

AN INEFFECTIVE LAW.

The British Columbia game law was undoubtedly framed for the purpose of protecting the wild creatures of the woods and fields from rapacious man. The intentions of the framers of the act there is no reason to question, but in the light of experience it is evident that the statutes are in urgent need of amendment. Otherwise the game may be exterminated through the prodigal generosity of dealers, the kindly impulses of whose hearts impel them to prevent crates of willow grouse, etc., to the C. P. R. Steamship Company, for the benefit of passengers just recovering from sea-sickness, and whose stomachs turn with loathing from everything but the most tempting delicacies. Obstacles should also be placed in the path of the ardent sports who dump their bags of game it is contrary to law to dispose of for a price freely within the precincts of game dealers. The largeness of heart of the average "sport" is proverbial. But there are evidently too many men afflicted with cardinal appendages of abnormal development. They are entitled to protection against themselves, as the game is deserving of protection against them. Our legislators will be compelled to set their wits to work if they hope to elaborate provisions that will cover all the movements of the class who will persist in spending their valuable ammunition, time and energies for the benefit of large companies and suffering humanity. But we believe the thing can be done. It is the experience of neighboring states and territories that it is possible to frame laws that will cover all the flank movements and stratagems of the class who are wantonly destructive in their tendencies, and who have no regard for the consequences of their acts. It is not necessary to argue at this stage of the history of America that the game of a country is a valuable asset and worthy of preservation. All the states and provinces which have been denuded admit this by the strenuous efforts they are putting forth and the heavy expenditures they are making to restore that which might have been abundant to-day if a trifle more foresight had been shown in the past. British Columbia must have game laws that can be enforced, and the machinery must be provided to enforce them.

A PARTY'S "PRINCIPLES."

What a noble, philanthropic, patriotic, disinterested, progressive institution Conservatism in all its ramifications is, especially the type of Conservatism indigenous to Canada. Its sole purpose is the good of the country. It takes no thought of individuals, or of cabals, or of secret associations whose objects and aims will not bear scrutiny or investigation or the light of publicity. It scorns the workmanlike especially, and has the supreme contempt for his aspirations. And yet there are mean, cringing souls who insinuate that the Orange Association of Canada is maintained principally as a wing of the great, independent Conservative party; that Dr. Spruille and Mr. E. F. Clarke, leading spirits in the order, would never had a political existence but for their connection with this particular stronghold of Conservatism. And then, just to maintain the balance, and possibly to loosen the bonds of bigotry, was not the celebrated Remedial Bill introduced into Parliament for the purpose of fastening separate schools upon Manitoba and winning the province of Quebec to the Tupper and Conservative cause? We believe Sir Charles once announced his determination to stand by that notorious measure to the last political extremity and as a further evidence of his devotion to the Church and supposedly French-Canadian feelings professed his belief that Laurier was too British for him. And so we might go on multiplying instances in proof of the fact that the great Conservative party not only appealed on all occasions to sectional prejudices, but was actually maintained in power during all the years of its apparent popularity by appeals to unreasonable prejudice, inconsiderate passion and the meanest traits of the human character.

Of course the Conservative party cares nothing for office. Its devotion to the principles it professes is far too deep to permit it to bestow a thought on anything so low. It attempted to pass the Remedial Bill on principle, it gerrymandered Ontario on principle, it passed a franchise act which enabled its officers to load up voters' lists with the names of men who had no existence on principle and prevented the Liberals from having them struck off on principle, and finally voted the dummies on principle. Contractors were overpaid for all the work they did for the government on principle, and were forced to contribute immense sums to campaign funds on principle. An undue devotion to principle was the cause of the banishment of Sir Hector Langevin from public life, and the revelations of this principle maintained itself in office so roused the people of Canada that the colleagues of the fallen minister followed him into obscurity in 1896.

It is a very edifying thing to read about the devotion to principle of the grand old party and its independence of all hampering alliances. But the party has not lived down its past yet; a generation has not arisen that is not familiar with the political history of Canada since the year 1878. The record of the Liberal party may not be entirely unassailable,

But it has striven to do its duty by all classes of the people. The interests of manufacturers have not been sacrificed. They are in a more prosperous condition than at any time in the history of the Dominion. The wheels of industry rest neither by day nor by night. But the Dominion was not specially created for one class. Workmen are just as much deserving of consideration as the men who employ them. The Liberal government has created a department specially for the purpose of attending to the interests of workmen. We do not think it is necessary to apologize for that. When the rights of all classes of the community receive attention and consideration there will be less likelihood of men allying themselves with bodies professing fantastic theories on political and sociological questions. It is because the Liberal party has at all times proved its readiness to go as far as is safe or as public opinion will permit in the direction of reform that the Socialists proclaim their belief that for their purposes it is well to maintain Conservatives in power. Their reasoning is sound, but the temporary success of the McBride government in British Columbia will not greatly strengthen the Socialist cause.

