

The Review.

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RICHIBUCTO, N. B., JUNE 6, 1895.

RUM AND OPIUM.

It is a singular coincidence that at the same time the Royal Commission in Canada was investigating the rum traffic an imperial commission was inquiring into and preparing to report upon the opium traffic in India. What is stranger still is that the latter commission has made a report vastly more disappointing to the reformers than was the prohibition commission's report in this country.

In brief the Canadian commission admit the evils of the liquor traffic as it exists, but do not find that a prohibitory law is a practicable remedy. But the imperial commission have utterly failed to confirm what has so long been generally believed as to the evils of opium using in India. They heard abundant testimony from all classes of persons, from the highest to the lowest, and they found that opium is largely used by all classes of the population. The singular thing is that the evidence failed to convince the commissioners that the practice was injurious to either health or morals.

We should notice that the imperial commission, like our own, was not quite unanimous. One commissioner out of the eight made a minority report, as did Rev. Dr. McLeod in regard to the rum traffic. But on the other hand there is perhaps better reason to believe in the entire impartiality of the opium commissioners than of those who conducted the Canadian inquiry. Some of the latter use intoxicating liquor with more or less moderation, and may therefore have been influenced by their appetites, but none of the imperial commissioners are opium users. Hence their report is the more unaccountable. But it relates to India alone, and the people there are of a peculiar race, character and habits. They are vegetarians as to diet, eating no meat. An English paper remarking upon this fact, points out that the opium habit when formed by one of European race is almost invariably destructive of both health and morals and speedily leads to degradation of the entire man. The meat eater cannot use opium with impunity. The vegetarian Hindoo apparently can do so.

We fear however that the anti-opium reformers as well as the prohibitionists will have little faith hereafter in royal commissions, or in the evidence they collect. There is so much revenue behind both the liquor and the opium traffic that it is difficult to get at the exact truth, and despite the two great royal commissions and their reports the general impression in civilized and christian countries will remain that both rum and opium are things to be avoided rather than commended.

THE SHIP RAILWAY.

There is some prospect that the Chignecto Ship Railway will yet be completed and we shall be glad to see this effected. All the ports on the Gulf shore have an especial interest in the proposed short-cut into the Bay of Fundy and thence downward to St. John and the New England coast.

The experiment of carrying loaded vessels by rail over an isthmus is a new and somewhat doubtful one—visionary to the minds of some, yet reliable engineers of the most undoubted standing pronounce it perfectly practicable. The government subsidy for this work was pretty carefully guarded. It was put in the form of a yearly grant, to begin only when the work is completed and in satisfactory operation and to continue for twenty years thereafter only if the satisfactory operation of the work was kept up. Not a dollar of public money of Canada has yet been put into it, though the large sum of \$3,500,000 has been expended by the contractors. Then came the Barings' failure and the financial stringency which prevented the raising of enough money to complete the work. About \$1,500,000 more is required. But in the meantime the limit of time in which the work was to have been completed has expired, and the government is legally free from all obligation. The company ask for an extension of time, and this, we trust, the government may grant them, as the money can now be had in

England to finish the construction. Unless this is done the large expenditure already made will be lost and the fair fame of Canada must, to some extent suffer and future projects requiring British capital to complete them will be prejudiced.

The conditions of the subsidy are such as to leave the government quite safe in extending the time, as, should the ship railway prove inoperative no money will need to be put up by Canada. On the other hand, should the work prove a success, as we are not without hope it may, it would add to Canadian prestige that we are the pioneers in a great line of engineering enterprise which must have important results in shaping the future commerce of the world. For if the Chignecto ship railway succeeds a like work at Panama, and in a score of other places where marine short-cuts are needed must be called into existence.

The projector, Mr. Ketchum, C. E., if this venture succeeds, will justly be ranked with the great engineers of the age, and all Canada will be proud of his fame. He has strong faith in the scheme, and it would be a sad pity that the cup of success should be dashed from his lips at the moment for the want of an extension of time, reasonably asked for and which the government would incur so little risk in granting.

SPENDING OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY.

A majority of people like to expend money with a more or less lavish hand, especially the money of other people. This desire is often strongest among those who have little money of their own, and it is the motive behind a great deal of municipal, civic, provincial and national extravagance. It is a human rather than a party weakness. This fact can be demonstrated by the financial history of our cities, the governments of which are not and have not been party-political, but all of which have succeeded in rolling up formidable debts. Toronto has a civic debt of some 18 millions and Montreal has passed the 20 millions mark and St. John, without party-government, has incurred a public debt of three million, a figure considerably in excess of the province debt. In New Brunswick our county municipalities have done better, but in the west nearly all the similar bodies have become quite heavily involved, showing that the desire to expend other people's money is a ruling passion quite too strong to be resisted by the ordinary representative of the people.

