

The Planet

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TUESDAY, MARCH 24.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION.

Discovering the Government's method of dealing with the Gamey charges Mr. J. S. Willison, late editor of the Globe and Life-long friend and colleague of Premier Ross, says editorially in the Toronto News, his new independent paper:-

Mr. Ross has made public the instructions to be given to Sir John Boyd and Chief Justice Falconbridge, the judges whom the Government has selected as the members of the Royal Commission. A scrutiny of those instructions does not lessen our objections to this mode of dealing with the matter, or our preference for judgment by the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Effective investigation is what is needed. Broadly stated, the issue is that it is charged that an effort has been put forth to ensure the tenure of power by the Government through the corruption of certain members of the House. A Cabinet Minister, possibly certain other Ministers, possibly certain private members, and a number of private workers and camp-followers, are said to have been concerned in the conspiracy. The dignity of the House and the interests of the country demand that these charges be examined. The situation must be cleared up.

The most noticeable thing about the instructions to the Commission is that its work is practically confined to Mr. Stratton's part in the affair. The preamble states that Mr. Gamey has charged Mr. Stratton with bribery. Mr. Gamey has, in addition to this, charged the two Sullivans and D. A. Jones with participation in the conspiracy, but no mention of this appears in the instructions. The Commission is directed to investigate the charges against Mr. Stratton. The basis is shifted. It is made an enquiry into the comparatively narrow question as to whether Mr. Stratton is or is not guilty of a certain crime. The broader question is whether or not there has been a conspiracy of which Mr. Stratton's alleged act was a part. That question is not touched.

Certain further powers of investigation are given in the Commission, but the phrasing limits them. The Commission may enquire into certain "charges arising out of, or connected with," the original charges against Mr. Stratton. These, however, must be charges against members of the Cabinet, and they must be preferred in writing, and must be laid by members of the Legislative Assembly.

The scope of the Commission thus is strictly limited. Primarily, it will involve investigation of the charges already made against Mr. Stratton by Mr. Gamey. Secondly, the connection of other Cabinet Ministers with the affair may be investigated if the evidence is so strong as to warrant a member of the House in taking the responsibility of preferring a formal charge. That responsibility is grave, for failure probably would render it necessary for the member making the charge to resign his seat.

It would seem that the Commission is not empowered to deal with the Sullivans or with D. A. Jones. It cannot touch the Sutherland and Reame episodes, although these bear upon the general issue as to whether there was a conspiracy. It will simply deal with the comparatively narrow question of Mr. Stratton's guilt or innocence. In the event of the former being established, the Commission will stop short in a number of lines of investigation the following up of which would be in the public interest.

Some of the phrases which appear in the instructions are perhaps unusual. One clause, the provision compelling witnesses to answer all questions, probably has been inserted to meet an objection which was raised in advance to the appointment of a Commission. It may be questioned whether this does not exceed the terms of the Act under which the Commission must be appointed. A special Act may be necessary to render this provision effective.

A moment's attention may be given to the phase of the question raised by the limitations imposed upon investigation of the conduct of Ministers other than Mr. Stratton. It may be described as tending to the advantage of a guilty Minister and to the possible disadvantage of an innocent Minister. The interests of the latter are all in the direction of clearing up matters. Circumstances may occur which bring his name into prominence. He would welcome further enquiry. In this case a written charge must be laid against him. No one is likely to lay it. The Minister is thus deprived of an opportunity of explaining matters. The more direct methods of a Parliamentary committee

tee would be far more to the advantage of such a man.

To sum up, the Commission is so limited in its scope as to justify grave doubts as to its effectiveness. Royal Commissions have not proved effective in the past. Too often they have been the resort of guilty Governments, which feared to go before the Committee on Privileges and Elections. Effectiveness is necessary, and the tribunal before which corruption has been exposed in the past is the Parliamentary committee.

