

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

This belated touch of cold weather is mocked by the warm colors of the seed catalogues.

Last year was a great lending year. Governments promise to make 1919 a great spending year.

Mr. Dewart, M.P.P., presumes to dictate to the ladies what they shall wear at the opening of the Legislature. A rash man!

The Moscow Soviet is regulating the number of baths for each person. Probably the allowance will be as meagre as the food ration.

A typographical error in a Globe headline of yesterday gave the Finance Minister the name of St. Thomas White. He is only a Sir yet.

Chancellor McCrimmon scores the devotees of cards and pink teas. But perhaps many of them are too old to acquire intellectual interests.

Six hours in jail for men who ran away to avoid conscription. Six years in prison for conscientious objectors who remained to face the music.

The Quebec Committee on Public Bills refuses to permit dentists to advertise. No doubt they will still have the privilege of hanging out a sign.

Britain will permit the importation of bacon after March 10, but as the price here did not fall when the embargo was laid it is not likely to fall when the embargo is removed.

Who kidnapped Commissioner Gunn? The question bids fair to take its place beside the celebrated query as to the identity of the person who struck one William Patterson.

As soon as the Spartacans get the upper hand in any German community they suppress the non-Spartacan newspapers. They don't believe in liberty for any class but themselves.

The Toronto civic authorities object to the Provincial Government "sponging" on the municipalities by continuing to impose the Provincial war tax after the war ends. "Sponging" is not too strong a word.

"There is too much tommy-rot about retaining your military rank after service is over," says Dr. F. N. G. Starr, who was given a commission as Major in the Imperial army. "I went away as plain Dr. Starr, and am back again as plain Dr. Starr." The doctor is right.

The charge that drunken motor speeders were not prosecuted through the direct intervention of high police officials in their favor is the most serious yet made at the police inquiry. It is that sort of gross favoritism toward the rich and powerful which brings the law into contempt.

The restriction of baseball playing in Toronto's public parks to organized teams belonging to the Amateur Baseball Federation would be an outrageous perversion of the purpose for which public playgrounds were provided. The unorganized boys and girls need playing fields even more than the organized.

The tariff war surtax takes a lot of money out of the pockets of the very poor. An increased income tax would take a lot of money out of the pockets of the very rich. There are more of the very rich than of the poor in the Government. It is therefore doubtful whether the tariff surtax will be removed.

This talk of barring enemy aliens from Canada is all nonsense. A lot of sewer digging and railroad grading must be done soon. The Italian is no longer content with pick-and-shovel work, which now falls to the Bulgars and the Austrian Slavs. If we drive them out we shall have to invite them back before long.

Sir William Meredith at the police inquiry yesterday expressed the view that "the very best Government is an enlightened autocrat." But is it not Sir William's experience that when anyone sincerely seeks enlightenment he ceases to be an autocrat? It is the Judge who won't listen that the suitor with a good case fears.