No charge is more common as between political parties than the charge of extravagance. It is the stock charge of the "outs" against the "ins," no matter which party holds the seals of power for the time being, and the charge is always more or less well-founded. The people are themselves ready to listen to these charges, and usually ready to condemn the extravagance complained of and yet are to blame for its existence. The fact is that the dear people are all for economy in the abstract, while in detail and particular they are always clamoring for expenditure. They want a new pier, dock or custom house, a railway or canal subsidy, a friend appointed to office or the salary of a popular official increased. The representative who, from lack of energy or influence fails to carry out their wishes speedily becomes unpopular and loses his seat, whereas the member who obtains numerous grants from the public treasury for works or buildings in his county has an admitted passport to continued favor. It is easy to see that between the popular demand for public works and the natural desire to expend public moneys, the individual representative is induced to quite exceed the bounds which a sound judgment would set for him, and the aggregate of all these demands upon the government of the day amounts to a formidable sum. In this way the expenditure is rolled up till new taxes are required while at the same time the public debt is increased.

When a new government succeeds an old one the conditions to which we have adverted have not changed, simply because human nature remains the same. A severely economical government would be a good thing for this country, or for any country once in a while, but it would, in the nature of things, speedily become unpopular. We all feel that the national debt of Canada is pretty large, and forms no inconsiderable burden upon the country. It costs too much to run our complicated machinery of government, and it will always cost too much. But the evil is inherent in our political system and in any system of popular government. Intelligent people everywhere recognize just where the difficulty lies though little is said of it in our political discussions on the platform or in the press. Leaders of parties will go on as heretofore making their charges of extravagance against each other but the main spring of the evil lies deeper than party lines or party principles. It costs money to build railways and canals and erect public buildings, and if the people will have them they must pay for them in taxes or make a charge against posterity in the shape of added debt.

THE GOVERNMENT SUSTAINED.

The government was handsomely sustained by a majority of 46 at the division which closed the budget debate. No one expected any other result. The long and

rather dull debate did not change a vote. There is a general feeling of relief that the long wordy warfare is over, and now the necessary business of parliament is being pressed forward energetically. The next Dominion Day should see our members home again, shaking hands with their constituents and making ready for a fall election. It is possible but not probable that another session may be held by the present parliament. The chances are against such a course.

University of New Brunswick Encenia.

FREDERICTON, May 30.—The annual Encenia took place on Thursday afternoon. The library of the University was crowded with citizens of Fredericton and visitors who had come to the city for that purpose. On the platform were His Honor Lieut. Gov. Fraser, the visitor of the University, Chancellor Harrison and the other members of the Faculty, Dr. Inch, President of the Senate, Judge Vanwart, President of the Alumni Society, together with many members of these two bodies, J. Douglas Hazen, M. P., Provincial Sec'y, Mitchell and many other prominent citizens and old graduates.

The exercises opened with an oration by Prof. Davidson in behalf of the Faculty. His subject was the "Economy of high wages to teachers." In his usual forcible style he criticized the Educational System of the Province. It is impossible to give any idea of his address without taking up more space than we have at our disposal.

The winner of the Douglas Gold medal then read a portion of his essay on The Dangers and Safeguards of Democratic Government. His Honor the Lieut. Gov. presented the medal in a very fine address. Judge Vanwart presented the Alumni Gold medal to Frank Allen, who read an extract from his Latin essay.

J. Douglas Hazen, in a very eloquent speech presented the Montgomery-Campbell prize to W. A. Cowperthwaite, the winner. This prize was awarded for proficiency in classics.

F. R. Taylor of the junior class, won the Brydson-Jack memorial Scholarship, and it was presented by Dr. Traverser, an old graduate.

Distinction certificates were won by the following:—Senior class; First class, W. A. Cowperthwaite, in classics; class II, Miss S. Thompson. First class Physics and Chemistry, Frank Allen. First class Natural Science and Chemistry, H. L. Brittain and F. D. Phinney.

Junior class:—Classics; class I, Edna White; class II, Annie Tibbits. Physics; class I, F. R. Taylor. Natural Science; class I, F. R. Taylor; Isaac Burpee, English; class I, Annie Ross. French; class I, F. R. Taylor. Mathematics; class I, Annie Taylor.

