



The Free Press,
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NOTE AND COMMENT.

Three of the eight boys bitten by a rabid dog in Baltimore, and subsequently inoculated and treated at the New York Pasteur Institute, are dead. The animal that did the mischief in these cases was in a particularly dangerous condition and the wounds he made were very serious. The other boys bitten are getting nervous over the fate of their comrades in misfortune.

Men who talk of reverting to the system of open voting are of course in a hopeless minority. That will never be again. With all its defects and shortcomings the ballot is better than the old way. It ensures a quiet polling, and freedom from rowdiness and bulldozing and unrestricted "spotting" in the case of factory operatives and persons in like employments. The Dominion ballot secures all such the free exercise of the franchise. It is chiefly against the Ontario Numbered Ballot that the objection holds.

Many electors wish for a return of the old plan of open voting, as being more manly and honorable than going behind a screen to mark a piece of paper in secret. They say it makes a man feel like a sneak, a coward or a slave to do this, in order to record his vote for a Parliamentary representative. This feeling is no doubt increased by the knowledge that in certain cases, like a Provincial election, the act described is but a farce, seeing that under the infamous Numbered Ballot there is no real secrecy but only a pretense of it. The number on the ballot corresponding with a number on the book opposite the elector's name is the "little joker" that tells "the tale out of school."

Before the Tariff Commissioners at Montreal, Mr. E. N. Hensy, carriage maker, said the trade was satisfied with the present duties which not only protected the carriage trade but accessory trades, such as shafts, carriage parts, bolts, nuts, etc. Mr. Hensy pointed out that the American market was at present demoralized, and if the duties were lowered, Canadians would suffer from the unfair competition. He predicted that the market here would be flooded with American goods. Mr. Fielding sarcastically suggested that "it ought then to be the business of legislation to keep up the price of goods." Mr. Hensy replied that "it is the business of legislation to give employment to our people."

Free speech and a free press.—Grit paper.

And let us add freedom in the civil service to vote as you please without the risk of being sacked as an "offensive partisan." More "rank tyranny" is exercised by the Mowat myridons in Ontario, under the infamous Numbered Ballot system of voting than by all the clerics. When a set of License Commissioners have power to thrust the family out of house and home, unless the head of it will do thus and so, and when this is threatened in order to force political servitude, is this not tyranny of the rankest kind? Let the Grits correct the means of tyrannizing over the electors in Ontario before they put up any notions of freedom for Quebec.

Some curious statistics have been compiled by an officer of the Washington Government, showing comparisons between the States which were carried for free silver at the last election, and those which cast their votes for McKinley and Hobart. The pamphlet shows that while gold territory has less than 1,000,000 square miles, silver has 1,726,235, and yet gold has over 39,000,000 population to silver's 22,000,000, and gold has 822,074 illiterate native whites to 1,197,663 for silver. While gold spends \$107,000,000 for schools, silver only spends \$30,000,000; while gold owns \$47,000,000,000 worth of property, silver only owns \$17,000,000,000; while gold farms are worth \$9,000,000,000, silver men only own \$3,000,000,000 worth. The silver territory has more savings bank depositors than the gold territory, and the gold sections have more farms mortgaged than the silver.

In the Winnipeg and Macdonald election cases, charges of ballot stuffing are made. It is said the tactics resorted to in Jacques Cartier in 1875 by the friends of Mr. Laflamme have been repeated in the North-west. It is far easier to make allegations in election cases than to prove them. A petitioner who does not know of any single infraction of the law in a given case is at perfect liberty to trump up 1,500 (fifteen hundred) charges, yet if he cannot prove one of them no harm results to him. He is under no penalty for putting the court, the successful candidate and hundreds of citizens to trouble and inconvenience, if he fails to establish a single one of the 1,500 charges. The witness who confesses that he gave or took a bribe is under the law liable to condemnation, but the bogus pe-

tioner who lends his helpless and irresponsible name to a list of criminal accusations against other men, suffers no penalty if the charges be false. Is this right?

Grit papers are fond of repeating that the Club Nationale of Montreal is in a highly flourishing condition, and that the entertainments which it gives to its political chiefs are of the finest. Simultaneously we notice articles sent from Montreal to the Anglophone journals of the United States, telling how gloriously the movement for the independence of Canada is moving along. One of these writers speaks of the "prosperity Canada threw away when she separated herself from the rest of the continent to which she belongs, at the bidding of a corrupt political faction thirty years ago." Allusion is here made to the reciprocity treaty of 1854, which was terminated in 1866. Canada did not throw away that commercial arrangement, however. It was abrogated by the United States Government as an avowed means of "starving Canada into annexation." But so far from that, the unneighborly course of the U. S. was a blessing in disguise. It threw the Canadian people upon their own resources, with advantages which they had hardly dreamt of before. It made them an united people; it hastened Confederation; it built the Canadian Pacific Railway; it opened direct steamship transit to Europe and Asia. It led Canadians to study their own country and its grand possibilities, and to authorize the boldest measures of advancement. Canada never had its foot so firmly planted on the continent to which it belongs as when the treaty which made it dependent on and subservient to the States was done away with. The Club Nationale of Montreal may see in its mind's eye possibilities for Canada apart from its British connection; it may dream dreams of one day seeing the tri-color, where the Union Jack now floats in the breeze, but that day will not come in our time.

