

THE FAKED TELEGRAMS.

We really think the gentleman who is opposing Mayor Hayward are carrying the fight too far into Africa—or perhaps we should say into Australia and round the world. It is true His Worship gathered a number of prominent and distinguished gentlemen together on the occasion of the completion of the Pacific cable, furnished them with texts, in the form of telegrams, for eloquent discourses on the glories of the Empire generally and the enterprise of the colonies in particular. Those dispatches were popularly supposed to have passed over the new route, and the truth was not discovered until a bill for a sum in the neighborhood of a hundred dollars was presented by the C. P. R. Telegraph Company, "through the courtesy of Mr. Christie," the manager. That is to say, the telegrams were faked, and as they were faked there must have been a faker. The truth of these propositions being established, it follows as a natural sequence that the orators were gathered together on false pretences, and were, to put the matter bluntly, made fools of. But this poor old world would be a dull place to live in if its inhabitants were not given a trifle of license occasionally, the imagination permitted to run riot and the sense of the humorous allowed free course. The defence of His Worship will be, if he takes the trouble to defend himself, that it was necessary for Victoria to let the world know that she was still in the ring—not the cable ring, but in the arena as one of the important places of the Pacific Coast. As an abstract proposition it is well to be honest, sincere and truthful in deed as well as in word, but if Mayors and cities desire to maintain their position it may sometimes be necessary to resort to stratagem. His Worship is an expert in tactics, and all his resources have been called into play, during the last year particularly, for the purpose of convincing the ratepayers of Victoria that it is essential to be given a fourth term. The matter of the faked telegrams is but an incident in the campaign of fraud and deceit.

A CRUEL BLOW.

Wednesday was a sad, sad day for the Conservative opposition in Ontario. After wandering for upwards of thirty years in the wilderness, leaving many leaders buried by the wayside, the present chief of the party was carried in spirit, after a very close general election, into a high mountain and obtained a glimpse of the fair land of power and plenty. Mr. Whitney, we believe, affected a hopefulness he was far from feeling in his heart. He probably had misgivings that the confidence of the electors would return to the party which has administered the affairs of the province for such an unprecedented length of time in a business-like manner, and without leaving an opening for a single substantial charge against the integrity of the various administrations. It is true there have been vehement allegations of corruption. It is also true that supporters of the government in the heat of conflict have been guilty of acts which have been deplored by all who hold sacred popular institutions. Such lapses have gripped the hearts of all thoughtful and right-minded men. The government of Ontario has indicated its attitude towards offenders by the passage of laws covering the offences. And it has enforced the laws and punished wrong-doers. Is there on record an instance of a Conservative government proceeding against its friends on account of an unlawful act perpetrated on its behalf? We have yet to hear of it. On the contrary, the most flagrant instances of corruption and actual criminality have been defended on the floor of the House of Commons and condoned by the votes of a partisan majority. Seats have been boldly stolen by the acts of returning-officers and candidates receiving a minority of the votes have been seated in Parliament. Far be it from us to suggest that the wrong-doing of Conservatives is any palliation of evil wrought by Liberals. All we claim is that in the one case an honest effort has been made to preserve the sanctity of free institutions; in the other the dominant idea has been to attain to or retain power in defiance of the popular will. The adherents of Toryism have not been so much to blame for this as their leaders. They simply followed the example of the men who sold the Canadian Pacific charter for boodle and who later introduced and forced through the House the infamous Gerrymander Act—and which, by the way, will be repealed at the coming session of Parliament and a new measure, fair to both parties, introduced in its stead. And yet, in face of the records, a tremendous howl has arisen from the Conservative press of Ontario about corruption. This cry has been echoed in some of the newspapers of British Columbia. If the editors were as familiar with the political history of Canada as they ought to be they would refrain. Perhaps they have forgotten that Colonel Prior was driven from the Dominion Parliament because of corrupt acts and that Mr. Earle might have been treated in the same manner but for reasons into which we do not desire to enter. And we would not like to wrong the Colonel by saying there was any difference in degree between his wrong-doing in the last instance and the iniquity of his acts on the other occasions.

in which he had appeared before the people. The fact appears to be that the general policy of the Dominion or the Ontario governments cannot be successfully attacked, so the opposition in both cases confine themselves to general charges of corruption. The incongruity of the situation will be at once understood when we point out that two of the three constituencies in which elections were held yesterday were opened by the courts on account of the corrupt acts of Conservatives.