Sophomore class:—Classics; class II, Arthur Shea. English; class I, R. W. Queen. Mathematics; class I, C. C. Jones, W. A. Alward. Philosophy; class I, R. W. Queen. Physics; class I, C. C. Jones, W. A. Alward.

Freshmen class:—Mathematics; class I, F. B. Hill; class II, A. Vince. Natural Science; class I, Roy Vanwart. English; class I, C. H. Acheson. French; class I, Miss Jack.

The following is the order of the Graduating class:—B. A. with Honors; W. A. Cowperthwaite, First class Honors in Classics; Frank Allen, First class Honors in Experimental Physics and Chemistry; H. L. Brittain, First class Honors in Natural Science and Chemistry; F. D. Phinney, First class Honors in Natural Science and Chemistry.

B. A. without Honors:—Frank Baird, Allan Hoben, W. H. Long, F. E. Powers, Sarah Thompson.

Allan Hoben then read the valedictory for the class of '95.

The oration on behalf of the Alumni Society was delivered by Eldon Mullen, M. A., Principal of the Normal School.

Degrees of D. C. L. in course were conferred on the following:—L. A. Currie, of St. John, A. I. Trueman, of St. John and that of Ph. D. on Dr. J. Z. Currie.

The class of '95 subscribes \$100 to the Residency fund.

County Scholarships of the value of \$80 are open to every county in the Province next fall.

After the closing was over, a special meeting of the Alumni Society was held, and all the male graduates joined. In the evening the students assembled at the college grounds, and some old student ceremonies were gone through. The graduating class, according to a custom established in 1874, and regularly performed since, fixed an old cannon on the hill side, and at intervals during the night waked the echoes along the river. A march through the city completed the ceremony.

Truth Stranger Than Fiction.

FREDERICTON, June 4.—The C. E. Railway station at Blackville was broken into again last night, but this time, instead of money being stolen, stolen money was returned. The clerk this morning found \$58.70 on the desk with an anonymous note stating that the writer had taken this amount from the till the other night supposing it belonged to the Western Union Co., but having learned that Mr. Dunn, the station master, and not the company, would lose it he took this opportunity of returning it. The amount reported as having been stolen the other night was \$110, but the writer of the note declared that \$58.70 was all he took. He promised, however, if he should find any more money about the place to return it.

Buctouche.

JUNE 3.—Rev. Mr. Gunn preached his farewell sermon last evening, in the Presbyterian church to a goodly sized congregation. Next Sunday the pulpit will be filled by the Rev. Mr. Foote.

Rev. Mr. Bynon, Baptist, held services yesterday afternoon, in Barnes' Hall. These services are now held fortnightly and are quite largely attended.

The quarterly meeting of the Methodist church is to be held on Friday afternoon.

Mr. Isaac Trenholm is very sick with a complicated disease, first having inflammation of the bowels and then on the relapse having pleurisy and being affected with a very weak heart. Dr. King is attending him but Dr. Ferguson has been called in for consultation.

Mrs. J. P. Leger, who was severely hurt by a fall some time since, is now sufficiently recovered to be about the house. Dr. Landry attending.

Mrs. J. J. LeBlanc, who has been dangerously ill with fever for some time, we are pleased to learn is recovering, although very slowly. Dr. Landry attending.

Miss Marie Cormier is reported quite sick with slow fever. Dr. Landry attending.

Excepting the aforementioned, Buctouche seems to be remarkably clear of sickness for this time of year.

Messrs. Peton, of Montreal, and Miles, of St. John, were in town during the past week.

Mr. J. H. Abbott spent Sunday in Kingston, going via Buctouche.

R. A. Irving spent Sunday in Buctouche.

A. C. Borden, of Moncton spent Sunday in Buctouche.

A. Hannagan is in Moncton on business. Sch. Mary Covell is on Irving's slip undergoing repairs.

Date of General Election.

When is it to be? This question is disturbing the souls of politicians. In view of the material alteration in the commercial policy of the country which would be involved in a change of government it is a matter which concerns the general public. Meanwhile the aching corns of the populace cry for a remedy and the government gives no heed to the demand. Look here! don't suffer this neglect to delay the use of means open to all and which removes the most painful and obstinate corns in two days. Painless sure acting corn cure. Putnam's Painless Corn Extract.

Literary Competition.

