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THE CHINESE FACTIONS ARE TRYING TO AGREE

While the Conference is in Progress the Foreign Powers Headed by Britian and Japan Moot Interferenc— Latest Reports Suggest Debacle.

Shanghai, Dec. 19.—Promise of peace in China became more definite to-day with the announcement that all six of .e great powers—Great Britain, Japan, the United States, Russia, France a..l Germany—are united in a co-operative effort to assist Dr. Wu Ting Fang and Tang Shao Yi in their negotiations. There was rejoicing to-day when it was learned that the representatives of the six powers were preparing to offer formally their assistance for the speedy conclusion of a misunderstanding.

It is clearly understood that this action by the powers is taken in the most friendly manner.

The pourparlers between Wu Ting Fang and Tang Shao Yi opened with surprising smoothness, and there was a complete absence of any sense of strain which might have seriously impeded the diplomatic progress of the conference. It is unmistakably evident, however, that the continuation of Manchu rule, even as concerns the Imperial throne at Pekin, is considered unlikely by either side. In this connection much significance is attached to the statement of Tang Shao Yi that he does not represent the throne, but rather the Premier. Coupled with Wu Ting Fang's early insistence upon the establishment of a republic, this is taken to mean that Yuan Shih Kai is prepared to concede the ending of the dynasty.

Even though the present dynasty is ousted, the Premier evidently hopes to retain the Imperial form of government, possibly with the present Emperor designated as the first ruler of a new Chinese dynasty and with Yuan Shih Kai as regent.

The personality of Yuan Shih Kai dominates the convention. The great fight among the delegates will be as to whether the form of government is to be imperial or republican. If an empire, Yuan will be regent. If a republic, Yuan will be the first president. The revolutionary delegates believe that they will be victorious in their demands for a republic. Even the staunchest of the imperialist delegates admit that Manchu rule is doomed.

Much comment has been aroused by the prominence of persons of British nationality both officials and others in connection with the conference, and the journey from Pekin to the south of Tang Shao Yi. Both at Shanghai and at Hankow the British consuls acting presumably under instructions from higher quarters, although not in either case the dean of the consular corps met the boat on which Tang Shao Yi was sailing down the Yang-tse. Notwithstanding that Tang Shao Yi landed at the French settlement, yet the British consul here took a leading part in his reception, and persuaded him to accept the hospitality of a British merchant, and take up his residence in his private house.

The British authorities are also providing a guard for the house in which Tang Shao Yi is residing and are assuming the responsibility for all the arrangements made for him during his stay.

UNFOUNDED RUMORS.

Shanghai, December 19.—The Nanking convention, which is to take under consideration the establishment of a republic, has not yet met in regular session. As a consequence, the reports that a president has been elected and ministers named, are without foundation.

DIRECTOR GENERAL ASSASSINATED.

Peking, Dec. 19.—Tuan-Fang, former director-general of the Hukwang Railroad, and at one time viceroy of the province of Chi-Li, has, according to information received by missionaries at Chung-King, been killed at Tse-Chow, in Shan-Si province, by his own soldiers.

Shanghai, Dec. 20.—During the peace conference between the representatives of the Imperial Government and the revolutionists this afternoon Tang Shao Yi, who represents Premier Yuan Shih Kai, expressed himself as 'ready to accept a republic but must first communicate with Pekin.'

After the meeting of the peace conference at the town hall had adjourned this afternoon an official statement initialled by Tang Shao Yi and Dr. Wu Ting Fang, the leaders of the Imperialists and revolutionaries respectively, was issued to the press. It says in substance that after Dr. Wu Ting Fang had lengthily presented the case in favor of a republic as an indispensable condition of peace Tang Shao Yi, in replying, 'expressed his readiness to accept Dr. Wu Ting Fang's views, but the matter was so important that he must first communicate with Pekin.'

The armistice between the opposing forces has now been extended to Dec. 30.

THE POWERS PRESENT NOTE.

Shanghai, Dec. 20 (noon)—The consuls of the six Powers called on Tang Shao Yi and Dr. Wu Ting Fang this morning, and presented their note, expressing the good will of their respective governments, and the hope that the peace conferences now in session would be successful.

The presentations, first at the headquarters of Tang Shao Yi, and then at the home of Dr. Wu Ting Fang, made an impressive scene.

The German consul was the first spokesman at each place, and was followed by the other five diplomats in order of their seniority as determined by length of residence at Shanghai.

Tang Shao Yi replied in the most courteous manner in a very few words expressing gratitude on behalf of the Imperial Chinese Government at the interest taken in the situation by the six Powers. He said he hoped that the conference between the representatives of the Imperial Government and the revolutionaries would be successful in restoring peace to the country.

From Tang Shao Yi's residence the consuls proceeded to the headquarters of Dr. Wu Ting Fang, the revolutionary leader, where much the same ceremony took place. Replying to the note which had been presented by the consuls, Dr. Wu Ting Fang said that he was a man of peace, but no peace could be permanent unless it was based upon the highest justice.

The consuls then withdrew.

