

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1908.

A GOOD REFORM PROPOSED.

It is given out from Ottawa that the Government has under consideration a bill to be introduced during the coming session, modeled on the lines of a recently enacted English statute, making it a criminal offence to offer or accept secret commissions with a view of corruptly influencing business transactions in which the employer of the agent who accepts the commissions is interested.

The evil which the measure will be framed to prevent or punish is not, however, confined to public or official life. The English statute is very wide in its scope and severe in its penalties. It provides that if any agent correctly accepts or obtains, or agrees to accept or attempts to obtain for himself or for any other person any gift or consideration as an inducement or reward for doing or forbearing to do any act in relation to his principal's affairs of business, or for showing or forbearing to show favor or disfavor to any person in relation to his principal's affairs of business, or if any person improperly gives or agrees to give, or offers any gift or consideration to any agent as an inducement or reward for doing or forbearing to do any act in relation to his principal's affairs of business, he shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to a fine not exceeding £500, or to both.

A similar penalty is provided for the giving or acceptance, with intent to deceive an employer, of any receipt, account or other document in respect of which he is interested, and which is false or erroneous, or defective in any material particular, and which is knowingly intended to mislead the employer. The word "agent" is made to include any person employed or acting for another, and a person employed or serving under the crown, or any municipal or other corporation would be an agent within the meaning of the act.

Thus the English statute, which the Canadian Government proposes to adopt covers a wide range both in official and commercial life. The English law has worked well and there appears to be need of a similar law in Canada. The proposed action of the Government is to be commended and of itself gives evidence of a quickening of the public conscience, no doubt resulting in part from discussions during the election campaign and the disclosures since made.

NEW BRUNSWICK BY-ELECTIONS.

The sister Province of New Brunswick has had lots of fun this year with elections. The campaign began some eleven months ago and seems likely to last throughout the entire twelve months. The first campaign was undertaken by the loyal Opposition of that time with the hope of getting the old provincial Government turned out. That was effected in March, and some by-elections followed to re-elect the new ministers who had resigned on taking office.

Not long thereafter campaigning for Ottawa began and was kept up till 26th October. To share in the fun two of Premier Hazen's supporters resigned their seats in the Legislature to run for the Commons, and these were numbered among eleven who went to defeat carrying the Borden standard. Now the excitement is running almost as high as in a general election over the contests for the two vacant seats, the polling for which will take place on Monday next.

As usual both parties claim the victory in advance, while no doubt storing up a stock of explanations for use in case it should turn out

otherwise. There is much tumult and shouting in the two counties, the report of which spreads far beyond their borders, but as in an ancient case, the voices of the Opposition supporters seem to be "firmer" than those of the Government.

As these by-election campaigns approach their close the Opposition warriors are scenting still other battles in the near future. They affirm that one of the members for Albert county must be replaced because of some alleged misconduct, and also that one of the members for Kings has forfeited his seat by selling lumber to the Government. Hence, they assert, there must be more by-elections and more election fun which will see the old year out and the new year in before it is ended. It remains to be seen whether or not Premier Hazen will be allowed to "finish his work," as it has been decreed that Laurier shall be.

THE TRANSCONTINENTAL.

The Hodgins charges against the Transcontinental Railway Commissioners which came before Parliament at its last session ended in some thing of a collapse, but incidental thereto some very damaging evidence or offers any gift or consideration to any agent as an inducement or reward for doing or forbearing to do any act in relation to his principal's affairs of business, or for showing or forbearing to show favor or disfavor to any person in relation to his principal's affairs of business, or if any person improperly gives or agrees to give, or offers any gift or consideration to any agent as an inducement or reward for doing or forbearing to do any act in relation to his principal's affairs of business, he shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to a fine not exceeding £500, or to both.

A few weeks ago a letter appeared in the London Times charging that the construction of the Transcontinental was not being honestly carried on and referring in a pointed manner to the methods of measuring the work. This was resented by the Commissioners who instructed their solicitors to take action against the Times. At this writing it is not known whether that newspaper will defend the suit or will satisfy the Commissioners in some other way. Now the Winnipeg Tribune, an influential Conservative newspaper, announces its intention of reproducing the letter to The Times, and challenges the Commissioners to take the matter into the Canadian Courts. This they will be expected to do, and the facts of the case will be sifted in a judicial manner. The case will be one of wide-spread interest when it comes to trial.

The White Man's Plague is consumption, against which medical and humanitarian science is marshalling its forces as never before. Popular education on the subject is one of the best means of preventing the spread of this great malady and we are glad to note that those interested will have the opportunity to hear tonight one so well qualified as D. McLaughlin in a discussion of this question. The time and place are elsewhere advertised in this issue.

Again a big fight is on for the repeal of the Scott Act in Westmorland, New Brunswick. The county is the most populous one, containing the city of Moncton and the important business centres of Sackville, Dorchester, Shediac, Salisbury and Petticoat. There is a large Acadian population in the county, which though not less sober than the English-speaking people is not so generally favorable to restrictive liquor legislation. The Act was first brought into force there in 1879 by a majority of 783. Attempts have been made to repeal it in 1884, 1888, 1896 and 1899, all of which were fruitless, the largest majority for the Act being 706 in 1888 and the smallest, 73, in 1884. The last majority recorded for the Act was 235 in 1899.

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Table with 3 columns: Name of Owner of Real Estate in Description of Property upon which Assessment is made, Amount of Assessment due and unpaid. Includes entries for Hugh Monaghan, Catherine Morgan, etc.

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