The Toronto Saturday Night, a recognized authority in Canada on matters pertaining to literature refers as follows to the short story competition offered by the Dr. Williams Medicine Company of Brockville:—

"It is gratifying to find this large business firm interested in literature, and the nature of the competition is such that a keen interest is sure to be aroused in all parts of Canada. There is perhaps no portion of the world that yields material so abundant, situations so piquant and characters so striking, for the writer of short stories, as may be found in Canada and more particularly the North-West Territories. We have seen what Gilbert Parker has been able with his all too limited knowledge of the Hudson Bay country. Had he or any other trained writer as complete a knowledge of our great Northwest, the traditions of the forts, the halfbreed and the Indians, as is possessed by hundreds of our readers, the literature of the world would be enriched. Winners of cash prizes in other competitions are excluded, so that there is no reason why beginners should not try a hand." Three hundred dollars is offered in prizes, the amount being divided among the best five stories received. Stories for competition must reach the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., before the 1st of July next.

Johnny was in the preserve closet surreptitiously helping himself. "It beats all," he said under his breath, "how much jam a fellow can stand 'thout feelin' crowded."

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Corinne, A la Reine, High Bust, D. & A 208, Encore, Pauline, &c., &c. D. & A. 200, price One Dollar, a great seller. Corsets from 25c. to \$2.00.

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We have now in store and for sale our usual stock of Field and Garden Seeds, comprising fine, bright Quebec Timothy, Northern Red Clover, Long Late Red Clover, Alsike Clover, Field Peas, White Russian Wheat, Beans, Turnips, Carrot Beet, and a large variety of Garden and Flower Seeds.

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We have also received a large stock of Wall Paper with Borders to Match, consisting of 3,500 rolls, among which will be found some elegant designs.

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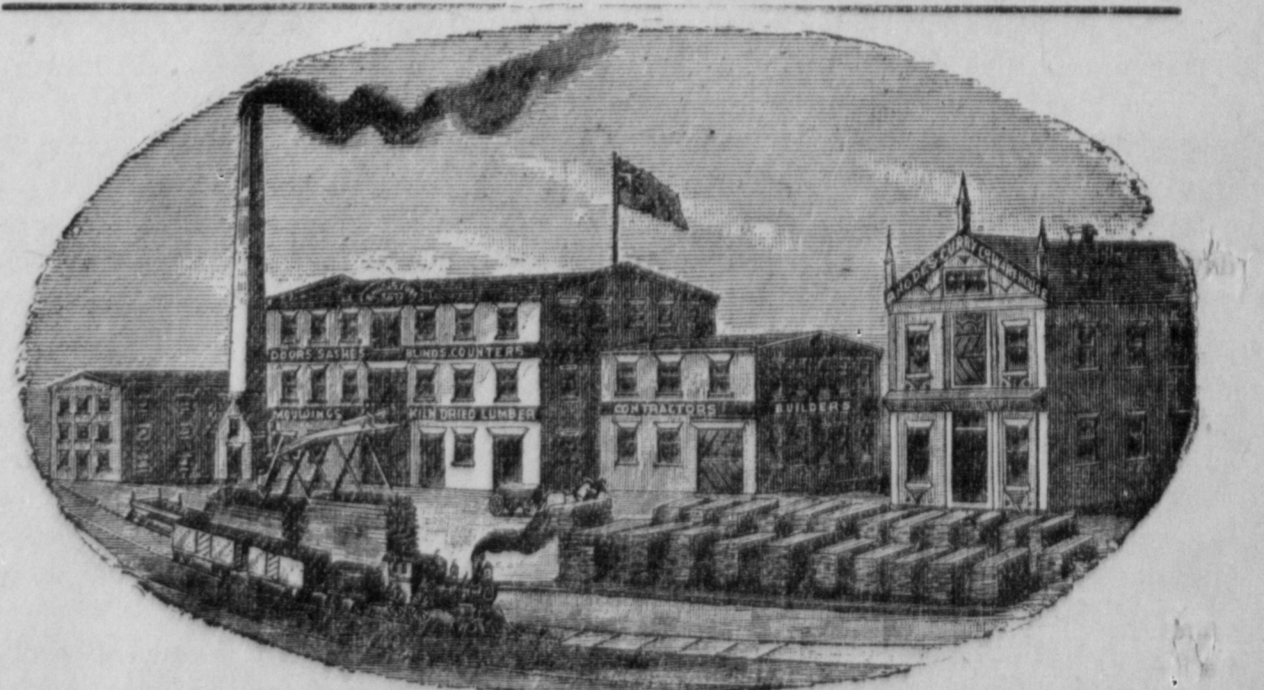
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The subscriber has an immense assortment of STAPLE and FANCY GOODS which he will dispose of during the Holiday Season at BOTTOM PRICES.

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