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WHAT WILL MR. BORDEN DO?

So far as the discussions in the Conservative party at Ottawa are caused by searchings of heart and a real desire for reform, they are not a subject for ridicule or self-congratulation on the part of Liberals. The position of the Government is temporarily strengthened by the divisions among its opponents, but if Mr. Borden can rid his party of the bad influence of Mr. Foster, and thrust the other "reactionary" of the old regime into the background, the Opposition will become formidable for the first time. To Mr. Borden it must seem the refinement of misfortune that the only "left-over" from 1896 who could be useful to him—Mr. Foster—is the most impossible of the lot. The others are merely effete old gentlemen, who have been politically defunct for some years, but don't choose to have it known. There is also the case of Mr. Monk, a respectable and talented though somewhat isolated figure, who seems not to be aware that he has forfeited his position as Quebec leader of the party by taking a course on the naval question diametrically opposite to that of his leader.

Mr. Borden is urged to go resolutely about the task of house-cleaning by such influential Conservative papers as the Toronto News, the Ottawa Citizen, the Kingston Standard and the Toronto World. Mr. Foster tells in interview that the leader of an Opposition cannot dictate to his followers. Mr. Foster is wrong. The leader of an Opposition can be a dictator if he has the moral support of his party. Whether he has this or not depends, of course, upon his personal qualities. There are many Conservatives who regard Mr. Borden as an amiable failure. They are willing to concede him every good point except the capacity for leadership. Undoubtedly his authority would have been greater to day if he had shown firmness on the naval question. He yielded to others, against his own judgment, in the hope of harmonizing his followers on a particular issue. What did he gain by sacrificing his convictions? The Opposition is still rent by discord and dissension. Unless Mr. Borden can put down faction, and can dictate to his subordinates, he is only a phantom leader. Unless he is content with an empty title, he must show his mettle at once. Whether he is equal to the task or not, he is the only man in the Opposition ranks whom his party would instruct with it.

WHAT IS THE OTHER PROVINCE PAYING?

In the discussion called forth by the teachers' rebellion against the new reading books, two defences are offered—namely, that the books are cheap, and that another province is going to use them.

It is apt to be overlooked, and it is purposely concealed by those who proclaim their cheapness, that a large part of the cost was paid by the province. The editing, copyright privileges, type setting, plate-casting, illustrating, were all paid for in full out of the provincial funds, and only the printed paper and binding were left to be paid by the purchaser. The auditors' reports show that, including the commission's expenses, the province paid in 1907, \$7,290.00; in 1908, \$6,064.29; in 1909, \$11,899.67; a total of \$25,254.06. And the end is not yet. The estimates up to Oct. 31, 1911, include an item of \$20,000 for "Text-book committee, preparing readers and plates."

Whether the province should pay half or more of the cost of the school books and the purchaser the remainder is a fairly debatable question; but it is palpably dishonest to ignore the charge on the general fund or to claim that such amount is saved to the people. But when you come to add what the province has paid to what the purchaser pays, and then consider the cost in the light of the merits of the books they appear to be a dear bargain. "In every book," says the Trinity University Review, "the same faults are to be found, the same lack of artistic skill, of pedagogical knowledge, and of literary judgment. Clippings from newspapers, from other readers, from scrap-books, seem to have been divided roughly into five heaps, and sent to the printer just as they were. . . . it would seem a tenable theory that the arrangement was the work of the printer's devil." The books are certainly dear enough.

Out of the claim No. 2, that another province has adopted these text-books, something tangible ought to come. We may learn what the other province thinks of them by the extent to which it is willing to share the expense that they have cost Ontario. Assuming the payment of five or ten thousand dol-

lars would be at once an evidence of such province's appreciation of the books and an honorable way of acquiring the right to use them. The Premier has not yet given out how much he is to receive. His silence on this point has left him open to the suspicion that he is willing to give Ontario's rights away for the sake of the implied recommendation.

AS TO DISEASED MEAT.

Where responsibility rests for the protection of the public health against diseased meat, was clearly shown by the Minister of Agriculture during the discussion of the bill to amend the meat and canned foods act in the House of Commons the other day. The case in Toronto some time ago, where meat was sold for a cent and a half a pound for canning purposes was referred to by an Opposition member as evidence of laxity on the part of Federal officers.

