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LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 28.

A CIVIL SERVICE REVOLUTION.

The main recommendations of the civil service commission are revolutionary. The overshadowing feature of its report is the proposal to place the system of appointments to the public service upon a new basis, which will eliminate party pull and patronage. The service, says the commission, should be entirely free from political favoritism or patronage, and appointments should only be made by merit, after competitive examination.

The machinery suggested for the new system is a permanent commission of three members to supervise examinations for candidates, to determine appointments, and to make periodical inspections of every department of government.

The commissioners are unsparing in denunciation of the methods of appointment to public office which have prevailed in this country since the inauguration of responsible government. Patronage, they describe, as "the curse of the civil service." They allege that politics not only governs appointments, but promotions; that the absence of a system of promotions based on merit, and the inadequate scale of salaries, have discouraged younger officials; and that "the political element has steadily tended to deteriorate the public service." On this point the commissioners moralize as follows:

"Without going so far as to say that the official who has been appointed through political influence and whose friends are in power is not amenable to discipline, the commissioners have found in certain instances that officials appointed by virtue of political patronage and remaining under its aegis have taken to themselves the idea that their services are altogether beyond the control of the higher officials; that, in fact, except in the matter of the observance of office hours, their country or their chief is of no consideration; that the annual increase will follow as a matter of course, for their immediate superior in his report would not say absolutely that they were disobedient. The commissioners agree that in the expansion that has occurred in Canada in recent years, which has been followed by a large increase in the ranks of the civil service, the later arrivals do not actively respond to the regulations laid down for the government of the several departments. An official entering the public service should be made to understand fully that when he becomes an official any attempt to obtain or use political influence must be abandoned.

"As a rule the commissioners found in the outside service that politics enter into every appointment, and that politicians on the spot interest themselves, not only in the appointments, but in the subsequent promotions of the officers. While at Ottawa the departments generally are administered with a good consideration for the public interests, yet in the outside service the politics of the party is of greater importance in making appointments and promotions than the public interests of the Dominion. Promotion in that part of the service has become almost a nullity. In the outside service those who have a political pull use it for all it is worth. They pass by their superior officers, and bring pressure to bear to procure anything that may prove to their advantage. As a rule the officials in the outside service are without hope and the majority of them are in dire need."

The recommendations of the commissioners, though revolutionary, are not original. They merely throw into greater prominence a question which has come to the front in recent years. The first party leader to advocate civil service reform was Hon. George Graham, who made it a plank in his platform, when he was in provincial politics. Mr. Borden also professes to favor the merit system, and the other day it received the weighty indorsement of Hon. Clifford Sifton.

The examination is not an infallible criterion of fitness. The candidate for public office who could make the highest number of marks in a written test might prove a misfit in his practical duties. The one undeniable advantage of the plan would be the removal of the apparatus of patronage, which is a millstone around the neck of the conscientious public men, and is unquestionably an incentive to pernicious forms of party activity.

CARPING VS. STATESMANSHIP.

In view of the excellent results of the action taken by the Government last fall to facilitate the Western crop movement, Mr. Foster's criticism is purely in the extreme. But for the courage and foresight shown by Mr. Fielding, the farmers of the West would have suffered great loss and inconvenience. From Fort William westward there was a gigantic wheat blockade, caused, not by a shortage of cars, as has been the case in some seasons, but by a shortage of money. Boards of trade and

similar bodies were urging the Government to go to the relief of the farmers. Mr. Fielding realized that the emergency was one demanding heroic measures and his remedy was prompt and effective. By means of an enlarged issue of Dominion notes, amounting to \$10,000,000, an arrangement being made by the finance minister to accept from the banks good security supplemented by the extra guarantee of the Bank of Montreal, \$5,000,000 in cash was at once put into circulation in the West, the result being to cause the banks to draw upon their reserves which they had been holding all over the country; so that it is but reasonable to expect that when Parliament is called upon for the necessary ratification, no serious opposition will be shown.