A Grit contemporary boasts that "next year Premier Laurier will have three Lieut.-Governorships to fill." Boast not, for ye know not what else a year may bring forth!

AGRICULTURAL PROSPERITY.

The year 1897 is likely to be much better for all agricultural enterprises than any that has recently dawned. The depression in farming, which has existed in all countries, has at last reduced agricultural products to, or below, the world's requirement. A recent statistical report estimates the world's wheat product at 146,000,000 bushels below that of recent years. As the world's population and use of wheat increases yearly, it will take a year or more for the present deficiency to be supplied. Within this time, whoever can first produce wheat of good quality and put it on the world's market is certain of a good price for it, at least as compared with recent years.

The United States has for months been marketing corn much more largely than she has ever been able to do at any former period. Part of this corn helps to supply the food deficiency caused by the scarcity of wheat. But it is probable that hereafter more American corn (maize) will find a market abroad, and prevent this staple from going below paying price for its grower. That both wheat and corn have been too cheap to grow with profit has injured farmers, who do not depend on either of these crops, because it has forced those who were engaged in growing these staples into competition with farmers in the specialties that they had before held to be exclusively their own. It is certain that when somewhat higher prices put both wheat growing and corn growing on a paying basis, the men who have been driven from these to other crops will at least partially return to their old methods of cropping, and thus relieve the severities of competition, which has lowered the prices of every agricultural product, and has driven thousands into cities as the only means of getting an honest living, and has left them there more than ever unable to succeed in the fierce competition under which all business in cities is now done.

There is likely to be for the coming year more paying work to be done in the country on the farm than in the cities. All the cities of both Canada and the United States are congested with people, who could do better for themselves if they would find somewhere in the country to work at farming. If they are only able and willing to work, they can find employment that will not only secure them board and lodging, but enable them to save in the course of a year more than they have lately been able to save even when employed in the city. On the farm board and lodging are always certain for those able to do any labor. In the city, even what are considered good wages, are mostly used up for rent and living expenses. When the city workman is thrown out of employment, he is obliged to live much more expensively than he need do in the country. What has driven so many from farming has been the difficulty of getting work even at low prices. For a year at least to come it seems likely that this objection will not be true. Farmers are quick to see and seize opportunities for making money, and such an increase in farming operations of all kinds is looked for the coming year as will furnish employment on farms to many thousands, who, the past year or two, have been living as best they could in enforced idleness.

It is partly because so many people have crowded into cities that the wages of city workmen have been depressed. It has also increased the competition in cities and has thrown many out of employment.

For colds try Kura-Kof, price 25c., at Anderson & Nelles' drug store.

ATTACKED HIM BITTERLY.

Attempt to Ring in Politics in the Sixth Ward.

MR. P. H. BARTLETT'S SIN.

Trustee McPherson Makes a Foolish Effort to Create Capital.

JOHN M. PARSONS FOR MAYOR.

Mr. Little's Opponent Tells Why He is in the Field—The Candidates for the Ward Each Have a Turn on the Stump.

The electors of No. 6 Ward held a meeting in Tremblay's Hall last night, and it was well attended. Unfortunately a deliberate attempt was made by an over-zealous politician to introduce politics, but fortunately it acted as a boomerang, and the perpetrator, who came, armed with newspaper extracts, musty from age, evidently felt at the conclusion of it much like a man who realized that he had done a very foolish thing. What made the case all the more unfortunate was the fact that the attack was made by a man who had just been elected by the whole people. A more unhappy display of political ill-nature has not been witnessed in this city, and it was promptly frowned upon by the chairman, Ald. Parnell, and the electors present. Mr. Little, the candidate, a spirited reply from Mr. Bartlett, who is one of the most popular and able young men in the Ward.

The meeting did not get under way until nearly 8.30. After some difficulty in securing a chairman, Mr. Wm. Kennedy consented to act.

A MAYORALTY CANDIDATE.