The conference between the representatives of the Imperial Government and the revolutionaries was resumed at the town hall this afternoon at three o'clock.

REPUBLIC IN ALL BUT NAME.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 20.—A despatch to the 'Novoe Vremya' from Pekin gives a list of 22 proposals drawn upon by the Chinese Cabinet for submission to the Shanghai peace conference. This scheme would make China a republic in everything but name. According to the proposals the Emperor would receive the title of King, but all executive power would be vested in the president of the republic, legally elected, and two chambers.

INTERVENTION NOT DESIRED.

Shanghai, December 20.—The Minister of Communications in the republican provisional government, Wen Tsung Yao, declared yesterday that any attempt to secure foreign intervention would only make matters worse in China and endanger foreign interests. His party would not consent to the retention of the Manchus, even upon a limited basis, and would insist upon the establishment of a republic.

The republican government, he said, was prepared amply to provide for Manchu officials, and to offer Yuan Shih Kai the presidency of the republic, but, he added, Yuan Shih Kai must accept before it was too late.

According to the present arrangements the consuls of the United States, Great Britain, Japan, Germany, France and Russia will present an identical note at eleven o'clock to-morrow morning, first to Tang Shao Yi, Premier Yuan's representative, and then to Wu Ting Fang, of the provisional government.

CANADIAN MISSIONARIES.

Toronto, December 20.—The Rev. T. E. Egerton Shore has received a cablegram from Shanghai, which states that Mrs. Muir and family and Mrs. Olsen and family, who were missionaries of the China Inland Methodist Mission, stationed in the interior of Sze Chuan province, have arrived at Shanghai. They have brought the news that others from Chentu will arrive at Shanghai in a few days. Mr. Shore assumes from this cablegram that most of the Canadian missionaries at Chentu are now on their way to Shanghai and will arrive there shortly.

GENERAL COMMITS SUICIDE.

Hankow, December 20.—Letters received from missionaries stationed at Chung-King credit the latest reports that General Chao Erh-Feng, commander of the Imperial troops at Cheng-Fu, committed suicide when his soldiers revolted. Previous reports stated that General Chao Erh-Feng was killed by his own troops during a revolt last October.

CHINESE OPIUM TRADE.

The Hague, December 20.—Several resolutions directly affecting China were adopted to-day by the International Opium Conference. The resolutions, which were proposed by the Chinese delegates, provide for measures to protect China in the contraband trade in drugs, and that legislation be enacted by the governments regulating the sale of opium and similar drugs by chemists, forbidding the sale by unlicensed persons and suppressing opium dens in the foreign settlements of China.

A telegram was received to-day from Premier Yuan Shih Kai, who is at Pekin, announcing that he had issued an order to the generals commanding the Imperial forces to suspend hostilities. The despatch was read to the delegates while they were in conference.

Pekin, Dec. 21.— Premier Yuan Shih Kai, in an official statement to-day, said that he without any qualification, refused to accept a republic.

The refusal of Premier Yuan Shih Kai to accept a republic is a catagorical reply to a communication made to him from Shanghai by his representative Tang Shan Yi, after the meeting of the peace conference between delegates of the Imperial Government and revolutionaries held there yesterday. A statement issued after the session of the conference yesterday afternoon said that Tang Shao Yi, in replying to Dr. Wu Ting Fang, the leader of the revolutionary delegates, who had presented the case in favor of a republic, expressed his readiness to accept Dr. Wu Ting Fang's views, but the matter was so important that he must first communicate with Pekin.

The armistice between the opposing forces was extended to Dec. 30, in order to give time for a reply from Pekin.

Shanghai, December 21.—'I am convinced that the abdication of the Emperor and the establishment of a republic is the only thing that will satisfy the people and prevent the further wholesale shedding of blood.'

This statement was made last evening by Tang Shao Yi, the representative of Premier Yuan Shi Kai, after the session of the peace conference. Continuing he said:

'Peking is not aware of the depth or the extent of popular feeling in the south. Even I myself, although somewhat prepared, am astonished to find such a change from an attitude of patient forebearance to dogged patriotic determination. It now appears certainly too late to save the dynasty.

'It will be difficult to persuade Yuan Shi Kai to abandon his plan for a limited monarchy, but we must use every endeavor to secure peace and end this awful bloodshed and the suffering among my people.'

Tang Shao-Yi expressed the belief that the situation might have been saved at one time by a conference with the revolutionary leaders and prompt assurance of adjustment of the wrongs, but he considers that it is now too late. He is also convinced that there must be no foreign interference in the way of loans, or otherwise.

The conference between the delegates of the Imperial Government and the revolutionaries was resumed in the afternoon. Practically the whole of the session was devoted to Wu Ting Fang's speech in favor of a republic. Tang Shao-Yi, whose powers are clearly limited, expressed his readiness to accept Wu Ting Fang's views, but declared that the matter was so important that he must first communicate with Peking. He suggested, however, that a settlement be left to the National Assembly, but made no counter proposals.

Thus neither side presented a well defined scheme and the conference was again indefinitely adjourned.