A REFORMING MINISTER.

The Civil Service Commission, or two of its members, pass severe strictures upon the business methods of the Department of Marine and Fisheries. They complain of a lack of organization, and of extravagance, and virtually impute dishonesty to officials.

The indictment is a serious one, and Mr. Brodeur does not propose to ignore it. He has demanded a thorough inquiry, a duty which he feels he owes to the public, to himself, and to the officials of his department, whose honor has been impugned. He had no difficulty in showing that in two cases where the commissioners had descended into particulars they were entirely mistaken. It appears that a dealer supplying coal at Cornwall was losing money on his contract, and that the agent of the department at that point advised that he should be paid a higher figure. The commissioners too hastily assumed that this had been done, whereas Mr. Brodeur showed that the contractor's application had been refused by the deputy minister. Again, the commissioners reported the price paid for flour by the department was higher at Quebec city than at any other point in the province, and that the overcharge had been detected only by the auditor-general. Mr. Brodeur pointed out that the discovery was made by the accountants' branch of his own department. These palpable errors on the part of the commission must tend to discredit its accusations, although the sincerity of the commissioners is not disputed.

Mr. Brodeur found a lack of organization when he took charge of the marine department in succession to the late Mr. Prefontaine, and he set about to remedy the defects. A celebrated firm of accountants, with headquarters in the United States, was engaged to thoroughly renovate the system of bookkeeping, and the work has recently been completed. There is no more conscientious and painstaking minister of the crown than Mr. Brodeur, and he has maintained a chivalrous silence under constant attacks upon a condition of things for which he was not responsible. The Toronto Globe thus lifts the curtain:

"The fact of the matter is, that it is fully time the situation in the House with respect to the Department of Marine and Fisheries should be made clear. Mr. Brodeur has patiently borne a lot of blame rather than disavow responsibility for the sins of his predecessor. The Opposition had traded on his loyalty to his dead friend. It has become a game. A little group of Oppositionists have kept baiting him in the hope that he would at length be drawn to say: 'I am not responsible for these things; they were done by my predecessor'; but Mr. Brodeur has been unmoved. What he has done is to set about seriously to reform the department."

The Globe adds that Mr. Prefontaine, in his easy and trustful way, left details largely to his subordinates, and that the department is officered largely by appointees of the Conservative Government, whom Liberal ministers made no effort to displace.

The report of the commission will strengthen, not weaken public confidence in the administration. The Government has not shirked independent inquiry, and has shown a desire to reform and remedy abuses if they exist.

The old Conservative Government never appointed a commission to try to discover defects and devise remedies.

An increase in salaries is one of the reforms recommended by the civil service commission, to which the service will offer no objection.

In the first division of the session the Whitney Government had thirty-five majority in a total vote of seventy-four; and yet it wants to steal some of the few seats left to the Grigs.

"Even when this city is given eight members its proportionate representation will still fall far below that of a constituency like West Durham, which has only about 13,000 people," says the Toronto News. Let us see. Eight members for Toronto is one for every 34,000 of the population. London is to have one member for 50,000 people. If Toronto has a grievance, what about London?

An Ottawa dispatch for Conserva-

the consumption says that a Liberal caucus demanded the resignations of Hon. Mr. Brodeur and Sir Frederick Borden; that Mr. Brodeur will go, at once to the supreme court; that the party is sore on Dr. Pugsley, and that Mr. Fielding's chances for the leadership have been ruined by the report of the civil service commission because he appointed that body. Here are four assertions and we believe every one of them is a lie.

Alex. Wright, the former Conservative organizer, and one of the best platform speakers in Canada, will run for the Legislature on a municipal ownership platform in West Toronto. A. Kelly Evans will run in one of the Toronto ridings as an Independent-Conservative, pledged to the protection of the fish and game resources of the Province, which are threatened with destruction. Both are able men, and their candidature is another sign of growing independence in the spirit of Canadian politics.