The effectiveness of judicial commission in the past is worthy of note. The judiciary can hardly contemplate with pleasure these excursions into the field of politics. At the first inspection it seems an ideal expedient to bring the calm, judicial mind to bear upon these issues. But the object desired in these cases is political, not legal. It is the clearing up of an entire situation, not the rendering of a decision upon one point in that situation. The rules of the court room do not facilitate the establishment of political as distinguished from legal justice.

In this connection it is worth while to advert to a phrase of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, quoted by a contemporary. He declared himself in favor of "a tribunal composed of the best judges of the land" for the settlement of a case involving "the honor, the dignity and the seat of a member of the House." It is a noteworthy circumstance that Sir Wilfrid uttered these words in connection with the Brockville and West Huron cases, the one really serious scandal in which the present Dominion Government has been involved. It is still more noteworthy that the Commission of which Sir Wilfrid spoke in these terms, was never permitted to discharge its functions. The judges who composed that commission were Sir John Boyd, Chief Justice Falconbridge and Judge MacTavish.

The numerous instances in which Commissions have resulted in failure, and the strong objection taken to their employment by the plaintiffs in the case, all must render the position of the judges one of great delicacy. To call upon them to act is to make an unfair demand upon them. We must express our regret that Sir John Boyd and Chief Justice Falconbridge have consented to act on this Commission, whose functions are so limited as to ensure dissatisfaction with its finding.

There is one other very strong objection to the constitution of this Commission. It is composed of two, instead of three judges. If one judge finds the charge proved, he will henceforth be denounced all over the country as a Conservative partisan. If the other judge should find the charges disproved, he in turn will be everywhere denounced by Conservatives as a Liberal partisan. Failure of the two judges to agree will render all the work of the Commission abortive. If the Commission consisted of three judges, the finding would necessarily be by a majority, and the charges of partisanship would have much less weight. We think we see in the very fact that only two judges have been named, conclusive reason why the Commission should not enter upon the work for which it has been appointed.

MUST THE ATHLETIC GROUNDS GO?

The dividing of this very desirable piece of city property into building lots will be completed early this week, and those who are desirous of securing something particularly choice should wait for it.

The plans are about completed, and the surveyors will start to work immediately.

Mr. D. McLaughlin, the owner, informs us that, since the division of the property was decided upon, he has had many enquiries for lots, and as he intends to close out the property as quickly as possible, he will place such reasonable prices on them as must find ready buyers.

When it is remembered that the property was thoroughly under-drained by the old athletic association at heavy expense, when they leased the grounds about four years ago, this point is not likely to be overlooked by those desirous of erecting a particularly nice class of houses. With two of the best sewers in the city on William and Queen streets, the property will undoubtedly attract the best class of purchasers, and find ready sale.

Houses with modern conveniences will be the rule.

PUBLIC MORALITY

Rev. Rural Dean Robert McCosh occupied his pulpit in Christ Church Sunday morning and preached a very able and instructive sermon. During the course of his sermon he made some very terse remarks referring to the present condition of political affairs in Ontario.

"I wish to make no reference to any particular party," said he, "but the political condition of our fair province at the present time is corrupt in the extreme. It seems that men will do anything to gain and hold power and position, even to going down, down to the depths of corruption. This is not as it should be. Men should not purchase power at the expense of honesty, integrity, justice and right. It is a disgrace that such men should be recognized by the people. One party seems to be under the impression that their duty is to throw jibes and criticisms at the other. I hope the time will soon come when public men will realize the moral responsibility which rests upon them and act accordingly."

THAT SAME OLD PAIN IN THE BACK

May Lead to Diabetes or the Dreaded Bright's Disease.

Unless it is Promptly Banished by Dodd's Kidney Pills—Berlin Man Talks About it.

Berlin, March 23.—(Special)—The remark "My back is bothering me again," is so frequently heard nowadays that aside from its discomfort many people look on pain in the back as something too trivial for more than passing notice. They forget, and often until too late, that it is one of the surest symptoms of Kidney Disease, and unless cleared out of the system will almost inevitably lead to Bright's Disease, Diabetes, or some of those other terrible complaints which are but Kidney Disease in a more advanced stage.

