

MR. O'CONNOR'S ADDRESS

It has rarely been the fortune of a Victoria audience to hear so admirable an address as that delivered by Mr. T. P. O'Connor at the Canadian Club luncheon yesterday. We speak now of the address as an address and without regard to the views expressed by the speaker. The Colonist has so often spoken of the desirability of the cultivation of oratory in British Columbia that it proposes, before discussing the matter of the manner of it. It was of course such an address as only a practiced orator could deliver. There is much in a natural aptitude for speaking, but study and experience are necessary to enable any man to put his talents in this direction to the most effective use. Mr. O'Connor had his line of argument well defined before he spoke; he clothed his thoughts in excellently chosen words; he passed from the gay to grave and from grave to gay with hardly a break in the continuity of his talk. His hearers will recall that he never spoke humorously without immediately following it up with something serious and that he either glided from the serious to the humorous or else followed a period of pathos with an appeal to the imagination. On questions upon which there could be little or no difference of opinion he was direct and forceful; upon those upon which there are or may be two sides, he skillfully evaded the direct issues, concentrating the attention of his hearers upon either personal considerations or else belauding the real point with rhetoric. This is the consummation of a successful oratory, and the style is worthy of study by the younger generation of Victorians who may contemplate public life.

When an Irishman speaks upon almost any question we always expect to hear him say many very flattering things about the Irish. An Englishman always speaks of his own race in a half apologetic tone. Mr. O'Connor's Irishman is certainly a very delightful person. If he is half as good as his champion claims, he is good enough for all practical purposes. But after all what we have a right to think of is the Irishman at his best, just as we think of other nationalities at their best. All Irishmen are not O'Connors, but then all Englishmen or Scotsmen are not Asquiths, Balfours, Lloyd Georges or Roseberys. We think it only fair to claim that the people may reasonably be expected not to abuse the rights of local self-government if they are ever conferred upon them, as we think is now very probable. Indeed to hold the contrary would be to confess that the relations of Ireland to the United Kingdom have reached an impasse. It is evident that the affairs of the British nation and the British Empire cannot much longer be carried on subject to the ever present menace of Irish disaffection exhibited not in acts of overt rebellion but in parliamentary tactics that paralyze the administration in dealing with subjects of intense local interest as well as those of imperial importance. It seems as if things have reached that stage when the British people have no other course open to them except to accept the Irish assurance of good faith.

The Home Rule agitation as presented by Mr. O'Connor is different from the question as it was regarded in the days of Parnell. The claim now made is that the proposed system is not only an act of justice to Ireland, but is an urgent necessity for the other parts of the United Kingdom and for the whole Empire. It must be conceded that on this point Mr. O'Connor made out a very strong case. His arguments are not wholly novel, but they were presented with a vividness that must have deeply impressed even those who were already familiar with them. There is nothing unconstitutional in the proposal that some of the powers now vested in the British Parliament shall be assigned to subordinate bodies. There was a time when the affairs of all the overseas dominions of the British crown were administered from Westminster, and it is an historical fact that no one will pretend to dispute, that in proportion as the principles of self-government were extended to the colonial possessions the strength of the imperial tie became stronger. Moreover Parliament as originally constituted did not attempt to deal with the vast and involved mass of foreign and domestic questions which now engage its attention. The simple truth of the matter is that the great majority of these questions were not dealt with

at all. They were ignored; doubtless many of them had not then arisen. The British Parliament is dealing with a seemingly interminable series of problems which come under its notice only because there is no other body constituted to deal with them. Parliament being omnipotent, everything is brought to it for solution. Yet it has delegated some of its powers. Every county and municipal council had vested in it certain of the powers that primarily were vested in Parliament itself, and which now are vested in it, if it chooses to exercise them. The Dominion of Canada is the creation of an Act of the British Parliament. We have a provincial government in British Columbia because that Parliament has chosen to say that we shall have one. Theoretically that body has the power to repeal the British North America Act at any time. Thus our federal and provincial parliaments are in a direct sense of the term children of the Mother of Parliaments. Consideration of these things will serve to show that there can be nothing unconstitutional in the proposal that certain powers now exercised by the British Parliament shall hereafter be exercised by an Irish Parliament. Indeed such a course is quite in line with the evolution of the Constitution.

A very interesting part of Mr. O'Connor's address was that wherein he spoke of the improved conditions existing in Ireland because of the beneficent operation of the land laws. The root of Irish trouble has always been in the system of land tenure, and we are quite prepared to concede that an Ireland peopled chiefly by a land-owning peasantry would form a bulwark to the Empire instead of a possible source of weakness.