FOUND AT LAST.

[Chicago News.]
Hotel Proprietor—Sir, you cannot leave this hotel until you pay your bill.
Mr. O. A. Lott—Ah, at last I have found a man generous enough to grant me the one thing I always desired—a permanent home!

HOPEFUL HEIRS.

[Hamilton Herald.]
Those Springer heirs and doing much to show that hope is universal, as well as eternal.

LET THEM KNOW THEIR FATE.

[Montreal Herald.]
If the man who is introducing the bill about automobiles in the Ontario Legislature would only go a little bit further and define clearly the time within which automobilists may not be shot on sight, he would lift a great burden from the minds of many a poor gasoline consumer.

EVERLASTING.

[S. E. Kiser.]
The oceans find new shores,
Proud kingdoms pass away;
The river's ancient course
Is pasture land today.
Creeds come and go, but men
Howe'er their lots be cast,
Still hope a heaven somewhere
May open to them at last.

The mountains change their shapes,
The rocks new forms assume;
On stone and parchment turn
To wind-blown dust, or fade;
Where roaring cities stood strong,
And weak men served the strong,
Is empty solitude.
But wrong continues wrong.

The ages roll away,
The nations rise and fall,
But Moses viewed the stars
That still gleam o'er us all;
Waste stretches where the pomp
Of kings was once displayed;
Yet men still learn to love,
And still by love are swayed.

A BOSTONIAN SURE.

[Exchange.]
Customer—I want you to give me something that's good for a cold.
Druggist—I wouldn't humor it, sir, if I were you.

NO INSURANCE.

[The Tatler.]
The following toast was pronounced at a firemen's dinner: "The ladies—their eyes kindle the only flame against which there is no insurance."

AFTER THE HONEYMOON.

[Chicago News.]
"All you married me for was my title," growled the duke.
"Well," replied the heiress, as she placed her purse in the safe and mixed up the combination, "I at least got what I married you for—and that is more than you can say."

HEATHEN THE MAJORITY.

[Providence Journal.]
The heathen are still in the majority, according to a map showing the comparative number of the followers of the several religions in the world, which the Society, in Philadelphia, was invited to study. These latest figures are as follows: Jews, 11,222,000; Greeks, 13,157,000; Protestants, 196,696,500; Mohammedans, 246,230,000; Roman Catholics, 272,625,500; heathen, 526,732,000; or more than all the others put together.

GRATIFIED.

[Chicago Record-Herald.]
"I haf come, monsieur," said the count, "to ask you for ze hand of your daughter."
"Have you spoken to her and her mother about it?"
"Oui, monsieur. Zey say zey will be glad."
"Thanks, old man, for paying me the compliment of making this formal request."

FIELDING JUSTIFIED.

It takes only an ordinary man to conform to the rut of ordinary circumstances, but it is left to those who rise above this sphere to see occasions when the ordinary method of procedure may be violated with advantage. Just such an instance as this was the action of Hon. Mr. Fielding when he recognized that statutory rules had to be broken to tide over the Canadian financial stringency a few months ago. In loaning the banks some five million dollars of Government paper, it is quite possible that a crisis was averted and distress warded off from many who might have suffered under the extreme stringency which then occurred.

MORALITY OF THE NOVEL.

[London Telegraph.]
It is common knowledge with everyone who reads books that during the last generation the English novel has steadily claimed the greater freedom. Subjects are now dealt with at which the middle Victorians would have turned their faces. There is a realistic treatment and a frankness of language concerning matters of sex which the first three-quarters of the nineteenth century would not tolerate. Let it be remembered that we have not advanced. We have gone back. It is not new art, but old, which has no reticence. A realistic picture of physical passion, a frank naturalism in style, belongs as much to the centuries of Defoe and Smollett as to our own. This is not to say it is bad. The keenest literary regretted the eighteenth-century freedom. Since the time of Fielding, he complained, no writer had been permitted to the fullness of his power to portray a man. We have now come again to a time where there are no limitations.