This is what makes the case of Andrew Hauss, of this place, of particular interest. "I had been troubled with a pain in my back for over a year," says Mr. Hauss. "I tried everything I could that I could get to rub with or to take inwardly, but could not get relieved from it. One day I was advised to use Dodd's Kidney Pills, which I did, and I got better from the time I started to take them till I had finished one box, when I was completely cured." All Kidney pains and dangers fly before Dodd's Kidney Pills.

Explained.

Hostess—Of course the dinner is given for Miss Purdy, but I can't let you take her in because you never will take the trouble to be agreeable except for a pretty woman.

Reggy Westend—Whom do I take in, then?

Hostess—Mrs. Purdy.

Reggy Westend—But she's uglier than Miss Purdy.

Hostess—I know that, but she's married and used to being neglected.

A Grand Combination of Economy, Nutrition and Health

Malt Breakfast Food has a noted and decided advantage over all other cereal foods in the ease of digestion. Malt Breakfast Food is the most nutritious article of diet for the morning meal; one package contains as much solid nutriment as three packages of any other cereal food. Malt Breakfast Food is the most economical cereal food now before the public; one package makes a meal for twenty-five people.

A Convincing Prophet.

In discussing the attempted pilgrimage of the Canadian Doukhobors, who set out through the snow "to find Jesus," the London "Spectator" says that this is only another instance of the length to which the credulous Eastern mind can be carried. It gives a parallel case of wild belief among the Muruts, a race of wild savages living in Borneo.

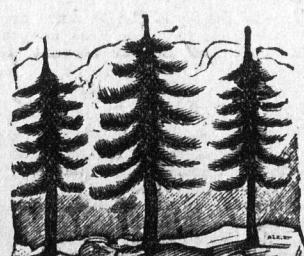
One day, a year or two ago, there appeared among them a Murut, naked like himself, and apparently differing in no way from his fellows. Yet in a short time he was able to make the members of the tribe surrender to him their wives, their cattle and other possessions simply on the strength of his own declaration as to his powers.

He asserted that he could confer on devout disciples the power of flying. No one asked him to fly himself; it seemed never to occur to them. Yet a number of men climbed to the tops of the highest coconut-trees in the village, and leaped into the air.

When they were found to be dead, it is only reasonable to suppose that the survivors set upon the false prophet and killed him. Nothing of the sort! On the contrary, he explained that the dead men had not been sufficiently devout, and he found no difficulty in inducing others to follow their example.

At last, after he had induced over twenty men into the process of flying from the tops of trees to the ground, he was arrested through foreign agency and thrown into prison. But even then the natives believed in him to such an extent that they resented any interference in the matter.

Age like a fortune is revealed only after death.



Dr. WOOD'S NORWAY PINE SYRUP

Cures COUGHS, COLDS, BRONCHITIS, HOARSENESS and ALL THROAT AND LUNG TROUBLES. Miss Florence E. Mailman, New Germany, N.S., writes:— "I had a cold which left me with a very bad cough. I was afraid I was going into consumption. I was advised to try DR. WOOD'S NORWAY PINE SYRUP. I had little faith in it, but before I had taken one bottle I began to feel better, and after the second I felt as well as ever. My cough has completely disappeared."

PRICE 25 CENTS.

Minard's Liniment Cures Diphtheria

The Northway Co., Ltd.—The Busy Cash Store—The Northway Co., Ltd.



Spring Millinery ... Opening...



Wednesday and Following Days

of this week. Easter Sunday is but little more than two weeks away. That prompts us to make our first Easter Millinery display on **Wednesday of this week** and following days, when the newest and very latest millinery ideas will be placed on view for the pleasure of the ladies of Chatham and surrounding country. We have been looking forward to and preparing for this occasion. We have planned some pleasant surprises for our many friends. Our past millinery achievements are too well known to require any comment at this time. It is enough to say that what we'll have ready on Wednesday will surpass anything we have ever attempted in the past. A noteworthy feature of this display will be a fine display of **New York and Paris Novelty Hats and Bonnets**. These charming creations are dreams of beauty and daintiness, of elegance and style, being master-pieces of the millinery art. No fashionable dresser or woman of taste should miss seeing this charming gathering of all that is correct and new in ladies' headgear.