The question of local slaughtering and of protecting the health of the people, as Hon. Mr. Fisher pointed out, is a provincial one, the Federal authority being confined to the export and inter-provincial trade. In every establishment doing any inter-provincial or export trade—and there are about forty of them—there is an inspector employed by the Dominion Government whose business it is to supervise and watch the animals when they come in, their slaughter and their preparation for food. The Dominion department of agriculture does not touch abattoirs or slaughterhouses which are purely local in their character, leaving that to provincial or municipal authorities. No doubt, in places which are not under the operation of the Dominion act, many animals are slaughtered that are not in perfectly sound health, and probably the meat is in not a few cases sold for human consumption, but if the provincial and municipal authorities do not choose to prevent it the responsibility is theirs. It is the inter-provincial and export trade the act aims to protect, and without such a law the export trade would be in serious danger.

The reason the operation of the act is made to apply to inter-provincial as well as export trade is because the authorities in the province where an animal is slaughtered cannot control it in the province where it originated. At the same time the Dominion department has avoided undertaking anything in connection with what may be called purely local affairs, and if diseased meat gets in the market it is due to the laxity of provincial or municipal inspection.

Much has been accomplished through the enforcement of the Dominion act. It has been the means of stamping out hog cholera, and has reduced the ravages of glanders to such an extent that the compensation now paid for animals destroyed by order of the inspectors is but one-fifth what it was before the act went into force. It is hoped that before long the disease will be got completely within bounds.

SOCIALISTS CAPTURE MILWAUKEE.

The sweeping Socialist victory in Milwaukee this week has the interest of a new phenomenon for the people of the United States. The Democratic candidate for mayor was 7,000 votes behind the Socialist candidate, and the Republican 16,000 behind. The Socialists elected also 21 out of 25 members of the council, and 11 out of 16 supervisors.

The mayor-elect, Emil Seidel, is a German-American. Socialism has a strong hold upon Germans and their descendants in the United States, and Milwaukee is perhaps the most German city in the country. The result is interpreted also as a protest against corruption, and an expression of popular distrust of the Democratic and Republican machines. It is alleged that the municipal government has been debauched for years by the franchise-grabbing interests which are almost invariably at the root of "the great American evil." The new mayor promises a relentless warfare against graft and maladministration. Probably on this ground he carried the support of many who are opposed to his doctrines or are not concerned about any particular theory of government.

This is the first time a large American municipality has been entirely delivered into the hands of the Socialists, and it will be instructive to see how far and in what form the civic administration will attempt to apply Socialist ideas. The mayor speaks of municipal coal and wood yards, of penny lunches, and of a plan of work for the unemployed at union wages, and an eight-hour day. Such a programme points to the dangers and difficulties of the new regime. It may reform old abuses, but it may create others by ill-considered experiments. The payment of current wages for relief work, for example, would demoralize the labor market, even if the unemployed could be provided with work which would not compete with private industry. The unemployed problem is one of the highest statesmanship, and it has not yet been solved, though civilization must solve it or confess itself a failure. Perhaps the mayor of Milwaukee will realize that all his theories cannot be carried into practical effect, and will be content with making the best of the scheme of things as he finds it. He is well spoken of, and has every incentive to good behavior.

Hear Mr. MacKay tonight and you will hear a good speech.

A certain amount of conscientious insurgency is good for a party.

Is it merely a faction fight or is the

Conservative party honestly trying to slough off its old skin?

The News calls the anti-Foster Conservatives reorganizers, and the Mail calls them disorganizers.

The Ottawa Observer should be in favor of woman suffrage. The ladies have a fondness for remnants.

The revenue returns furnish further proof that Canada has become a one hundred million dollar country.

The Grand Trunk Pacific has brought in its first trainload of immigrants. The enterprise is paying the country dividends already.

The United States census will be taken this summer. It should have begun early so as to catch the 150,000 Americans who are leaving for Canada.

The Indiana Republicans have endorsed the insurgents and declared against the Payne-Aldrich tariff. It looks as though that long-suffering worm, the American consumer, had turned at last.

Many British papers are publishing Sir Thomas Shaughnessy's address in Montreal on the home rule question. A report appears on another page of this issue. There is no better imperialist and empire-builder than the head of the C. P. R., yet he believes that Irish home rule must and ought to come. His sane and reasonable point of view is becoming that of the British people.