Those who for their sins have to maintain a careful survey of the constant stream of ephemeral novels are well aware of the growth of a class which, not to mince words, must be called the salacious. Each season now sees a number of books for which the most kindly

"A straight back will stoop:
A black beard will turn white."
—Shakespeare—

Prepare for the Time

When present strength will fail, Shakespeare knew his world. He knew that advanced years showing in a man lessen his effectiveness. While you are young you should think of the days to come. It may be comparatively easy to earn money now. It won't be so easy then.

A small part of your savings put aside and invested in one of our "Reserve Dividend Policies" will make your old age a time of comfort and safety instead of a time of uncertainty. Write for details to

LONDON LIFE

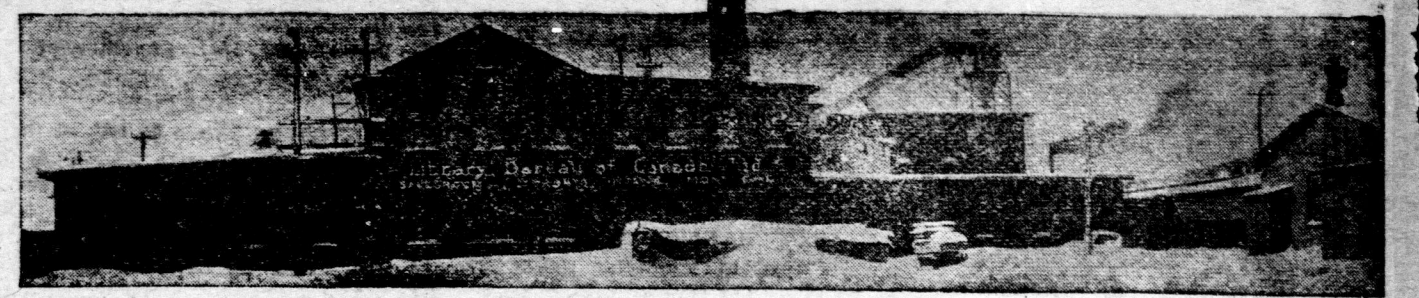
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GEO. MCBROOM
INSPECTOR
J. F. MAINE
SUPT. INDUSTRIAL BRANCH.

critic in the world can find no reason d'être but their imprudence. Absurd in plot, wooden in character and ignorant in style, their sensual descriptions provide them a popularity.

WORK IN CANADA.

[Chicago Interior.]
The larger cities of Canada, like those of the States, have had unusually large colonies of unemployed to care for this winter, but the prospects for the approaching outdoor working season are far from encouraging. Over 50,000 men, it is said, will be employed upon railroad construction alone. The Grand Trunk Pacific, west of Winnipeg will call for 14,000 men to estimate their needs at 35,000, while the transcontinental railway commissioners will construct four sections in New Brunswick and Ontario, covering 36 miles. The number of immigrants into the Dominion last year increased 61,464, with an aggregate of 277,376, though the immigrants from the United States—66,531—were 7,231 fewer than in 1906. Many of these are probably counted among the idle, but those who were fitted for agriculture have generally fared better. Some of the farmers in Alberta and Saskatchewan were so unfortunate with their crops that the Government has arranged to offer them a \$1,500,000 loan at 3 per cent for the purchase of seed grain. But the area affected is comparatively small, and in general the farming situation is good, while the coming demands for labor will take care of the unemployed.

Library Bureau's New Factory



ISABELLA STREET, OTTAWA.

OUR new factory in Ottawa with 31,000 square feet of floor space is now running full blast. It is the most complete hardwood working plant in Canada, in machines, in power, in light, and in facilities for producing the finest cabinet work. It will enable us to turn out a more distinctive grade of business furniture, card and filing cabinets, bank and library equipment than ever before. The product of this factory will supply both our Canadian and English branches.

