

such enthusiasm. By country we mean the citizenship, not the natural domain, which does indeed excite our pride as the fairest land under heaven. But it cannot be denied that Canada is eminently distinguished for what Sam Jones calls "meanness." There is not another free people in the world that would tolerate the Gerrymander Act and the Franchise Bill, and put up in such a mean-spirited way with the frauds of which these measures have been the prolific parents. The attempt to openly steal a Parliamentary seat in any other country would raise a storm of indignation in which men of all parties would take an equal part. Canadians lie in the dirt and seem to like being trampled upon. Why wonder, then, at the absence of patriotism? You can't have enthusiasm without some solid moral groundwork for it. That's why Canadians can't enthuse over political thuggery and a robber tariff. We'll have to "quit our meanness" before we can look for patriots.



LITTLE opposition has been expressed to the proposal to present a gratuity to Ex-Ald. McDougall as a recognition of his valuable services as manager of the street railway business during the period of the city's control of the franchise. GRIP hopes it will be done, and that the grant will be as handsome as our circumstances will permit. Mr. McDougall worked in an earnest and disinterested manner for a lengthened period, the duties monopolizing most of his time to the detriment of his private business. It will only be decent for us to express in some tangible way our appreciation of his faithful service. Let us do it heartily, and without a dissenting voice.

IT is pretty well understood, we presume, that the real object of the Prohibition Commission is to provide salaries and a pleasant series of jaunts for the few fortunate gentlemen who have been called upon to serve their country as commissioners. Its ostensible purpose is to discover, if possible, what are the effects of the liquor traffic. We will be laughed at, perhaps, for suggesting a means by which this object can be fully gained at a mere fraction of the cost in time and money of the proposed method, because everybody knows that the whole thing is a mere mockery. Nevertheless we lay our suggestion before the Government. It is that the commissioners assemble in one of the Parliamentary committee rooms and listen to an address on the Traffic by Mr. Geo. E. Foster. This will cost, at the old rate, just \$10, and it will contain precisely the facts and conclusions which the commissioners, if honest in their search, will find out as the result of two or three years' junketting.

WE of the Western world are in the habit of thinking and speaking of Europe as the land of effete monarchies. While we grant the superiority of the French, Germans, etc., in the domain of art, and in the splendors of high society, we flatter ourselves that Europe has nothing to compare with the glorious freedom of the political institutions of this continent. In all this we overlook one little country called Switzerland—a country which is

only known to the average American as the fatherland of William Tell, and the scene of that worthy's apple-shooting exploit. Yet some adequate knowledge of the Switzerland of to-day is calculated to take the starch out of our western conceit. A late author says:

THE past two years and a half has seen much writing on Swiss Institutions. Political investigators are awakening to the fact that in politics and economics the Swiss are doing what has never before been done in the world. In neighborhood, region, and nation, the entire citizenship in each case concerned is in details operating the Government. In certain cantons it is done in every detail. Doing this, the Swiss are moving rapidly in practically grappling with social problems that elsewhere are hardly more than speculative topics with scholars and theorists. In other countries, consequently, interested lookers-on, having from different points of view taken notes of democratic Switzerland, are, through newspaper, magazine, and book, describing its unprecedented progress and suggesting to their own countrymen what in Swiss governmental experience may be found of value at home.

THE intelligent investigator who would like to become familiar with "Switzerland up to date" cannot do better than read the little work just written by Mr. J. W. Sullivan, entitled, "Direct Legislation by the Citizenship." Mr. Sullivan studied the subject thoroughly, both from printed records and from observation and enquiry in the Republic itself, and his book shows how the Swiss have actually accomplished what to us must seem a miracle—the practical suppression of the politician. Once more this little book, by comparison with such works as "Looking Backward," justifies the adage, "Truth is stranger than fiction."

SENATOR BOULTON "admits that to the N.P. was due the successful and rapid construction of the C.P.R." So says the *World*. We would like to have the honorable gentleman explain himself. We have always understood that as a special favor to the C.P.R. Co., the clauses of the N.P. act which could in any way "assist" the work by levying duties upon the material imported for it, were suspended by an obliging Government. The truth is the N.P. is more damaging to the railway interests of Canada than to any other department of industry:

SOMETHING ought to be done to put an end to such inter-provincial outrages as the recent kidnapping of Edward McKeown, the Toronto dry goods merchant. A charge of embezzlement having been made against Mr. McKeown by a Montreal firm, officers of the law came to this city, and in an underhanded manner carried off the accused to be dealt with by the Quebec courts. We know nothing of the merits of this case, nor do they concern our contention that such procedure is an outrage. It would be bad enough if the laws of Quebec and Ontario were identical, but they are not. To all intents and purposes an accused person under such circumstances is carried away to a foreign country, where he may suffer all manner of injustice. Extradition proceedings should be required in every such case in order that the person charged with an offence may have a fair chance.

PROFANITY.

A school-girl row is in progress.

FIRST PRETTY LASS (in the pretty way pretty girls have of saying nasty things)—"You're a liar! You're a liar!"

SECOND SCHOOL-GIRL (in a serious and awful tone)—"Hush! hush that profound language!" (a fact)