

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1909.

EVERY MAN TO HIS TRADE.

It is universally conceded that the head of a grocery store should have some special training, but quite a lot of people lightly assume that to be a successful public man required no special training at all, says an Exchange. If a man can sell groceries and make money he is held by the fact to be capable of making a success of the government of a great city. And so it happens that, after an election, a great many very wise-looking men set by their firesides and wonder why their plans miscarried, when after all those plans never had the least chance of success. Just now in New York, for example, the people who propose to reform the city and to crush Tammany out of existence have nominated a man for Mayor, and out of three or four millions of people perhaps there are not more than five hundred who know him. It would appear, after the papers have hunted up his record and looked him over, that the five hundred think pretty well of him; but the big, important fact is that he has done nothing hitherto for which the rest of the people know him. If he is fit to be a public man at all, he is one of those to whom would apply the remark of Emerson, "I doubted his genius when I found he sought no audience." He has devoted himself to finance and jute, and he is to be a candidate against Judge Gayor, a man who has lived in the public eye, interpreted the popular emotion, and who just recently overturned the whole police organization of New York because it denied to one poor boy the rights guaranteed by Magna Charta; in short, a public man, and so big a one that Tammany hesitates to nominate him because he would probably not be tractable, and hesitates to oppose because he would probably win anyhow.

When a man is in business he can get his own way about buying and selling, which is in the main the whole ordering of his affairs. When a man is in public life it is human commodity with which he has to deal, men separately and men in the mass. That a special fitness is required for such a trade ought to go without saying. That the great problems of a city are special problems, undreamed of in the counting rooms, ought also to be admitted. Great public servants have been developed out of good business men, and we have some examples of the fact here in Montreal, but they had the qualities of public men. In casting about for men to be the new rulers of the city, let us not forget that the possession of these qualities is essential, whatever other good qualities may be found with them.

LAWYERS' SHIFTLINESS.

The Illinois bar association falls in line with that of New York and with the national organization in demanding law reform such as President Taft so earnestly urges, says the Worcester Post. It has passed a resolution calling for the appointment, at the coming special session of the legislature, of a commission

to prepare amendments to the laws that will "simplify procedure and lessen delays and expense of litigation." Chief Judge Carpenter of the Cook county circuit court is almost simultaneous in showing that something more than legislation is needed. In a call of 100 cases in his court, he says, 21 were passed upon the pleas of lawyers, 16 were continued generally, others were stricken off the calendar, and some were set down for hearing at a future date. He added that he supposed he should have little to do for a while because no one seemed to want a trial.

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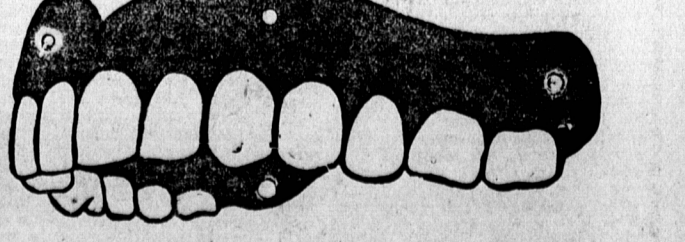
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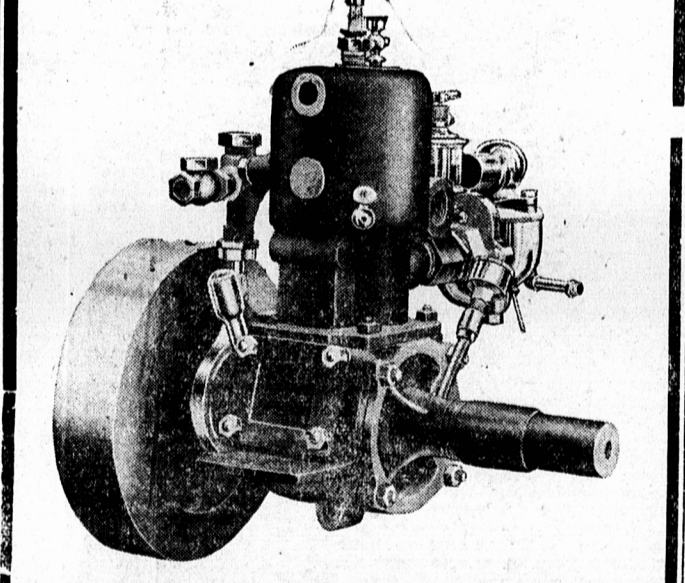
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