Mr. John M. Parsons, one of the candidates for Mayor, was first called on. He said it was a credit to any city to have a man like Mayor Little offering again. He was running for Mayor because it produced a necessary criticism. The reason he was not present at the East London meeting was that he knew nothing of it. Mr. Parsons said he was born in the suburbs of London, and his little boy was now 12 years old. He had been very much disappointed at what had happened the last two years when the taxes were no lower than 21 9/10 mills. He had hoped that the rate would have been 18 or 19 mills. He then enumerated ways in which economy might have been exercised. Streets twenty feet wide were well known to be sufficient. He had been struck with these narrower roads in the American cities, silver strips as it were. A very large saving could be effected if the roads were narrowed and made more permanent. He believed a large sum could annually be saved in the sidewalk. People in the outer parts of the city were still without sidewalks, yet sidewalks in the other parts were often wasted. The main question was that of sewers. "We have the King street sewer," he said, "which is 34 1/2 feet. Three others are of similar diameter. The York street sewer is of smaller diameter. Then there is a sewer on Stanley street and another on the Wortley Road. The new sewers are to run up the northern part of the city and along the southern part, and a new one on this side. Then can you get a cat through a keyhole?" This, he said, in ridicule of the proposed size of the sewers. He claimed that the new sewers would leave matters largely as they are, and that the Ontario Government was dealing unfairly with the city in ordering the citizens to construct sewers and still allowing them to make a system which would allow the sewage to run into the river with a very little storm.

He charged that Mayor Little, who controlled his Council so perfectly, should have gone to the Government and made an effort to effect a remedy. The scheme in the end would give trouble. He did not believe that Mayor Little would wrong anyone, but he claimed that he was being led away by experts. Experts had defeated Water Commissioner Jones for the mayoralty; they led him to purchase the new pumps at Springbank, which he said, was not necessary, and cost the city \$50,000. Speaking of experts, he said that in this hall not long ago a bottle of liquid was exhibited as coming from the asylum sewage farm. Yet Dr. Buckle told him that he had been in the farm and had met. Here, however, was one of these "big guns" carting a bottle of liquid around that never came from the farm. Then \$25,000 had gone into the Fair Board—gone forever. The Fair Board was costing us too much money. It was one of the reasons why taxes were going up. It was only \$25,000 here and \$50,000 there. But they made a tax rate of 21 9/10 mills, beside local improvements. He argued that the Fair Board surplus should be divided with the city, as was the water-works' surplus. Mr. Parsons claimed that the water-works was costing too much, and he advocated a system of meters. The Free Library Board had too many lawyers on it. "I wish to show that it was necessary to have a blacksmith, a boiler maker or a machinist on the board. It was a great mistake to have given the Street Railway Company liberty to cross all the bridges, without paying a cent of taxes. Yet now we saw them in opposition to the large skating rinks in the city, that were paying taxes, with their rink down at Springbank. Mayor Little was not looking after the interests of the city when he allowed them to come in without paying a percentage or at least building their own bridges.

NEGLECTING A "GOOD THING." Mr. Geo. Deacon made a speech that was evidently understood by no one. It appeared that Mr. Deacon had a scheme for supplying the city with sewers and a water supply in some town, and that he had submitted it at the City Hall and been quietly laughed at. Ald. Gerry appeared before the electors as a plain workman. He gave praise to the Mayor and his colleagues in a plain manner. He was on the Finance Committee, and could say that great care had been taken with the finances. With respect to the streets more work had been done this year than in any two years before. He claimed to have voted freely and conscientiously during his term of office, and he had shown this by his vote on the sewage question. Since, however, he had studied the question further, he believed that the experts did not understand their business. With reference to the Free Library, he saw no objection to lawyers being on the board as well as anyone else. The Librarian was a thorough gentleman. Mr. Thos. Hillard briefly announced himself as a candidate.

Ald. McCallum made his third appearance as an aldermanic candidate. He rehearsed the fire alarm box deal, and his part therewith; he had moved for a financial report as to the standing of the companies, but failing this, he had moved to throw out the offer. He explained the 10-hour clause of the sewer contract, and said if he had not voted as he did the work would have been delayed for several weeks at least.

