

Obiter Dicta.

The Great Fight.

How about the battle against the White Plague? A great deal is being done to educate our people in dealing more effectively with the disease. Many of our medical men are taking a noble part in the campaign, giving generously of their energies, their time and frequently their money: but the general public have not yet rallied to the standard. In these days of applied chemistry, applied physics and even applied christianity why not have also applied politics? The fight against tuberculosis is one that interests every man, woman and child in this province and should also be of interest to our Local and Federal Governments. One of the first interests of the state should be the welfare of the people: the state is benefited by every additional healthy man and injured by every one afflicted with a contagious disease. Our governors understand this and are very alive at even the mention of diptheria or small-pox, but tuberculosis, which like the poor of the Gospel is, "always with us", causes them no concern. It now is the time that the whole voting body arose in a strong unanimous demand for a sanitarium. Every doctor of this country knows people whose lives could be saved, or, at least, prolonged had we a place of treatment in which such cases could be taken in the early stages. Saranac and St. Agathe are too far away and too expensive for the majority of our afflicted. We want and should have a hospital near home where the victims of tuberculosis could be taken care of, taught to take care of themselves and above all taught to take some care and precaution for the benefit of those

with whom they daily come in contact. We spend a good round sum yearly on education, on railroads and bridges: our people are most alert about government jobs and "pulls." They know how to bring influence to bear from the right quarter when it means any swelling of their own pocket, but in this question affecting the general welfare they remain apathetic. Thanks to the energy of a few the battle has been begun and all should now take a hand. Could we not for the present drop our great outlay of tongue energy on such important matters as the cost of certain waterways and the filling of sundry ruts, the shortcomings of the government or weakness of the opposition and other questions of similar non-importance and make the question of health a matter of moment for our representatives and would-be-representatives—make our candidates promise to have a sanitarium built and partly supported. If the demand be made with earnestness and determination the grant must be given by those who boast of giving us Government of the people, for the people and by the people.

**Ordering
by Mail.** The mail-order system is just now giving rise to some discussion. The general trend of printed comment seems quite averse to the custom of buying from foreign houses. Those who had their views set to print have, apparently, adopted the Barnum axiom that people like to be humbugged and we are left to believe that the mail-order houses supply the humbugging and a poor quality of goods in exchange for the good money of the province. That contention will hardly stand examination. The majority of our people are shrewd

dealers. They know the value of money and generally know the worth of any goods they want to purchase. Many of them have been dealing by mail for years and have, evidently, been getting satisfaction for they are not a class who will submit to being gulled year after year. Sam Jones once said, "'tis the hit dog that yelps." It is very noticeable that the patrons of the mail-order system have not yet, "yelped," hence it is only fair to conclude that they have not been hit. The large houses with which the dealing is done have one character which appeals very strongly to the purchasing public, namely the one-price system which eliminates "beating down" and bantering. Smith does not pay \$2.20 for an article which the close-fisted Brown buys for \$ 1.75: so, the buyers feel they all are being treated alike and saved the displeasure of asking for bargains. More advantageous to the foreign houses is the fact that we do nothing to encourage our people to do business at home. The greater part of our people live at some distance from business centres. Many of the customers of the Charlottetown stores must drive ten or fifteen miles to do their shopping and yet no special effort is made to give them roads fit for travel. In other places the thoroughfares leading to the cities are kept in perfect condition but here they are almost impassable for about six weeks in the autumn and as long in the springtime. Add to that the fact that our train arrangements are frequently made with no wish to serve or convenience those coming city-ward on business. In some cases the passengers will, even if they arrive on time, have very few hours in the city and even here trains are sometimes a little late. Then consider the doubt and difficulty caused by alternate days of freight and express. Those who live at some

distance from a station are not very conversant with the timetable and are very averse to spending a miserable hour around one of these well-ventilated sheds that so often do service for a station. After a few miles of a drive on a cold morning of autumn or winter it is no pleasure to spend even a half-hour at a "siding" in a vain attempt to spritz along a freight train of the P. E. I. Railway. As we stand at present it is often much easier to have goods delivered by mail than be obliged to depend on the vagaries of our train service or suffer the discomfort of travelling over roads too often paved with a generous depth of good soft, red mud of home manufacture. It is not fair to lay the whole blame on the purchasers. They, as a class, are willing and anxious to buy their goods near home if they can do so without inconvenience. They feel no obligation, however, to buy from local houses at the sacrifice of time, comfort and money. Our business men may rest assured that people are not going to patronize foreign stores when goods can be bought as cheaply near home, and on our merchants rests the pleasant duty of supplying goods at inviting prices and also making some move towards securing better roads and train arrangements suited to the needs of the province.