Library Bureau of Canada, Ltd.

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TORONTO

201 QUEEN STREET
OTTAWA

296 ST. JAMES STREET
MONTREAL

EXCITING RUNAWAY IN WESTMINSTER

A most exciting runaway took place on the third concession of Westminster Thursday, and as a result the horse, which was driven by a man and a woman, whose names could not be learned, was badly injured.

The unknown couple were on their way to London. About a mile south of Frank's school-house their horse became frightened in some manner and bolted into the ditch, upsetting the drivers, and almost overturning the buggy.

For some distance the animal ran up the ditch, but finally it veered into the road again and continued its mad flight until it came opposite William Halden's farm, perhaps a mile down the road.

At this point, Dougall McMillan, a farmer, ran out and tried to stop the horse by a local veterinary.

runaway with the result that it ran into the ditch and tried to jump over a barb wire fence alongside of the road.

The horse was frightfully lacerated in its endeavors to get over the fence and it was with difficulty that Mr. McMillan got near enough to catch it by the bit and lead it back to the road.

Later the drivers of the horse came up and took charge of the rig which was rather badly battered up, but still in running condition.

The horse attempted to run away a second time, after being headed for London, but this time it was held in control.

It is understood that the horse was driven into the city and treated for its injuries by a local veterinary.

East Middlesex Liberal Convention

A convention of the Liberals of East Middlesex will be held in Hyman Hall, corner of Queen's and Park avenues, London, on Saturday next, April 4, to select a candidate for the Legislature. Mr. J. L. McDougall, who some time ago stated that he would accept the

nomination if his business interests would permit, now finds that it will be impossible for him to do so, much against his inclination.

All Liberals of East Middlesex are requested to make arrangements to be in attendance at the convention.

ABRUZZI MUM.
Liverpool, March 27.—"There is absolutely nothing I can say regarding my reported engagement to Miss Katherine Elkins," said the Duke of Abruzzi, when asked for a statement today regarding many rumors in circulation since his departure from the United States. The duke arrived here this morning from New York on the Lusitania. He emphasized the personal pronoun in his statement, and intimated that any announcement must come from another source. He greeted the newspaper men quite cheerfully and smilingly, and gave the above-quoted answer to the request for an interview.

BIG CROWD AT THE LIBERAL CLUB

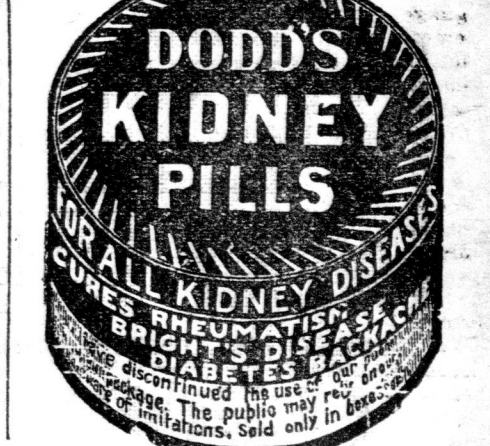
South London Euchre Party a Grand Success.

The biggest crowd of the season spent a very pleasant time last night in the South London Liberal Club, when a euchre evening was held.

The prize for most games won went to Mr. Wellington Kaiser, while that for lone hands was won by Mr. Thos. Anderson.

Both prizes were donated by Mr. W. Kennedy, vice-president of the club.

"Riches are like onions. Ye don't approve 'em unless they are yer own."



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Special Bargains for Next Week

Most of our new Spring Furniture is now on our floors ready for your inspection. We are crowded to the doors with beautiful new goods. This spring we have far exceeded all our previous efforts. We have now, without a doubt, the finest showing of Furniture in Western Ontario. We have added to our stock several new departments. Rugs and Squares, Lace Curtains and Linoleums and Oilcloths. Let us show you these, and we feel sure that you will agree with us that our prices are the lowest in the city, quality considered.