Nor will the severity of the blow be felt alone by the Conservative opposition in Ontario. Mr. Whitney is eager for office, but not more eager than his brothers in affliction who annually assemble at Ottawa. They all felt that if a Tory government were in power at Toronto the great province of Ontario might be turned into a strong tower from which the next Dominion campaign might be conducted. That was Sir Charles Tupper's original plan of campaign—to capture the outposts first, and the rest would be easy. But the outposts have never been more than a mere glimmer of hope of capturing Ontario. That ray has been entirely shut out by the by-elections held yesterday. The Ross government is now assured of a sufficient working majority. The opposition of Mr. Whitney will collapse as has been its habit in the past.

THE MUNICIPAL SITUATION.

Whatever the result of the election to be held on Thursday next may be, it is quite apparent from the tone of the public meeting held last night that the people of Victoria have been aroused from their apathy and are taking a healthy interest in public affairs. The present municipal contest promises to prove one of the warmest in the history of the city.

The Colonist says no valid reason was advanced by Ald. McCandless for his decision to oppose Mayor Hayward. A conclusion such as that is perhaps not unnatural when we consider the relations which exist between our contemporary and His Worship. Before the campaign opened the newspaper frankly admitted that Mr. Hayward was its enemy for the position of First Magistrate. Such being the case, the strongest reason in the world could hardly be expected to move it. We think the vast majority of the electors who attended the meeting in the City Hall last evening will agree with us that it was demonstrated beyond peradventure that it is time for a change. No doubt there are a few people there who, like our steadfast neighbor, went with their convictions well grounded and were not convinced by what they heard that Mayor Hayward has outlived his usefulness.

The most interesting phase of the proceedings, as usual, proved the impromptu part. The scope for debate on matters of general public policy is comparatively limited. Extension of the sewers, reclamation of the mud flats, the deplorable position of affairs in regard to the exhibition, street paving, Point Billee bridge, the Indian reserve, etc., had all been discussed pretty thoroughly on the platform and in the press, and the attitude of the two candidates on these important matters was fairly well understood. But it was perfectly evident there was a feeling in the meeting that, important as these matters undoubtedly are, there are others of far greater moment in the estimation of people whose supreme desire it is to see one great cause of reproach to our city wiped out. We refer those who take an interest in this matter, and who were not present at the meeting to witness the pitiful figure the Mayor presented last night, to read our report of the proceedings published in another column.

With a deprecating gesture His Worship murmured something about evils which have existed from the beginning and the impossibility of making men moral by act of Parliament. These are the old platitudes that have done duty, probably since the beginning. They are the excuses put in in extenuation of their crimes by the men of Minneapolis and St. Louis who are now in jail paying the penalty of their perfidy in allying themselves with thieves, and worse, and through the instrumentality of the police exacting toll from the vicious and the depraved. Is there a law upon the statute book covering offences against the public that is not broken? Is the fact that they are broken ever urged as a reason why they should not be enforced, or perhaps only enforced spasmodically during periods of public agitation and indignation? Even with the weight of experience that the way of the transgressor is hard, men will continue to fail and to do the wrong thing. But we submit that is no reason why at least a semblance of decency should not be observed in our streets and the places which are known to be snare set for the feet of the young and inexperienced should not be compelled to take in their signs and at least conduct their operations behind closed doors. If the element to which we refer were deprived of its victims and forced to gain what sustenance it could from its own body it would soon cease to be the force it is today in our municipal life at election time. If the position of His Worship were followed out to its logical conclusion, the foundations of society would soon begin to crumble away.

We think we have now about covered

the case of Mayor Hayward. The proceedings of the public meeting held last night confirm all we have said during the past week in regard to his career as the chief magistrate of the city in the year just closed. We leave his case in the hands of the public, and if it refuses to do its duty our conscience is clear.

THE MAYOR'S MISREPRESENTATIONS.