POSSIBILITY OF A SETTLEMENT.

American newspapers are rejoicing already over the victory they imagine they have won before the Alaska boundary tribunal. There is yet no evidence that they have any cause for jubilation, unless it is in the fact that one of the United States counsel built up a most elaborate argumentative structure from a map which was so ill-defined in its lines that he could not tell its top from its bottom. The confusion of ideas became so apparent at last that the president of the tribunal had to be informed by the uttering Canadian counsel that the game of a country is a valuable asset and worthy of preservation. All the states and provinces which have been denuded admit this by the strenuous efforts they are putting forth and the heavy expenditures they are making to restore that which might have been abundant to-day if a trifle more foresight had been shown in the past. British Columbia must have game laws that can be enforced, and the machinery must be provided to enforce them.

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any port in any other part of the British possessions as appear to him just to counterbalance the disadvantages to which British ships are subject as aforesaid. This is said to be the outcome of a strong feeling which has existed in New Zealand since the New Zealand-owned steamer Moana was by the operation of the United States coastwise laws shut out of the trade between Auckland and San Francisco.

The Grand Forks Sun thus expresses its "unhappy joy" over the situation: "John Houstonized Nelson, but there will be a circus in Victoria when that plumed knight, flushed with the laurels of victory, demands the reins of government from McBride and undertakes to Houseinize that city. Go in, John, and give us a good entertainment."

AMATEUR MINSTRELS.

To the Editor:—I regret that an impression has gone abroad that the above entertainment is being given for my personal gain. I wish to correct this erroneous idea, and in doing so beg to state that through an omission of mine in writing out the advertisement the object of the entertainment was not mentioned. For the information of the public, and in justice to myself, I wish to state that the proceeds of the two nights' entertainment are to be devoted to paying off some of the debt on Temperance hall, and the entertainment is under the auspices of the Temperance lodge, No. 1, O. G. T. I might also state that for a number of years an effort has been made to reduce the debt with varying success, and it is hoped that the citizens will patronize this very worthy object. All appeal the public to be so interested to show their sympathy by being present.

J. G. BROWN.
Victoria, B. C., Oct. 13th, 1903.

"SECOND TO NONE."

(The Song of the Coldstream Regiment—By Col. D. Streater.)
I took the shilling at seventeen,
A duffer fellow was never seen,
And nothing over particular clean,
And a trifle gone in the knee;
But now I'm rather a different sight,
They set me up and they taught me right,
The way to drill and the way to fight,
And they made a man of me!

Chorus.
Then here's a health to the regiment!
And here's good luck to the regiment!
Steady and true
To be and to do
What our fathers have been, and have done!
In peace you've cheered at the show we made!
In war you've read of the part we played!
We are the First of the First Brigade,
We are the Second to None.

I wasn't much of a looking lad,
My hair it wanted the scissors bad,
A back as round as a case of beer,
And a chest like a C. I. V.
But now I've served for a year or more,
The belt and badge of a British corps,
For they've made a man of me!

Chorus.
Then here's a health, etc., etc.
Their fame has followed them everywhere,
On battlefield or on barrack-square,
No troops on earth can at all compare
With the lads of whom I sing.
In peace or war they are just the same,
To their best and to "play the game,"
To bear with honor the noble name
Of a Soldier of the King!

Chorus.
Then here's a health, etc., etc.
How loud they cheer when the bugles blow,
And off at last to the front they go,
To bear the brunt and to face the foe,
With honor and fame in sight!
When Maxims rattle and Mausers roar,
Their hearts are glad, for they ask no more.
Than just to fight as they fought before,
And as Britons always fight!

Chorus.
Then here's a health to the regiment!
And here's good luck to the regiment!
Steady and true
To be and to do
What our fathers have been, and have done!
In peace you've cheered at the show we made!
In war you've read of the part we played!
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"VACANT PORTFOLIOS."

To the Editor:—The Colonist reprinted a paragraph from another paper a few days ago to the effect that did not lie in the mouth of the Liberals to object to delay on the part of Mr. McBride in filling the vacancies in his cabinet, seeing that Sir Wilfrid Laurier has not filled the portfolio of railways vacated by the resignation of Mr. Blair. It is premature to discuss the filling of vacancies in the local government, because none exist. Mr. McPhillips is attorney-general and Mr. Godeve provincial secretary. The defeat of a minister at an election does not vacate his portfolio automatically. He must resign, unless the Premier proposes to keep in office a man rejected by the people, and it is too soon to lay the charge against Mr. Blair.