Pillows

Our \$2.00 Pillows \$1.25
Our \$5.00 Pillows \$3.00
Our \$7.00 Pillows \$5.00

Dining Chairs

Our \$1.25 Chairs 95
Our \$1.75 Chairs \$1.25
Our \$2.50 Chairs \$1.95
Our \$3.50 Chairs \$2.50

Buffets

Our \$35 Oak Buffets \$26.00
Our \$42 Oak Buffets \$32.00
Our \$50 Oak Buffets \$30.00

Couches

Our \$6.00 Couches \$4.50
Our \$8.00 Couches \$6.00
Our \$10.00 Couches \$8.00
Our \$15.00 Couches \$12.00
Our \$20.00 Couches \$14.50

Gocarts

Our \$13.00 Carts \$9.50
Our \$16.00 Carts \$12.00
Our \$20.00 Carts \$15.00
Our \$25.00 Carts \$19.50
Our \$35.00 Carts \$26.00

Lace Curtains

Our \$1.00 Curtains \$.75
Our \$1.50 Curtains \$1.15
Our \$2.00 Curtains \$1.50
Our \$3.00 Curtains \$2.10
Our \$5.00 Curtains \$3.25

Mattresses

Our \$3.00 Mattresses \$2.50
Our \$4.00 Mattresses \$3.00
Our \$6.00 Astoria \$4.50
Our \$9.50 Felt \$6.50
Our \$12.00 Felt \$9.50
Our \$14.00 Ostermoor \$14.00

Parlor Suites

Our \$30 Sets, 5 pieces \$22.00
Our \$25 Sets, 5 pieces \$18.00
Our \$40 Sets, 5 pieces \$32.00
Our \$55 Sets, 5 pieces \$42.00

Hall Racks

Our \$9.00 Racks \$7.00
Our \$15 Oak Racks \$11.50
Our \$18 Oak Racks \$13.50
Our \$20 Oak Racks \$15.00

Rugs

Our \$10.00 9x9 \$8.00
Our \$12.00 9x12 \$9.00
Our \$15.00 9x12 \$12.00
Our \$20.00 9x12 \$15.00
Our \$25.00 9x12 \$19.50

Bed Springs

Our \$2.50 Spring \$2.00
Our \$3.50 Spring \$2.50
Our \$5.00 Spring \$2.75
Our \$5.00 Spring \$3.50
Our \$9.00 Spring \$6.00

Dining Tables

Our \$7.00 Tables \$5.00
Our \$10.00 Tables \$8.00
Our \$12.00 Tables \$9.00
Our \$18.00 Oak Tables \$13.50

China Closets

Our \$20 Oak Cabinets \$15.50
Our \$23 Oak Cabinets \$18.00
Our \$25 Oak Cabinets \$19.50
Our \$30 Oak Cabinets \$23.00
Our \$50 Oak Cabinets \$40.00

Iron Beds

Our \$4.00 Beds \$2.95
Our \$6.00 Beds \$4.50
Our \$8.00 Beds \$6.00
Our \$12.00 Beds \$8.50
Our \$35.00 Brass Beds \$25.00

Sideboards

Our \$15.00 Sideboards \$12.00
Our \$18.00 Sideboards \$14.50
Our \$25.00 Sideboards \$19.50
Our \$30.00 Sideboards \$22.00
Our \$38.00 Sideboards \$29.00

Dressers

Our \$10.00 Dressers \$8.00
Our \$13.00 Dressers \$10.00
Our \$18.00 Dressers \$14.00
Our \$25.00 Dressers \$19.50

Carriages

Our \$13.00 Carriages \$9.50
Our \$16.00 Carriages \$12.00
Our \$20.00 Carriages \$15.00
Our \$25.00 Carriages \$19.00
Our \$35.00 Carriages \$26.00

These REDUCTIONS are GENUINE. They are made solely to induce every intending purchaser to call and see our grand showing of Furniture. Seeing is believing.