HIRESTU DIFFERENCE. [Chicago News.] Little Willie—Say, pa, what is the difference between a poet and a pianist? Pa—A poet, my son, has long hair that hangs down, and a pianist has long hair that stands up.

THE WAY OF THE WORLD. [Boston Transcript.] Patient—Those new teeth, doctor, seem to cut and grind my food ones a good deal. Dentist—Ah, yes; they cut the ones not in their set.

TAKE THEM AWAY! [Kingston Standard, Conservative.] And pray tell us what is to be gained by closing our eyes to patent facts? The Mail knows—We all know—that there are some men in the Ontario party at Ottawa today who are not only not a source of strength to the party but are actually a source of weakness. Why then submit to a continuation of present conditions, which if allowed to remain much longer must sadly disintegrate the party?

SHOULD MIND THEIR OWN BUSINESS. [Hamilton Herald.] The London Chronicle's epithet of "tariff reformers," as applied to politicians from Great Britain who are being brought over to address British audiences during general elections, is deserved. Canadians, as Canadians, have no business mixing up in British politics.

SELF-MADE. [Chicago Record-Herald.] "Do you see that large woman with the diamond ring and the long-jointed fingers?" "Yes. What is remarkable about her?" She appears to be commanding a good deal of attention.

"It is pretty well known that she forced her daughter to marry old Rockingham for his money."

"Oh. A self-made mother-in-law, eh?"

ART. [Chicago Record-Herald.] "Have you any of the old masters in your gallery, Mr. Frumpleigh?" "Not yet, but Josiah has just placed an order with a New York dealer for \$30,000 worth, which he has agreed to ship (o.b.) by the middle of next month."

SECURE OBSCURITY. [S. E. Kiser.] I do not own a private car, no splendid yacht to go to sea with. I have no chateau on a hill; I am not famous. I confess, I am not. No costly hunting lodge is mine, I have no castle by the sea. Nobody ever thinks it worth his while to hunt a car at me.

I hold no office that is high; Wall Street is not disturbed at all. When I am sick enough to die, or if I chance to slip and fall. But, having seen some of the men who rule in politics and trade, I'm mighty glad I'm what I am—without a guard and unafraid.

MAKE IT EASIER FOR BABY. [Buffalo Express.] "Better take a hardwood table, ma'am; they are the fashionable thing," the dealer said.

"No," said the young woman; "baby will soon be old enough to hammer, and he never could drive a nail into hardwood. I'll take a plain pine table."

AN AUTOMOBILE TRIP. [T. E. M.] A whiff, a sniff of gasoline. A thought of worlds to come. A blur of green—the passing scene—I guess that's going some.

THE PREVAILING SENTIMENT. [St. Louis Star.] "Shall I run this poem in?" asked the compositor who was setting the bard's latest effort.

"No," said the foreman, after reading it. "Go and find the poet and have him run in."

CURRENCY SCHEME. [New York Sun.] Stella—What is emergency money? Bella—When you need a hat any money is emergency money.

AN IMPROVEMENT. [Chicago Post.] "Yes," says the man with the shaggy eyebrows, "we have a phonograph. We've got several Italian grand opera records, and last week I discovered a way to make their reproduction absolutely perfect."

"Indeed?" asks the man with the purple nose. "What is it?" "I rub a little garlic on the record before it is played."

THE HEN. [Arthur Roche in New York American.] Consider now the lowly hen. Who never has been sung in ballad, nor by any pen. Nor yet by any tongue. Been hallooed, poor barnyard fowl so meek. The eagle's humblest cousin—And yet her product rose last week To sixty-five per dozen.

She is no monarch of the air, She sticks right on the farm; She never ventures from her lair To work the shepherd hand. And yet, although she's quite sedate, Her bearing not romantic, Her eggs marked on the grocer's slate Has driven us quite frantic.

Too long we've failed to see her worth. Because she's on the ground,

And always grubbing in the earth; Far, far too late we've found That she's the most important bird That will ever tackle. And she laughs best, please mark my word, Whenever we hear her cackle.

TOO MUCH ATTENTION. [Punch.] Hotel Visitor—Are there never any deer about here?

Gillespie—There was yin, but the gentlemen were all shootin' and shootin' at it, and I'm thinkin' it left the destrict.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES. [Hawthorne Club Journal.] "That young fellow seems to have made a hit at your house."