You are cordially invited to come and bring your friends.

STRICTLY CASH

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ONE LOWEST PRICE

Wonderful Resources of the West

If you are looking for a home and want to visit the West you can do so with very little expense as the Union Pacific will sell one-way tourist tickets every day at the following rates from Missouri river terminals:

UNTIL JUNE 15TH
\$25.00 to San Francisco, Los Angeles and many other California points.

UNTIL APRIL 30TH
\$20.00 to Ogden, Salt Lake City, Butte, Anaconda and Helena.
\$22.50 to Spokane and Vancouver.
\$25.00 to Portland, Tacoma, Seattle, and many other Oregon and Washington points.

From Chicago and St. Louis proportionately low rates are in effect by lines connecting with the Union Pacific.

The Union Pacific has also extended territory to which round trip Homeseekers' excursion tickets will be sold as follows:

From Missouri river terminals to many points in Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado;

To many points in Wyoming, Utah, Montana and Idaho;

To many points in Oregon and Washington.

One fare plus \$2.00 for the round trip.

Tickets on sale March 17, April 7 and 21, May 15 and 19, June 2 and 16, 1903.

For full information call on or address H. E. Carter, T. P. A., 14 James Building, Toronto, Canada; F. B. Choate, G. A., 126 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Mich.

The experimental period

has long passed with the

Magi Caledonia Waters

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substitute. Sold everywhere.

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TORONTO

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY SYSTEM

\$40.75 to California.

\$32.75 to \$40.75 to points in Montana, Colorado, Utah, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. On sale every day during March and April.

Through Ottawa sleeper leaves Toronto on "Eastern Flyer" at 10.00 p. m. daily. The "Flyer" leaves Chatham at 5.08 p. m. with cafe parlor car to Toronto and Pullman car to Montreal.

Splendid train to New York leaves Chatham daily at 2.23 p. m., connecting at Hamilton with dining car and through sleeper to New York, arriving 9.33 a. m.

Tickets, reservations, etc., from agents.

W. E. RISPIN, C. P. & T. A., 115 King street, Chatham.

CANADIAN PACIFIC

SETTLERS' ONE-WAY EXCURSIONS

To Manitoba and Canadian Northwest will leave Toronto every Tuesday during March and April, 1903, if sufficient business offers.

Passengers travelling without Live Stock should take the train leaving Toronto at 1.45 p. m.

Passengers travelling with Live Stock should take the train leaving Toronto at 9.00 p. m.

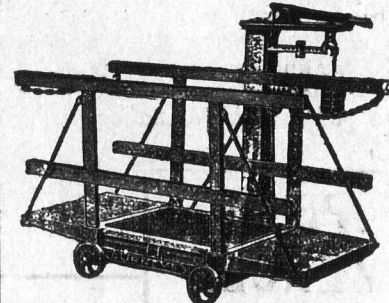
Colonist Sleepers will be attached to each train.

For full particulars and copy of "Settlers' Guide," "Western Canada" or "British Columbia," apply to your nearest Canadian Pacific Agent, or to A. E. NORMAN, Asst. Gen. Pass. Agent, 1 King St. East, Toronto.

W. H. HARPER, City Pass. Agent.

GURNEY'S FARM AND STOCK SCALE.

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The Gurney Scale Company are the largest and most reliable manufacturers of Scales in Canada. These scales are strongly built and the material used in their construction is the very best.

Every Gurney Scale is fully guaranteed.

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Offers many suggestions to parents and friends for the remembrances so appropriate for Christmas time.

The Bethrothal Ring, so interesting, should hold a gem of the "first water." None other would be given on this occasion. If selected at our establishment it carries the assurance.

Our prices are low as is consistent with good quality and we are always anxious to please you.

Come in and test our Merits.

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Canadian Grown Timothy Seed, Imported Alfalfa Seed, Alsike Seed, Red Clover Seed. Lowest Prices at The Canada Flour Mills, all choice stock.

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