

THE EVENING TIMES.

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A. M. BELDING, Editor.

A CANDID FRIEND

Neither Liberal nor Conservative members of parliament will extract much comfort from an editorial in the Montreal Gazette on the Session of Parliament. The Gazette is a vigorous opponent of the government, which it sharply criticises in the article under review, but it is far more outspoken in its censure of the representatives of its own party for their "vain and obstructive talk."

The Gazette begins by noting the fact that parliament is now well into the sixth month, and will probably be well into the seventh month of the session before the business is concluded. For the inexcusable waste of time the Gazette partly blames the government, which it asserts showed weakness and bad management. Thus:—

"It brought in what are called the autonomy bills without having been assured they would in all their parts obtain the approval of its supporters. Then it was found that the school clauses provided for giving more to the Catholics than many Liberals would consent to. Next followed Mr. Sifton's retirement, and a month of negotiation between the opposing sections of the Liberal party, during which the House of Commons did little but mark time. There were more delays pending the re-election of Mr. Oliver after his acceptance of Mr. Sifton's discarded portfolio, and more again while the London and North Oxford contests were going on. A strong government, convinced of the rightness of its position, would not have permitted these delays. It would not have created the impression that what two or three constituencies out of over two hundred would do could divert it from carrying out a policy which should represent its matured convictions."

But if the government has shown bad management, the opposition, in the opinion of this one of its own supporters, has shown worse. Seldom does a party speak with such blunt frankness to its own friends as is shown in the following:

"The opposition has even more than the government to gain by the recess coming at an early date. It is demoralized. Its criticism has degenerated into vain and obstructive talk. It has lost in the country and it is losing more. The sympathies of the Catholic voters have been divorced from it. If there were a general parliamentary election next month it is doubtful if five Conservatives could be elected in the great and growing province of Quebec. What it has lost among the Catholics and in Quebec, has not been made up for with any other class or in any other part of the country. Edmonton, London and North Oxford all tell one tale. Even in the latter constituency, while the Liberal majority was reduced, the Liberal voting strength was not shaken. Mr. Smith got more votes in June than did Mr. Sutherland, a minister, in November. Whatever defections there were from the Liberal ranks were offset by accessions from some other section of the voters. It is not necessary to discuss at length the cause of this state of affairs. It is a condition and not a theory that confronts the party. Mr. Borden in his amendments to the Alberta Bill laid down a safe principle in regard to the educational system of the provinces to be. Catholics may have reason to understand this before long. But the party got away from the safe issue. Some of its members in parliament led the divergence. Newspapers and men who were not of parliament aggravated it. The campaign in London and North Oxford assumed some of the features of an anti-separate school agitation. This was not justified by the traditions of the Conservative party, by the utterances of its parliamentary leader, nor by considerations of policy. It meant party loss without party gain, and as long as the autonomy bills are a subject of discussion the opportunity for retrieving that loss will not be found. There is nothing to be gained by prolonging a hopeless fight against an unbreakable majority in the house of commons. Especially is there nothing to be gained by such useless repetition of what once was argument as marked the closing days of last week, that is unless the early adoption of cleave be counted a gain."

Having thus sharply censured its party for its past conduct, the Gazette gives Mr. Borden and his followers this advice:—"There is one duty before the opposition. It is to plainly state its position on the clauses of the autonomy bills that are yet to be dealt with, take the sense of the House of Commons on the case as stated, leave to the government the responsibility of its policy, and, helping to expeditiously finish the rest of the session's work, get home. So only can the mistakes that have been made be put on the way to be forgotten, and the party be placed in a position to deal effectively with the financial and economic issues that impending events promise to bring to the front at an early day."

But there is another cause of wasted time to which the Gazette calls attention, as follows:—"Another cause of wasted time has been the amount of useless and ineffective debate indulged in by private members. Day after day the small number who ordinarily attend the sessions of the House of Commons have listened or refused to listen to arguments that had been made time and again before, which could not effect a vote on a division, and which cannot affect opinion in the country."

The Gazette reminds the government that "it cannot but lose by the continuance of a state of affairs which must lead the country to think ministers have no control over parliament and are unable to effectively carry through their measures."

and points out that long sessions and waste of time in useless talk will drive business men out of parliament, and weary the people of the country into indifference to what parliament is doing, "as they were wearied last year and the year before, and as they are being wearied now." The article closes with this appeal:—"There is included in the membership of the House of Commons many men who, though a little weak in talk, are strong in common sense. They are sufferers from the present state of affairs. They will never have a better opportunity of serving themselves, parliament and the country than by using their moral force to compel their over-talkative fellows into a course that the common sense of the community can approve."

