

BY THE REV. LYMAN ABBOTT.



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London, Friday, Oct. 24.

A TOPIC FOR THE TIME.

The municipal elections are approaching, and some recent developments around the

aldermanic Board will no doubt suggest to the minds of progressive citizens that the day of reckoning cannot come too soon.

There certainly has been mismanagement somewhere, or the tax rate would not be so high as 22-10 mills on the dollar. Even taking into consideration the explanation that a portion of this rate is represented by the money which the Council hoped to borrow under cover of the Water Commission, the taxes seem unnecessarily high.

Many people have reached the conclusion that some change in the civic management is required. At one time it was thought that if the number of aldermen could be reduced and the wards enlarged, a decided improvement would result. That change was effected, but it is now made fully evident that further reform is necessary. In 1881, when the improvement of our civic affairs was an issue before the people, Mr. D. C. Macdonald, ex-mayor, whose experience was undoubted, took the ground that from the period of the civic abuses arise the assessment is made. The assessors begin their work at Feb. 1, and it is May before they return their rolls. Then a period is allowed for appealing to the Court of Revision against the assessment, then a term for appeal to the county judges, next a time elapses after the judge has made his decision for the clerk to make up the total assessment, which is finally submitted to the proper committee. Their duty is to prepare the estimates for the year! A remarkable feat when it is September or October before the rate is struck, and the rolls ready to be handed to the collectors. The result is that a large portion of the civic improvements have each year been accomplished by the agency of borrowed money, and as Mr. Macdonald has pointed out, money borrowed easily is spent blindly, and in too many years the appropriations of the several committees have been much overdrawn long before the end of the season. Is that not the condition of affairs this year?

Mr. Macdonald's remedy, which so far appears not to have found sufficient support to secure its adoption, seems worthy of serious consideration at present, in view of the recent experience. It is to have the time for making the assessment changed to July and August in each year, the appeals and other formalities gone through in the fall of the year, and the assessment rolls completed, so that the Council at the beginning of the year could take action upon them, and decide on the probable expenditure—a real estimate and not one at random, sure to be exceeded by the thousands of dollars. By this means aldermen would know to a reasonable certainty what amount of money they would have to spend, and they should not be allowed to exceed this amount except by a vote of the people. There would be a further advantage in this change; it would enable a large number of persons to pay their taxes in the summer when work is plentiful instead of in winter, as now, a season when work and money are often scarce. The system would check the extravagance that is born of borrowing.

This is a matter that may well be considered by the taxpayers between now and the time when the aldermanic candidates get around looking for votes. We submit, however, that the right stamp of aldermanic timber should not need to be hunted for support. There should be enough municipal patriotism and pride to bring the best class of the community out as aldermen and to sustain them at the polls without the harassments of a door to door canvass. We will not disguise the fact that from various reasons some of the best business men in the city keep out of municipal life at present. But we trust that an earnest endeavor will be made to make the Board of Aldermen for the ensuing year representative of the best elements in the community as is possible. The next municipal year will be one of intense importance to London. We will have the civic debt rearrangement, the disposal of the London and Port Stanley railway, and in all probability the whole question of the lighting and sewage of the city. To dispose of these momentous matters we need a council of thorough business men, who will as zealously labor for the civic interests as they ordinarily work for their own. The taxpayers may dispense with the services of some of the aldermen now at the Board, and they may again repose confidence in others. No doubt before the year is out the merits and shortcomings of them all will be canvassed. But let us hope that the need of a thoroughly business council for 1891 will be so emphasized that candidates on whose great body of taxpayers will be able to rely will be plentiful, and that the era of happy-go-lucky expenditures of public money, perpetual overruns of bank accounts, and ward grabbing will be ended.

GLADSTONE ON LABOR.

Mr. Gladstone addressed a very large crowd of his supporters in West Calder yesterday. The town is situated in the western part of the Scottish constituency which he represents, and is the center of a big coal mining and oil refining business. The refining of oil in Scotland is closely allied with coal mining, for the shale from which the Scottish oil is obtained has to be dug from the bowels of the earth just as coal is, and indeed bears a very close resemblance to coal. The oil works at West Calder and neighborhood give employment directly and indirectly to thousands of men, and at Bathgate, a few miles distant, are situated the pioneer shale oil works of Scotland, established by Mr. James Young, of Kelly, the eminent chemist who first discovered the method whereby oil could be profitably extracted from the mineral.