British Politics.

What next at Westminster? This question, so frequently asked during the past three months, has scarce yet found an answer. British politics have degenerated into a high class game of chess where a strong move by one of the principal parties may mean "check" for the other and the whole question is who will first shout the syllable of victory? The possible outcomes are so

many that guessing is useless. Will the House of Lords be destroyed or shorn of its powers? Is Home Rule to follow in the wake of Halley's Comet or does the celestial visitor announce the death of Free Trade and birth of Tariff Reform? Is Democracy to triumph so far that it can pull down the higher classes to the necessary popular level or will Socialism be given a chance to raise its followers to the dignity of lords of the land? The sudden death of King Edward intensifies our doubts and fears. He had the tact and firmness requisite for the guidance of affairs at the present time and we all hope that King George has inherited the ability and foresight of his father. In days gone by kings have ascended the throne at difficult times, but 'tis doubtful if ever an English king succeeded to the throne at a time so fraught with danger or shrouded in uncertainty. There is no external danger imminent but the dangers from within are many and undefined: a false step now may lead to terrible consequences. Great Britain has for years past needed reforms, the Conservative element let slip the opportunity of making the changes and now their opponents come forward to remedy in one year matters requiring adjustments through a longer term. To the ordinary Englishman their present condition must be anything but pleasant. The government is now controlled by the Nationalist party who can at any moment hand out political death to Mr. Asquith and his fellows. The people of England are now getting a good lesson in the beauties and advantages of a government from without and when they have enjoyed the luxury for some time they may be willing to grant Ireland Home Rule in order to get a like blessing for themselves. Inscrutable are the ways of Providence and when its mysterious workings are shrouded in the inscrutability of politics only a

prophet can tell where matters may end. The King's death may give Radicalism a back set but not death. The third estate is now in the ascendant and then what? Time alone can tell.

Immigra- tion.

After the members of the Bar and our public officials had taken the Oath of Allegiance to the new king the crowd surged across to the Council Chamber. Thither had assembled a goodly number of the well-dressed and the merely curious to "size up" the new-comers and incidentally drink in the honeyed words of welcome from the dignitaries who were to receive the group of English immigrants. The whole thing seemed a nice bit of comedy with a woof of tragedy. It looked so strange that we should want settlers in this province which for the past fifty years has been peopling the world, has been sending its sons and daughters broadcast over creation. We have so long been accustomed to hearing our statesmen and would be statesmen, reformers and mere self-advertisers protest against the emigration of our people that we never expected to see the high and mighty of the land, the very members of the government, singing paeans of joy over the advent of a handful of settlers who were to replace the thousands we give to the world every year. Our public men should adopt the dog and bone philosophy contained in the words: "What I have I'll hold." We have the people right here, men women and children, "to the manner born," conversant with our methods of farming, inured to our climate, able and willing to work and why not try some means to keep them at home? It may look great and prosperous to have a gentleman who lives in foreign parts for the

good of his country and bears the high-sounding title of Immigration Agent. He draws salary and expenses which the tax-payer must make good and draws it for the the purpose of bringing out people who are to displace those born and bred on the spot. Objection might also be made to the advisability of having for agent a minister of any religious body. There appears to be a very strong feeling against any hob-nobbing between church and state though it makes a good deal of difference which church does the hob-nobbing. Surely some agent could be found whose status could not give rise to such comment. To us more objectionable than such agent is the very fact of employing a man who must beat up England for settlers for P. E. Island. Our government should spend some of their energy and a little of the people's money in keeping our boys and girls on "Island" soil. This they can do by encouraging agriculture, by aiding the establishment of manufactories, by giving greater facilities for handling produce and by having the railroad extended to localities that derive no advantage from the present train service. It may be very well to invite settlers from England, but it would be much better to employ agents who could devise ways and means of keeping our people at home, agents who can study the wants of the province and suggest remedies, agents who have the better interests of the country at heart and work for the betterment of all. Wake up P. E. Island, wake up! Keep at home our own kindred and friends. America for Americans is good philosophy, but P. E. Island for P. E. Islanders is better still and let us put the doctrine in practice.