It is seldom that a party paper criticises its own as well as the other party with the degree of frankness exhibited by the Montreal Gazette in this article. But general public, which certainly is weary of the fruitless talk at Ottawa, will agree with the Gazette in its main contention, and especially in its closing appeal.

THE VERDICT

The coroner's jury in the case of the recent fatal fire in a beer shop express surprise that twelve or fourteen beer shop licenses should be issued to persons in one short section of a street of ill repute. They declare that the licenses are a cloak for immorality and drunkenness, and that they should not be granted. Whatever is true of beer shops on Sheffield street is equally true of some others of the beer shops that are scattered over the city. In connection with liquor licenses some care is taken to enquire about the persons and places before the licenses are granted. In view of the verdict rendered last evening it will be interesting to observe whether there is any public sentiment in regard to these matters, or whether the people of St. John desire the exhibition of an occasional tragedy to break the monotony of existence.

The Times recently told the story of various attempts to interest St. John men in a Spanish heiress and her fortune. A letter from Hamilton, Ont., says: "Recently an attempt was made to work the old Spanish military pension swindle on E. F. Chilmann, of this city. Mr. Chilmann received a letter from a man who signed himself Enrique Rasie Chilmann, and claimed to be a relative of the local man, in which the old story about the pretty daughter and hidden fortune, this time amounting to \$230,000, was told. All that Mr. Chilmann was asked to do in order to get the girl and the money was to advance \$800. He, however, had heard of similar swindles before, and handed the letter over to the authorities."

When the telephone company were given permission to lay certain conduits on King street and elsewhere, it was understood by the aldermen, whether there was any definite agreement to that effect or not, that the laying of the conduits would lessen the use of the unsightly poles. The poles have not been removed. The company now ask further concessions. The council will do well to see that a proper agreement is made this time—and signed.

The state of affairs in Warsaw, Russian Poland, may be inferred from the fact that over a thousand persons were arrested within twenty-four hours. A despatch states that on Monday night a young Jew threw a stone at a passing patrol, whereupon the Cossacks drove a crowd of people into a courtyard and fired a volley at them, killing or wounding twenty persons, including five women and a boy.

A member of the Toronto World staff, who is looking into conditions in Montreal, writes to his paper that "The Montreal Light, Heat and Power Company, with all its ramifications, presents an interesting study, and its history bears tribute to the folly of the people in creating interests which in turn become the people's master."

A despatch from Stockholm states that during the debate in the Riksdag yesterday on the Norwegian situation "the tenor of the speeches in both houses left the impression that the majority of the speakers were of the opinion that a peaceful solution of the difficulty was extremely impracticable."

The Montreal warehouse continues to be a dark and fearsome mystery to the aldermen. But they could cheerfully accept the structure and pay for it, although it was not built according to specifications. If the floor sinks under a weight of coal, what will happen when heavy goods are stored in it?

Dr. H. Francis Perry, pastor of Jarvis street Baptist church, Toronto, has been appointed to lecture on pastoral theology at McMaster University for the year 1905-6. Dr. Perry will perform this duty in addition to his regular pastoral work.

A Kingston, Ont., letter says there is a persistent rumor that Sir Percy Girouard will be the next commandant of the Royal Military College. Such an appointment would be well received.

On the St. John division, beginning next Monday, the Eastern Steamship Company's direct service will be inaugurated between Boston and St. John, with the steamship Calvin Austin in commission. The boat will leave Commercial wharf, Boston, on Mondays and Thursdays at noon, making the direct trip to this port.

Open till 2 tonight St. John, N. B. June 28, 1905.

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THE CHARMS OF OXFORD

Where the Rhodes Scholars Are Receiving Knowledge and Inspiration.

(London Chronicle.)

The joy of leaving modern Babylon for the quietude of the swirling sea traffic at the Mansion House and the perpetual hurry-scurry in the narrow lanes and alleys of the "square mile" is indescribable. The country now is at its best, the Hawthorn bursting into bloom, the clouds above are pink and white. Given the sun, it is good to be alive.