It was to be expected, therefore, that the great Liberal leader would have something to say on the labor question. The right honorable gentleman has always had a warm affection for the wage-earners who make up the great bulk of the population of Great Britain, and it is no new thing to find him expressing his appreciation of their intelligent judgment in regard to public affairs. Long before the workingmen had votes, when political power was in the hands of the few, Mr. Gladstone championed the rights of the common people. He believed that the men who contributed so much to the wealth and prosperity of the nation and who, in time of trouble, would be the first to be called upon to defend it, should have some say in the management of its affairs. And accordingly he has led in all the great movements for extending the franchise that have taken place in recent times. Mr. Gladstone takes a leaf out of the book of Ontario's Grand Old Man when he expresses himself favorable to the "one man one vote" principle. He has probably heard of the story of the man who had no vote. Then he bought an ass, and as he was going on that property, the man lost his vote. A question not yet decided is whether it was the man or the ass that possessed the franchise. On no defensive ground can the opposition to the "one man, one vote" principle be maintained. That the average workman is as capable of considering public questions, and selecting good men to represent his views as were the landed aristocracy who until recently had the controlling power few doubt. But even if the contrary were the case, a backward step would not now be possible; the democratic rule in Great Britain, and will continue to rule, and class laws of every kind must go down.

Gladstone is not among those who believe that the establishment of an eight-hour workday by Act of Parliament is out of the question, though he may have misgivings as to the propriety of making the law general. There are occupations for which a legal eight-hour day would be beneficial, as, for example, coal and iron mining. No one can deny that mining is generally a dangerous, unhealthy and most uncomfortable occupation, such as most of us would avoid long before the expiry of eight hours. Parliament has already interfered to suppress child labor in mines, it has regulated the employment of women in or around them, and surely if it is deemed necessary for the welfare of the miners that their hours should be curtailed, and they are agreeable to the change, there will be little difficulty in bringing it about. The extension of the eight-hour day to other employments would be more difficult. Indeed, it may prove hard to lay down a general rule in a country like Great Britain, situated as it is so near to the European continent, where the people work longer hours on week days and in many cases labor during a portion of Sunday. The advocates of a shorter day base their arguments largely on the fact that the opponents of previous reductions in working hours prophesied all sorts of dire disaster if the changes then arranged were brought about, and yet they have been found to be beneficial to both employer and employed. Nevertheless, Mr. Gladstone does well to warn the wage-earners to be cautious and to rely more upon their own efforts than upon Parliamentary interference.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

—Mrs. Frank Leslie, the author and lecturer, announces that she will marry "nothing but a man." The count who was reported to be suing for her hand really does not count.

—It is announced that Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, Secretary for Ireland, will have Lord Aberdeen for an opponent in the candidacy for the honorary position of Lord Rector of the University of Glasgow. The contest will be exciting.

—That ladies can transact business in a business-like way when they set about it has been evidenced in a marked degree at the meetings of the Women's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church, closed to-day in this city. The committee work was thoroughly done, and not a moment's time was unnecessarily spent when the reports reached the society proper.

—Though for nothing else than to enable him to show how much he could do to benefit the masses that exist, but scarcely live, in the slums of the old world cities, we trust that General Booth will obtain the \$5,000,000 which he asks to set on foot his scheme, outlined in his book, "In Darkest England and the Way Out." The appeal to the wealthy to come to the aid of the wretched is but to ask for a more general adoption of the golden rule. It is bringing Christianity down to everyday life.