To the Editor:—At the public meeting last night Mayor Hayward is reported to have spoken to the following effect:

"The contest was one between the Times and the Colonist, and not between individuals. He had been violently attacked by Senator Templeman at the post office one day, because an article (unauthorized) had appeared in the Colonist announcing that Ald. McCandless was a candidate for the mayoralty. Senator Templeman said that Mr. McCandless must now be a candidate, and that he (the Senator) would make him run."

This is not given as the exact language used by the Mayor at last night's meeting, but I am credibly informed that it accurately conveys the meaning of what he said. Those who heard the Mayor will know if I correctly quote him. There are two points in this statement on which the Mayor is in error. I will not say Mr. Hayward wilfully and intentionally perverts what was said during a casual conversation, but I am absolutely certain that he is none the less responsible for a most extraordinary perversion of facts.

It is not true that I "violently attacked" the Mayor on the occasion referred to; it would not be true to say that I "attacked" him at all. It is equally untrue to say that I made the remark that "I would make Ald. McCandless run," or any remark that could be properly so construed by the Mayor. His Worship is simply romancing.

During a brief private conversation with the Mayor at the time referred to, I spoke of the announcement in the Colonist that Mr. McCandless was a candidate for the office of Mayor (which was made without the authority of Mr. McCandless) and before he had decided to become a candidate), as a most unusual thing, and I pointed out that it was like to bring about a contest, which I supposed it was Mr. Hayward's wish to avoid. I said that I thought it would have the effect of forcing Mr. McCandless out and that I did not see how he could very well decline to run now that the Colonist had placed him in the field. He said all this was said in confidence, and that he would not repeat it to do much work as is likely to fall to their lot in life. Latin and Greek are all right for clergymen or other professional men, but for the average man whose life is devoted to business or mechanical pursuits. Indeed, I have heard a number of clergymen and professional men regret that they had spent so much time in the study of Latin and Greek, and that they had not better spent it in learning something that would have been of greater use to them. But as everyone has business relations of one kind or another with other people, a good business education is sure to be of value to one, and every boy and girl at school has a right to receive it.

W. TEMPLEMAN.

Mayor Hayward and his friends are confident of victory. At least that is what they say. His Worship is admittedly a master hand at organization. His plan of campaign contemplates the mobilization of an army that will be irresistible in its terrible onslaught. It will literally sweep all before it. Have the ratepayers ever considered the position of the elements His Worship is scheming to marshal under his pure and undodded banner? In one division he enrols the forces which subscribe unhesitatingly to His Worship's original proposition that you cannot make men moral by act of Parliament, in the other will be found the class which prides itself on the regularity of its attendance at public worship and nods its head approvingly in endorsement of abstract denunciations of vice. We have heard of unholy political alliances, but this is really a most unique thing in generalship. A commander who can unite two such antagonistic forces deserves to succeed. But perhaps the antagonism is only seeming.

SCHOOL PROBLEMS.

No. 2.

By Trustee Huggett.

To the Editor:—I anticipate that the mere mention of technical education will create opposition from the fact that many people in Victoria will associate with it a probable increase in the taxation upon the score of education. But not so. This very necessary branch of practical instruction could be started and maintained and cost the city practically nothing. I am not suggesting that technical education should at present become a part of our public school system, but I feel anxious to show how great a need there is of something being done that shall make it possible for our boys and girls, after leaving school, to still pursue a course of instruction in the full and practical in every sense of the word. There are attending the manual training school in the city to-day a large number of our boys, who are showing much ability as young craftsmen and who are destined to become expert mechanics if an opportunity is given them of taking up the advanced work of their trade. It is a pity that they should be compelled to take in their signs and at least conduct their operations behind closed doors. If the element to which we refer were deprived of its victims and forced to gain what sustenance it could from its own body it would soon cease to be the force it is today in our municipal life at election time. If the position of His Worship were followed out to its logical conclusion, the foundations of society would soon begin to crumble away.

We think we have now about covered the case of Mayor Hayward. The proceedings of the public meeting held last night confirm all we have said during the past week in regard to his career as the chief magistrate of the city in the year just closed. We leave his case in the hands of the public, and if it refuses to do its duty our conscience is clear.

