "Little Johnny Jones" was to be presented here. Therefore a crowded house is already assured.

Does Your FOOD Digest Well?

When the food is imperfectly digested the full benefit is not derived from it by the body and the purpose of eating is defeated; no matter how good the food or how carefully adapted to the wants of the body it may be. Thus the dyspeptic often becomes thin, weak and debilitated, energy is lacking, brightness, snap and vim are lost, and in their place come dullness, loss of appetite, depression and languor. It takes no great knowledge to know when one has indigestion, some of the following symptoms generally exist, viz.: constipation, sour stomach, variable appetite, headache, heartburn, gas in the stomach, etc.

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The Four Corners of the Earth

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