"Yes, I judge he has. Ma's investigating his family tree, and pa's looking up his commercial standing."

FIXTURES THESE DAYS. [Buffalo Express.] "That's a beautiful girl you have in your store," said the man acquaintance. "I've seen her in the window several days as I passed."

"She isn't an employee," the milliner answered, yearly. "She's a woman trying to decide on a new hat."

NOT BROTHERLY. [St. Paul Globe.] "It seems cruel to slaughter all those pigs for market," said the Chicago girl. "I don't know that it's cruel," replied Miss Cayenne. "But when you think of what the packers charge for the meat, it does seem a little unfraternal."

GOLDWIN SMITH'S EXILE. Goldwin Smith writes to say that it has long been his wish to die at Cornell University. This is not the only evidence that the eminent scholar regarded his residence in Toronto as a long period of exile.

BUSINESS GOOD COAST TO COAST

The Weather Has Been Very Favorable to Spring Goods.

LOCAL TRADE IS STEADY. Bradstreet's Report of Commercial Conditions in Chief Centres of Dominion.

Montreal reports to Bradstreet's say general business continues to move satisfactorily. The weather has been favorable to spring trade and the turn-over of seasonal lines at retail is reported good. Wholesale drygoods houses are busy. Good sorting orders are coming forward and fall business already looks well. Indications are that the trade in light summer lines will be heavy. Retailers in most parts of the country have not ordered heavily owing to high prices, and it is expected that with a good season they will find the need of replenishing their shelves. Values of commodities are generally steady with firm inclinations. The hardware trade is active. Building operations are large in all parts of the country and the demand for supplies is brisk. Metals are active and generally firm. When navigation is well opened shipments of all lines will be large, particularly to the west. Country trade is fair to good. Deliveries of produce are large and values are firm. Collections are generally fair to good.

Brisk at Toronto. Toronto reports to Bradstreet's say all lines of trades continue to move briskly. The demand for retail lines has been active and a good movement is noted in men's and women's ready clothing. The boot and shoe trade is also active. The sorting-up trade in general drygoods has been brisk and the outlook for the future is good. Trade in this respect. Orders for fall goods are coming in satisfactorily and travellers on the road report excellent indications for the latter season. Some improvement is noted in the demand for groceries. Stocks of canned goods are growing light and values are firm. There is now an excellent demand for all seasonal lines of hardware. Builders' materials are active and request and there is also a good movement in structural steel. Metals are firm and in good demand. Country trade is showing further improvement. Receipts of produce continue large and prices are generally steady to large.

Winnipeg's Trade. Winnipeg reports say wholesale trade shows a steady increase in volume and the demand for seasonal lines at retail is reported good in all directions. Re-orders are fairly large, and in the majority of cases, are for a good range of lines. Good weather has resulted in great activity in outdoor work. The building trade is actively engaged and steady in this direction will this year show a large increase over that of last. The demand for supplies at all points is already heavy. Much work is being done on the land and the outlook for fall wheat is excellent. A feature of the year is likely to be an unprecedented rush of desirable immigration which is already beginning to pour into all parts of the country. A big rush of merchandise from the east is expected for the autumn fishing and opening of navigation. Collections are generally fair to good.

Coast Cities. Vancouver and Victoria reports say a good movement is reported in all lines of trade. Sorting orders for general lines are of good volume, and there is every indication that the turn-over for the season will be large. All provincial industries are busily engaged and promise to continue so throughout the summer. Preparations are under way for the salmon fishing season and a fairly good catch is anticipated. Much railroad building will be done during this season from which general business will reap the usual benefit. Collections are fairly satisfactory.

Steady at Hamilton. Hamilton reports say a steady volume of trade is moving in all lines of seasonal goods. The business in clothing and general drygoods continues to be active. Factories are busy, and there is considerable activity in the way of building. Trade in the surrounding district is of fair proportion. But little complaint is now heard in the matter of collections. London reports say a steady trade is noted for all lines. Wholesalers report good sorting orders and an excellent outlook for fall business, and local factories are well supplied with orders. Country trade is of fair volume and collections are fair to good. Ottawa reports say there has been

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GALT OPERA HOUSE DESTROYED BY FIRE
Sixty-Thousand-Dollar Structure Badly Guttled Yesterday Afternoon.