But it may be timely to point out the difference between the case cited from Ottawa and vacancies in the local government. The Dominion government consists of such persons as the Governor-General chooses, and the number is not fixed. The several departments are branches of the civil service, and one minister may preside over more than one of them. Hence it is not surprising that Sir Wilfrid Laurier has filled the portfolio of railways and canals. He did so by advising the Governor-General to appoint Mr. Fielding to the head of the department, which was done. The entire council of British Columbia includes the following officers: Provincial secretary, attorney-general, chief commissioner of lands and works, minister of finance and agriculture, minister of mines, and president of the council. That there must be separate individuals is shown by section 40, chapter 16, of the acts of 1880, which provides that any salaried minister may be appointed to discharge the duties

of another when "such person is absent from the duties of his office." Therefore in British Columbia there must at all times be six members of the executive council. The word "shall" is declared by the interpretation to be imperative.

CHARLES H. LUGRIN.

LEFT-HANDEDNESS.

The famous alienist, Cesare Lombroso, has written a curious article on "Left-handedness and Left-sidedness," which appears in the North American Review. Much has been written about left-handed people, but as no one has hitherto tried to determine by means of statistics how frequently they occur, Professor Lombroso determined to undertake that task. He made observations upon 1,029 operatives and soldiers, and found that the normal proportion was four per cent. in men and five to eight per cent. in women. Further research revealed the fact that the proportion of left-handed people among criminals is very much higher. So that Professor Lombroso regards left-handedness as a new characteristic which connects criminals with savages, among whom left-handedness is not uncommon. His researches in this direction led Professor Lombroso to inquire whether there is not also what one might call left-sidedness—that is, whether there are not people who have a greater sensibility on the left side than on the right. He discovered that left-sidedness exists in much larger proportion than left-handedness, and that left-handed people do not have more of this sensitive left-sidedness than right-handed people. In justice to this sensitive left-sidedness is almost more the rule than the exception; the conclusion being that left-handed people are more numerous among criminals and sensitive left-sided people among lunatics. Lombroso remarks:

"As man advances in civilization and culture, he shows an always greater right-sidedness as compared to savages, the masculine in this way outnumbering the feminine, and adults outnumbering children. Thus women and savage races, even when they are not properly left-handed, have certain gestures and movements which are a species of left-handedness, and in this sense, Lombroso observed that the man holds out the right arm, which the woman takes with the left; that the woman buttons her clothes from right to left, while the man does so from left to right; that, that women and children, when they trace a line or turn a key, for instance, of a watch, initiate the movement from right to left, while the adult man does so always from left to right."

Mr. Steinberger's health has steadily improved since he began his peculiar experiment.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

LIVES IN A TALL TREE.

High up in the top of a giant white oak tree, 67 feet above the ground, lives Artist Oran Steinberger. Mr. Steinberger is a gifted artist, formerly an instructor in the art department at Wittenberg College, who, fearing that he was a victim of lung disease, adopted the novel method of living in the tree tops to cure himself.

His dwelling, which he calls "Camp-a-loft" and the "Tree-top Studio," is situated in the top of a big white oak on the farm of Duncan MacDonald, about nine miles north of Springfield, O., on the Urbana pike. It consists of a platform built around three central branches of the tree and extending outward for several feet to the near-by supporting limbs. On the platform are built benches and seats that can accommodate with ease 20 people. To reach the three-top home of the artist the visitor must seat himself to be pulled upward with block-and-tackle arrangement.

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BORING A GLACIER.

The problem of piercing a glacier by means of boring has at last been solved, says the New York Sun, with results of real scientific interest in experiments made last August on a glacier near Vent, in the Tyrol. At a distance of about one and a quarter miles from the tip of the glacier, where its breadth is 2,500 feet and the height of its service above sea level 8,500 feet, a boring in the middle reached rock at a depth of 500 feet. Taken along with measurements of rate of movement, surface melting and temperature, the experiment enabled the following conclusions to be drawn: First, the temperature of the ice at the melting point throughout the whole mass on the tongue of the glacier is second, the bed of the glacier is rough, shaped; third, the ice moves more slowly at the bottom than at the surface. The bore holes were filled up with pieces of wood, which will serve for many years to act as indices of the rate of movement and of surface melting.

THE BODY THAT FAILED.

Writing on stage "make-ups" in Cassell's Saturday Journal, Mr. Sidney Dark says that Mr. Arthur Bourchier, who a little while ago played Dr. Johnson before the King at Sandringham, tells an amusing story of a stage body. He was playing the character in the dog days, and the weight of the sawdust was becoming insupportable. Being a man of ingenuity, he invented a pneumatic substitute. The contrast was delightful, and Mr. Bourchier found himself acting with a zest and enjoyment that he had not found for weeks. Suddenly, however, he was conscious of something happening. He could hear a suspicious sound, and he noticed that the audience, particularly those in the front of the house, were becoming overcome with laughter. In some way or another the body had broken down, and the huge stage of Mr. King at Sandringham, tells an amusing story of a stage body. He was playing the character in the dog days, and the weight of the sawdust was becoming insupportable. 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