Victoria and other parts of British Columbia. I am particularly interested in the question, having four boys in my family, all of whom may make their choice from the various branches of mechanics, and I am anxious for their sakes, as I am for the general good of all, that an opportunity of some kind be given our children.

So many of our boys and girls are compelled to leave school at a comparatively early age (not so early, however, as the writer, who had to face the world at twelve). Nevertheless, the youth of the city suffer the greatest disadvantage from the fact that there is no institution in the city affording instruction apart from that given during the regular school hours. I would suggest that something be done in the near future, and I shall be glad to be a party to the organization of it, which shall have the distinctive features of a night school, and which shall provide regular courses of instruction as well as paving the way for "a city technical institute." The work could doubtless be undertaken in the new High school building, and maintained from the fees of the pupils attending evening classes. When the time is ripe for a forward movement I would suggest that the provincial government provide a building and equip it, while the city should take the responsibility of maintenance, which would be more than met by the students' fees, the growth of the institution keeping pace with the revenue thus produced. I cannot, Mr. Editor, in this letter do more than suggest that such an effort be made at an early date to provide the means whereby our own boys and girls may have a fair show with those of the Eastern provinces and the United States.

Let a night school be started, never mind how humble the start may be. We should make an heroic effort at least along the line I have so inadequately indicated. I believe that we all have the best interests of our boys and girls at heart, and that whatever is done for their moral and mental improvement will bear fruit to the honor of the city. I am, Mr. Editor, in this letter do more than suggest that such an effort be made at an early date to provide the means whereby our own boys and girls may have a fair show with those of the Eastern provinces and the United States.

ALFRED HUGGETT.

PRACTICAL EDUCATION.

To the Editor:—Trustee Huggett hit the nail on the head in his letter in the Times on Wednesday. The kind of education that we want our boys and girls to have is that which will fit them to do such work as is likely to fall to their lot in life. Latin and Greek are all right for clergymen or other professional men, but for the average man whose life is devoted to business or mechanical pursuits. Indeed, I have heard a number of clergymen and professional men regret that they had spent so much time in the study of Latin and Greek, and that they had not better spent it in learning something that would have been of greater use to them. But as everyone has business relations of one kind or another with other people, a good business education is sure to be of value to one, and every boy and girl at school has a right to receive it.

On looking over the course of study for High schools I find that Latin is a compulsory subject. This is absurd. Are there not dozens of subjects of practical value that are just as valuable for mental training? Why then should my child be compelled to study a dead language which it, and the great majority of every day people, sees but little use in, and as a consequence is deprived of instruction in the things which we know to be of great importance?

Yes! Mr. Huggett, let us have a technical school by all means, but in the meantime do try to interest our new minister of education, who seems to be a man of progressive spirit, in the matter of modernizing our High school course, by striking Latin from the compulsory list.

VANCOUVER ISLAND DEVELOPMENT.

To the Editor:—Your issue of the 6th inst. contained a very interesting letter signed "Progress." It should be our future watchword. It would be well to impress it on the minds of future political aspirants at the next election, for we need it both in and out of parliament. It is time to come down to earth. Business is what we must be appured to the least observant that we have in our midst a man of the actual prospecting has demonstrated the fact that the future of the island is in the future exploration of its resources. Give the hardy prospector a chance to reach the interior of the island and we shall have astonishing results and surprises. The imperative and urgent necessity is a railway through the centre of the island to open up the almost unknown territory for settlement, and also to create a highway to the fertile country lying at the extreme north of the island, where well known extensive harbors and waterways exist. The people must take up this important question themselves. The proposed organization to develop our immense resources must not die of inaction. Public meetings should be arranged to give free discussion, as it is of vital interest to all Victorians. As we have the wealth at our own doors, and need not go abroad, we must be loyal, independent and confident, and drop for the time being all outside systems. We have the means to make a highway to the fertile country lying at the extreme north of the island, where well known extensive harbors and waterways exist. The people must take up this important question themselves. The proposed organization to develop our immense resources must not die of inaction. Public meetings should be arranged to give free discussion, as it is of vital interest to all Victorians. As we have the wealth at our own doors, and need not go abroad, we must be loyal, independent and confident, and drop for the time being all outside systems. 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