THE VACANT GARTER

The death of Earl Spencer left a vacancy in the order of the Garter. We are informed that a movement is on foot to secure the presentation of the coveted honor to Lord Strathcona. We are sure this would produce an exceedingly favorable impression not only throughout Canada but everywhere in the Empire. The order of the Garter has a distinguished membership. It includes the King, the Emperor of Austria, the German Emperor, the Kings of Denmark, Greece, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Wurtemberg, the Czar and the Mikado among reigning sovereigns, a number of royal princes and grand dukes, twelve British dukes, five British marquesses and seven British earls, since the death of Earl Spencer. There is no knight of the Garter of a lower rank than that of earl, and Lord Strathcona is a baron. There are, however, abundant precedents for the conferring of the Garter upon peers of the rank of baron. Of the existing members of the order one only, Earl Roberts, was by birth a commoner.

Naturally anything which a Canadian paper might have to say upon a question of this nature would not have much influence, but it would undoubtedly be read everywhere as the highest possible recognition by the Sovereign of the status of the representatives of the overseas Dominions if Lord Strathcona should be chosen as the recipient of the honor. His unique position among the representatives of the British Dominions beyond Seas would prevent the possibility of any envious feelings being caused thereby.

SUFFRAGETTE FINANCE

In M. A. P. we find a scathing review of the manner in which the National Women's Social and Political Union handles its funds. Using round numbers, the receipts of the organization during the past year amounted to \$155,000 and the expenses to \$140,000. Of this amount over \$10,000 went for office rent and furnishing, \$25,000 for salaries, \$1,400 for breakfasts, nearly \$5,000 for board and lodging of so-called voluntary workers, \$1,500 for a file and drum band, nearly \$10,000 for travelling expenses and no less than \$700 to pay for medals to women who have been put in goal. Over \$5,000 was spent in legal pro-

ceedings. What was done with the rest is not told, but it was doubtless spent in ways that the women in charge of the campaign deemed legitimate. M. A. P. thinks this statement of expenses is of general interest because the Union of the condition of women, and yet while it can find money to pay for medals and breakfasts, it cannot find a penny to assist people who are in real trouble through no fault of their own. It says "the plain unvarnished fact remains that here is the richest association connected with womanhood in England, and it frivolously its money away in any direction but the right one." It states that if any person calls at the headquarters of the Union to seek information upon anything relating to womanhood, "they may rest assured that they will be received courteously enough, but beyond this they will get nothing, for the reason that the ladies in charge know nothing and apparently care less."

There has already been sufficient evidence to show that the Suffragette movement in England is merely a fad on the part of some women who have failed to find in the ordinary spheres of womanhood "the excitement that their unhealthy minds crave, and a species of hysteria on the part of others, who have worked themselves up to a conviction that they are deeply wronged. This exposure of their methods of finance only makes the proof stronger. It will be realized in due course that the worst enemies of woman suffrage are the Suffragettes.

The Church of England Synod has declared in favor of the use in the public schools of a Bible text-book. If it is possible to act upon this proposal without interfering with the non-sectarian character of our schools, we are sure it would be a good thing. There seems to be no objection to teaching the doctrines of Plato, Confucius, Buddha or any one else, except those of the Founder of the Christian religion.

According to the decision of a State of Washington judge, a steamer plying in the waters of Puget Sound must have a licence from each county through which it sails before it can sell spirituous liquors. The Seattle Times thinks this is a disregard of the principle of the three-mile limit; but our contemporary is mistaken. This principle does not apply to the waters of Puget Sound, all of which are territorial. The open question seems to be if the boundaries of the several counties take in the waters of the Sound.

The Saturday Review declares that the new British press is a nuisance and ought to be suppressed. "Time was," it says, "when English newspapers were, as a rule, an example to the world's press. Now every crowd of thoroughfare is blatant with the latest thing in horror and lubricity." It calls for suppression of the frightful newspaper posters, which deface the city and offend the eyes and good taste of the community. It declares that the publication of such things is "not an inherent privilege of citizenship."

A man named Sheldon has been operating very largely in Montreal with other people's money. They let him have the money, he invested it without telling how, and paid the profits from time to time when he felt like it. Now he has disappeared and his depositors are looking for their balances. And yet we venture to say that those same depositors would have laughed heartily if they had been told of the company organized in the day of the South Sea scheme, the object of which was stated to be "the carrying on of a business, no one to know what it is." On the strength of this incident our contemporaries in the East are cautioning their readers against "get-rich-quick" schemes. Might just as well save your space, good friends. It is always the scheme that has collapsed that is wrong, never the one that is proposed.

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# WEILER BROS

the original of the Kingdom to be unprecedented another time. cient to say that been brought about fact that British ing of loyalty to of unknown and determination of Empire. It is a pretty summoned from the great officers was a queen, and Archbishop of C "May I ask you a very short and the secret of the l by the Grace of C years represented their traditions. her that not only good was she with temporaries, but it in vain for the m charged the duties nation more conscie ing benefit to the p Of the late Kin more than that he a royal office. He v