Mr. P. H. Bartlett spoke next. He had been asked to come out by a good number of people and had done so. There were some matters he desired to say a word or two about. The matter of the sewers had been settled by the citizens. London was a great city and could not afford to have an imperfect system of sewage. With regard to experts, he could not see how the city could get along without them. The matter of building sewers especially called for the opinion of an expert. The sewers might appear not to be large enough. But in the absence of other sound opinion on it, we should feel safe in trusting to the experts. With regard to the employment of outside contractors, the question was a serious one. The profits went outside, and they took every bit of work out of our workmen. A local contractor, having the interests of the city at heart, would take greater care with their work. Surely in this city of 40,000 people we could build our own sewers. He would not go to any length as to difference of price. But he would go a long way. Then with regard to the hours of labor, perhaps it was so that the 10-hour clause had been inserted by mistake. But he found fault with Ald. McCallum's vote on the matter. He had voted to con-

tinued that clause. And Ald. Parnell, the "workman's friend," had voted the same way. A very wide clause had been inserted with regard to experts, which permitted of the present employment of 12 or 13 workmen. Mr. Bartlett dealt with temperance questions. He was one of the very first to advocate the passage of the Scott Act in this country. And although not at all satisfied with the way it worked, it was a step in the right direction. Any attempt to extend the privileges now held by the hotelmen would be a mistake. He made no reflection upon any men in the business. So long as the laws recognized it, it was a business that any man was entitled to carry on. But in the interest of the country and the city, any movement should be in the direction of preventing the granting of licenses, instead of increasing them. A movement was being made in high quarters to relax the license laws. Public sentiment would not back it up. With regard to the plebiscite, he would do everything in reason to see that there was a fair expression of public opinion, so far as anything the Council might have to do with the matter. If elected, Mr. Bartlett said he would act without fear or favor or with regard to any party. He believed that in these matters it was simply a question of business. Civic business should be done simply as one's own business. Any man who went to the Council should go to represent the whole city and the ward that elected him.

Mr. John McPherson, who has been elected by acclamation as School Trustee, told the electors, jokingly, that they had done themselves an honor. He then proceeded to bitterly attack Mr. Bartlett. He introduced politics at the outset, and said that at a Conservative meeting, held two years or more ago, Mr. Bartlett had said that the Liberal party should undergo a laundrying process; but he would not like to be present; that "Hobbs' disinfectant" should be used. This was the only remark of Mr. Bartlett's, evidently, which Mr. McPherson evidently had been able to find. Yet he termed this the calling of "vile names," and said it was "stuff and rot" and that he would think it a misfortune to send such a man to the Council.

Mr. Bartlett explained that he had been credited by the Advertiser with making a remark he did not make, and in reply to this the Advertiser had called him the "laundrying process" and it was in answer to this that he had made the statement he did, which, on the face of it, was a joke. Mr. McPherson said if that was one of Mr. Bartlett's jokes, that he wanted none of them. It was a vile name to call anyone.

UNCALLED FOR. Mr. Frank Westlake took the platform, and told Mr. McPherson that the attack was very uncalled for, in face of the fact that he had been elected by acclamation in this ward. It ill became him to make such an attack upon a man of Mr. Bartlett's standing. It was only natural that in political times these things should be said. But this meeting had been called to discuss municipal matters. Mr. McPherson replied that he had been elected by acclamation, because he had never called anyone names. Mr. Bartlett requested that as Mr. McPherson had ascended the platform a second time, he should also be allowed to. Mr. McPherson, he said, was well aware that in this ward there was a majority of Liberals. And he expected by exciting the political feelings of the people to create a prejudice against him. He did not deny that in political issues he was a Conservative, as he had a right to be; Mr. McPherson was a Liberal, as he had a right to be. He did not say that in straight fights he had not fought as hard as any man. Liberals had done the same thing.

"But I do say this," added Mr. Bartlett, "that in civic and in private business, I have kept politics strictly out of the question. I have on every occasion voted for Ald. Parnell as one of your representatives, and I have never hesitated to say it."

Mr. Bartlett said he had taken the trouble on one occasion to do all in his power to secure the appointment of Mr. Johnston, a well-known reformer, as Inspector of Schools for West Middlesex. He had written a personal letter to every County Councillor urging Mr. Johnston's appointment, as against a man who was a Conservative. And he had done this because Mr. Johnston was the best man.

"Don't misunderstand me," continued Mr. Bartlett. "I am a Conservative as I have a right to be. You are Liberals as you have a right to be. But I say that the man who drags the two together, that seeks to make this a political issue, and tries to prejudice you against me in that way is unfair and unjust, and will not receive the support of the people of London South."

The Chairman (a strong Liberal)—I think we have had enough of politics. Let us get down to municipal business. I will call upon Ald. Parnell, with the request that he leave politics out. (Applause.)

ALD. PARNELL said he did not propose to drag in to this discussion anything pertaining to political matters at all. He returned his thanks to the Liberal-Conservatives of the ward who had supported him. The alderman dealt with a wide range of questions in a clear manner, and claimed that the Council had done its best. He read a statement of the City Engineer that the outsiders employed on the new sewer comprised one foreman, one timekeeper, three bricklayers and two laborers.

Continued on Sixth Page.

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