[G. N. W. Dispatch.] Galt, April 8.—Fire was noticed in Scott's Opera House about 1 p.m. by workmen on their way to work. The contents of the five stores on the ground floor are ruined. The building is owned by the estate of the late John Scott, and the loss is estimated at \$60,000.

On the first there were six stores, with one of them vacant. Jacob Helin, furniture and upholstery, saved his stock. Wm. Hunter, sporting goods, also got all their stock removed. E. A. McDonald, grocer, lost considerable. A. G. Briggs, of 2nd and Yonge, lost nearly everything, but it is insured, and T. Lockhart & Co., plumbers, are also insured. The building was a two-story red brick. The theory now is that the fire started at the switchboard.

The roof of the building was burned and fell into the theatre, causing the damage. The stage was also gutted, and a lot of valuable scenery destroyed. One side of the balcony gave way, but a large number of the opera chairs are in good condition, and a lot of those destroyed will be easily repaired.

THE BOYS' BISLEY
Four To Be Sent From Canada by the Militia Department.

Ottawa, April 8.—The militia department has decided to send four cadets to the Imperial Cadet Association shoot, London, England, to take part in the "Boys' Bisley," on May 24. There will be a miniature competition of the Canadian Rifle League, prior to the selection of the cadets. The average made in this competition will be added to their average in the primary and match competition, and the cadets making the highest aggregate average will be selected, provided they are otherwise eligible.

Cadets for senior series must be under 18 years old and juniors under 16, on July 1, 1910, and all must be enrolled members of a gazetted cadet corps. The outlying or illegalizing of a loan upon which more than the statutory interest was bargained for had been suggested, but the Premier thought this might tend to encourage dishonest borrowers.

AFTER THE USURERS
Ontario Government Will Take Action to Block Illegal Methods.

Toronto, April 8.—Asked concerning possible Government action as a result of the general prevalence of usury in the province, Sir Jas. Whitney, who is acting attorney-general in the absence of Hon. J. J. Foy, stated today that it was his intention to confer with Mr. J. R. Cartwright, K. C., deputy attorney-general, with a view of evolving, if possible, some means of reaching in Ontario those who are able to evade the federal law.

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BRITAIN LAUNCHES A DREADNOUGHT
Clyde Bank, Scotland, April 8.—The Colossus, Great Britain's ninth battleship of the Dreadnought type, was launched here today. The vessel has a displacement of 22,000 tons. The keel was laid nine months ago.

SHRINERS ARE OFF FOR NEW ORLEANS
Mocha Temple Delegates Leave Tonight via Grand Trunk Railway.

The Mocha Temple Shriners, who will attend the Imperial council of the order to be held in New Orleans on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday of next week, will leave tonight over the Grand Trunk for the southern city.

Those who will make the trip are Past Potentate A. J. Davis, representative to the council; Noble A. J. Somerville, representative from Mocha Temple; and Mrs. Somerville. Noble Ben Noble and Mrs. Noble, Noble Frank Miller, Noble A. G. Jones, Noble Marshall Ryan, Noble Art. McKenzie, London; Noble A. J. Nixon, Ottawa; Noble Sam Ryckman, Windsor; Noble E. M. Vaddell, Peterboro; Noble Jack Merriman, Hamilton; Noble Frank Nancekeville, Toronto; and Travelling Passenger Agent D. D. D. of the Grand Trunk.

The party will leave at 8:10 p.m. at Pullman at 8:10 o'clock for Detroit, going to the M. C. R. to Cincinnati, where they will join the special train of Ismailia Temple, Buffalo. Part of Sunday will be spent in Cincinnati, and Monday the visitors will spend a few hours at Chattanooga and Lookout Mountain. They will arrive in New Orleans on Tuesday morning.

ARMORIES SHOW A REVELATION
The weekly letter of R. G. Dun & Co. from London pays a high compliment to the "Made-in-London" exhibition. Trade conditions also continue good. The letter says: "The exhibition of 'Made-in-London' goods has been a revelation to the ordinary visitor, who never realized that so many and diverse things were made here, and which for workmanship and material rank with the very best made anywhere. The exhibition must be very gratifying to the many manufacturers exhibiting, and no doubt substantial returns will be realized. Trade conditions continue good in the city and larger towns, but in the country it is rather quiet, farmers being too busy to attend market. Money is a little tight just now, as a consequence, and it is likely to be in a spring trade becomes more general."

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