I arrived at Oxford just in time for the evening service at Magdalen chapel. On entering the quaint little building, with its beautiful painted windows and old oak stalls, my heart contracted with a painful pang of feeling that I was a stranger, with no prescriptive right to be there. Such thoughts, however, were soon forgotten in listening to the singing. The Magdalen choir is by far the best in Oxford, and can only be compared with that of King's, Cambridge. Connected with the college is a large school, where certain boys selected for their voices receive a free education, discharging their obligations by singing daily in the chapel. The anthem selected was one by Wesley, and was sung unaccompanied. "Exultate Deo" thrilled the boys' clear voices. "Exultate Deo" replied the tenors and basses. They exalted the Lord in every key, modulating it from major to minor, throwing the words backwards and forwards, now loud, now soft, till the anthem culminated in a glorious burst of melody, "date tympanum et eunite cithara." I have heard better choral singing in the course of my many wanderings, but it is long since anything gave me so much pleasure as "Exultate Deo" in Magdalen chapel.

A round of visits to the various colleges saved the mind in a somewhat blurred condition. One carries away a confused impression of countless quadrangles, of venerable grey buildings surrounding squares of perfect turf, of picturesque corners and details.

The hideousness of Keble College and the new chapel at Balliol (which the irreverent call the shrine of St. Zebra) are soon forgotten in the contemplation of the view from the gallery of Wadham and the Magdalen cloisters. The beauty of line of the grey roofs and gables of Wadham and the statelyness of its chapel are really remarkable, but Wadham does not possess the charm of Magdalen cloisters. The simple tracery of the arches, the ivy and Virginia creeper climbing round the narrow windows, and the flying buttresses crowned with impossible griffins and dragons, would appeal to the imagination of the veriest barbarian. Dominating the cloisters rises Magdalen Tower, capped with eight turrets, where the choir assemble arily on May morning and sing psalms to the rising sun, a quaint old custom, thoroughly in keeping with the "genius loci." Another place of enchantment is the garden of Jesus, an expanse of emerald turf broken up by clumps of limes and copper beeches, which form an effective background to the beds of tulips and delphiniums, now in their full glory. It is impossible, however, even to enumerate all the beauties of Oxford, such as the great circle of lawn at New College (always college, I was informed, never "New" (but court), the lime alley at Trinity, the splendid elms in Magdalen deer park, and the painted beams and roof of Duke Humphrey's library in the Bodleian. One carries away an impression of the whole which is not easily effaced.

The waters of the Char were sparkling like a thousand diamonds as we stepped into a little punt on Sunday morning. It was a perfect summer day, the sun shining as it does in Italy from a sapphire sky, flecked with fleecy clouds, and a gentle breeze ruffling the surface of the meadow. Above Magdalen Bridge the Char was a narrow, shallow stream, edged on both sides with pollard willows, whose branches form a canopy of green above the water. We moored under the trees, lit our pipes, and surrendered to the delight of doing nothing. Our novels lay untouched on the cushions, and we smoked in silence, lazily watching the canoes and punts which passed us in unending stream, laden with aunts and cousins in their lightest muslins. The scene at the rollers where the boats are hauled up to a higher level, reminded me of Boulter's Lock on a Sunday in July, but all the undergraduates were on their best behavior, very different from the night before, when, amid wild shouts and laughter, there had been a regular scrimmage at the spot, and the surface had been dotted with heads and arms swimming, or rather, walking, to the shore.

It must be impossible to live for any length of time at Oxford without imbibing something of the spirit of the place. I understand now the conception underlying the great scheme of scholarships founded by Mr. Rhodes, for no one with a jot of feeling or romance—and the Rhodes scholars are the flower of the empire's youth—could fail to be inspired with a sense of pride at belonging to so august a corporation, and with a determination to prove worthy of the great names which Oxford numbers among her sons. As I left the town the words of Matthew Arnold were ringing in my ears: "Spreading her gardens to the moonlight and whispering from her towers the last enchantments of the Middle Ages, who will deny that Oxford by her ineffable charm keeps ever calling us nearer to the true goal of all of us, to the ideal, to perfection—to beauty, in a word, which is only truth seen from another side."

YARMOUTH BANK CASE

YARMOUTH, N. S., June 28.—(Special)—The supreme court opened here yesterday, Justice Megharg presiding. The first case presented to the grand jury was that of Charles Langford, a deaf mute, who, two months ago, attempted a criminal assault upon a young lady, who was walking along the highway near Tusket. A true bill was brought in. The man was placed in the box and through an interpreter pleaded guilty. Sentence will be pronounced on Wednesday. His Lordship then explained to the jury the case of T. W. Johns and Wm. Perry, the former charged with sending to the government monthly returns of the position of the Bank of Yarmouth which were willfully misleading, and the latter with theft, being several thousand dollars short in his cash. True bills were found in both cases.

Teller Perry is very seriously ill and it is not at all likely that he will be tried at this or any other term, many believing that he will not recover.

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