—Factory Inspector Barber, who was in the city yesterday, says that he does not believe that the children of school age who are represented by the Hamilton labor unions as not in attendance at school, are to be found in the factories. He makes it

his duty to zealously inquire into the working forces of the factories, and he finds the large majority of the manufacturers ready and anxious to abide by the provisions of the law. The fact is that the delinquents are not in the factories but on the streets, and it seems difficult to get them into school unless by the enforcement of the truancy clauses of the law. The Inspector thinks that if such a course were vigorously carried out as are the provisions of the Factory Act, the attendance at schools in the large cities would be so augmented that additional accommodation would have to be provided immediately.

—Some prisoners in the Minnesota State Prison at Stillwater appear to have even a better time than the convicts at Kingston Penitentiary. At Kingston, two long-term men escaped in the Governor's yacht, but managed which they had been detailed; but in Minnesota, some of the worst characters undergoing punishment are allowed to come and go at leisure. It can hardly be credited, but it is alleged, and the allegation is substantiated by a pass signed by Warden Randall, that the notorious Cole Younger, one of the band of outlaws that murdered the cashier of the Northfield Bank, is allowed to walk the streets of Stillwater whenever he so desires. Another prisoner, Ole Notrone, one of the most desperate of his class, and who is supposed to be paying the penalty for murdering his own father, whose body he dined over and then threw into the cellar, is allowed the full liberty of a respectable citizen. It is further stated that men serving life sentences are allowed to go fishing in the St. Croix River, and afterwards to visit neighboring villages. They must have an extremely good time in the small institution, or they would take a much longer leave of absence. The Kingston convict yachtsmen allowed no promise to come back to quarters to stand between them and the United States shore when their hour came.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Little's Living Age is a welcome visitor in thousands of homes in this Province. It contains the cream of what is published in all the old world magazines, besides poetic gems of rare value. Its stories are always excellent and interesting, and from the pen of noted writers. Though the magazine is published weekly, its cost is \$8 a year. Little & Co., publishers, Boston.

For Frank Leslie's Monthly it is truthfully claimed that it is the cheapest monthly in the world. One hundred and twenty-eight large pages, with over 100 engravings, is given for 25 cents, or \$3 a year. The chief illustrated article in the November number is on Stanley, but there are many other notable contributions. Frank Leslie, editor and proprietor, 110 Fifth Avenue, New York.

OTHER NEWSPAPERS.

SUNDAY WORK ON GOVERNMENT CANALS. Buffalo Express. — Canadian canals are to be kept open on Sunday. Many good Canadians are asking themselves if a country which permits such wickedness can prosper.

TOUGH G. O. M. Philadelphia Express. — Mr. Gladstone, at the age of 81, has started on a stupendous tour to Scotland. We mean no disrespect in saying that the ex-Premier is one of the toughest old men alive.

OUR CITY CONTEMPORARY'S DEBT CALCULATIONS. Montreal Herald. — The Free Press must be unacquainted with the rudiments of arithmetic. Such a calculation as it has sought to palm off upon the public would entail most painful consequences upon a 10-year-old school boy.

DUNDAS BANNER. — A prominent reformer, of Hamilton, says that if Mr. Stinson is unseated, Mr. Gibson will run against him, provided Mr. Stinson is not disqualified from being a candidate, and there was never any other intention but that Mr. Gibson should try his luck in Hamilton again.

Indigestion

It is not only a distressing complaint of itself, but, by causing the blood to become depraved and the system enfeebled, is the parent of innumerable maladies. That Ayer's Sarsaparilla is the best cure for Indigestion, even when complicated with Liver Complaint, is proved by the following testimony from Mrs. Joseph Lake, of Brockway Centre, Mich.:—

"Liver complaint and indigestion made my life a burden and came near ending my existence. For more than four years I suffered untold agony, was reduced almost to a skeleton, and hardly had strength to drag myself about. All kinds of food distressed me, and only the most delicate could be digested. Physicians treated me without giving relief. Nothing that I took seemed to do me any good. I was at last induced to try Ayer's Sarsaparilla, which has produced wonderful results. Soon after commencing to take the Sarsaparilla I could see an improvement in my condition. My appetite began to return and with it came the ability to digest all the food taken, and after a few months of faithful attention to my directions, I found myself a well-dressed, healthy man, able to attend to all household duties. The medicine has given me a new lease of life."

—Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass. Price \$1; six bottles, \$5. Worth \$5 a bottle.

BEECHAM'S PILLS

(THE GREAT ENGLISH REMEDY) CURE BILIOUS and NERVOUS ILLS. FOR SALE BY ALL DRUGGISTS.

MORSE'S GLYCEROL OF CEREAL COMPOUND. Remedy for scalding, itching, and nervous ailments. Contains no opium or other dangerous ingredients. Endorsed by the best physicians. Send brown stamp for descriptive circular to Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.

A MAN'S LIFE SAVED

I WOULD not be doing justice to the afflicted if I withheld a statement of my experience with Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery. I suffered for nine weeks, one day and night, with a severe attack of dyspepsia, and I was confined to my bed, with the kind of which I could obtain in the city trying to remove my affliction, but without even giving me temporary relief. My body was so sore that it was painful for me to walk. I could not bear my clothes tight around me, my bowels only operated when I used purgative medicines, my appetite was gone, and my body was as yellow as a guinea. When I read of the story of a man who was cured of a similar case, I was struck by the power of the Vegetable Discovery. I made up my mind to try it, and I did so. I took one dose, and I felt a great improvement. I took a second dose, and I felt a great improvement. I took a third dose, and I felt a great improvement. I took a fourth dose, and I felt a great improvement. 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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS SINCE LAST ISSUE

TO ADVERTISERS—All changes of advertisements must be handed in not later than 5 p.m. on the day previous to be of effect. Advertisements and business notices must be arranged for in the counting-room.

Great Bargains—Baylor's Clothing—Oak Hall. Tola, Tola and Tamarack. Mason & Rich Pianos. Liebich Company's Extract of Meat. Elliott's Soap. Stoves—Wm. Stevely & Son. Meeting—Sons of Canada. Servant Wanted—346 Dundas street. Underwear—W. L. Graham. Winter Goods—Kingsmill's. Cheap Suits—O. Z. Triflet. Sheriff's Central Drug Store. Linseed and Tar—J. F. Burkholder. Girl Wanted—Mrs. Chas. Ivey. Situation Wanted—H. P. J. Office. Young Men's Meeting—Victoria Hall. Fall Hats—Thorn & Co. A. O. F. Church Parade. House to Let—G. Pariah. Opening—Boys' Night School. Letter Box for Sale—This Office. Rooms to Let—359 Princess avenue.

Standard Coal.



PITTSBURGH AND SCRANTON No Inferior Grades Kept.

BOWMAN & CO., 240 Bathurst and 400 Dundas Street East.

COMMERCE AND FINANCE.

Latest Financial News by Mail and Telegraph.

New York Stock Market. New York, Oct. 22.—The stock market quiet and heavy. American Express, 114; Canadian Pacific, 77; Canada Southern, 69; Delaware, 143; Lake Shore, 107; Michigan Central, 97; New York Central, 97; Pennsylvania, 104; St. Paul, 104; Union Pacific, 52; Western Union, 51.

London Money Market. London, Oct. 22.—Money at 100 for account; U. S. 4s. 100; 5s. 100; 10s. 100; 20s. 100; 40s. 100; 60s. 100; 80s. 100; 100s. 100.

Finance Notes. At the weekly meeting of the Bank of England directors yesterday no change in the minimum discount rate was made. It is 10 per cent.

Commercial. Local Markets. Reported by A. M. Hamilton & Son. Trade today was about as usual on Friday. Not very heavy. Prices ruled firm and receipts light; there was no change in the values. Quotations:

export shipments for the week
barrels.

COMMERCIAL.

LOCAL MARKETS.
Reported by A. M. Hamilton &
LONDON, Friday.

Trade to-day was about as usual,
not very heavy. Prices ruled firm at
night; there was no change in the val-
uations:

GRAIN.

Wheat, per standard bush.....	\$0 9
Wheat, spring, per 100 lbs.....	1 45
Wheat, Irish, per 100 lbs.....	1 45
Rye, per 100 lbs.....	1 45
Wheat, Democrat, per 100 lbs.....	1 45
Wheat, Clawson, per 100 lbs.....	1 45