In the meantime, it is announced, the armistice has been extended to December 30. A telegram from Premier Yuan stated that he had issued an order to the generals commanding the imperial forces to suspend hostilities.

Tang Shao-Yi demands that the integrity of China be maintained, including the three provisions of Chihli Shantungand Kiang-Su, and Mongolia and Thibet. To this the republicans have replied in the affirmative.

Tang demands the safety of the Imperial Family and ample provision for their maintenance and dignity. Wu Ting Fang has replied, consenting to this and guaranteeing ample pensions and the absolute equality of all Manchus.

During the conference Tang said that he was prepared for 'Mutual consideration as to the best method of securing an effective republican government.'

The Republican delegates propose the immediate oragnization of a provisional government, for which a temporary constitution has already been adopted at Nanking. This provides that the representatives of the provinces shall elect a provisional president, who will control the provisional republic with the aid of a provisional assembly, the delegates to be appointed by provisional governors. After six months, the president shall call a convention which shall draw up a constitution, upon approval of which the provisional presidency and the provisional constitution shall become void.

If Yuan Shi Kai consents, he will be named as the first president, otherwise Dr. Sun Yat Sen will have that office.

NEW BONDS.

London, Dec. 21.— A Pekin despatch to the 'Daily Telegraph' says that the issue of the so-called patriotic bonds amounting to $30,000,000, begun yesterday, is really a forced contribution by the princes of the Imperial clan from the metropolitan and provincial officials, ranging from two to fifteen percent of their annual incomes. A curious feature, says the correspondent, is that six percent interest is payable for four years only; after that the bonds bear no interest. This [illegible] agrees with Premier Yuan Shi Kai's expressed opinion that the struggle may last for years.

Advices from Tokio stated that the entire press is indulging in a deliberate campaign in favor of joint Anglo-Japanese intervention.

Pekin, Dec. 22.—Telegrams received by the Chinese imperial authorities state that the revolutionaries at Shanghai insist on the establishment of a republic, and that these are the only terms on which peace can be concluded.

In the course of an interview yesterday, Premier Yuan Shih Kai again declared that he would never agree to a republic.

YUAN'S OFFER.

Shanghai, Dec. 22.—Tang Shao Yi has received a telegram from Premier Yuan Shih Kai instructing him to reopen the conference and present a counter proposition to the revolutionary delegates, providing for a limited monarchy. There is reason to believe that a considerable number of influential revolutionaries are willing to consider seriously such a proposal and are urging the radical element to modify their demands for an absolute republic.

Pekin, Dec. 22.—Premier Yuan Shih Kai yesterday gave his answer to those who are aiming to transform China into a republic. In an official statement he declared, without qualification, that he refused to accept a republic.

A new situation has arisen. Great Britain, which has been supporting the Premier's monarchical programme for several weeks, is now strengthened by Japan and is endeavoring to obtain the support of the United States and other countries. Great Britain believes that the separation of the dependencies, Manchuria, Mongolia and Tibet, and the serious disintegration of China proper would result from the establishment of a republic, whereas the republicans have already obtained in a material way everything they desired. Only the name of the monarchy is left.

FEAR TROUBLE IN INDIA.

Shanghai, Dec. 22.—The revolutionary leaders here positively assert that if Yuan Shih Kai persists in his refusal to accept a republic, the powers giving him their support would be regarded as the enemies of China, and the lives of all foreigners in China would be jeopardized.

It is generally believed among the revolutionists that Great Britain is supporting the monarchy solely because of the dangerous example which would be set for India should China become a republic.

Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the reform leader, is due to arrive here in a few days, and it is believed that he will assume the leadership of the south. Large reinforcements of well armed men and well trained troops are arriving from Canton.

Tokio, Dec. 23.—Although the reports of Japanese military intervention in China are premature, it is understood that preparations have been completed to send an expedition to China in the event of necessity.

The belief prevails here that the Shanghai peace conference is a pretext on the part of both the revolutionists and the imperialists in order that they may strengthen their military positions.

YUAN'S POSITION.

Pekin, Dec. 23.—Yuan Shih Kai, the Premier, evidently still remains steadfast in his decision not to accept a republican form of government for China as the price of peace within the empire. Members of the Premier's entourage reiterated yesterday that Yuan never will advise the abdication of the Emperor and thereby become a traitor. They say that if the formation of a republic is unavoidable he will resign his office as Prime Minister.

It had been suspected that Tang Shao Yi, the representative of Yuan and the imperial government at the Shanghai peace conference, and Yuan were playing a pre-arranged game with the intention gradually to shear the Manchus of their power and thereby prevent a Manchu rising in Pekin, but the fact that Tang has telegraphed friends here asking them to endeavor to persuade Yuan of the necessity to accept a republic indicates that Tang and the Premier are not in accord. After many conferences prior to his departure for Shanghai, Tang evidently believed that Yuan had been won over to the republican idea, while on the other hand, Yuan thought Tang had been brought around to see the necessity for the continuance of the monarchy. Members of Yuan's entourage declare in these beliefs each man was self-deceived.

Though none of the members of the foreign legations will venture a prediction on the outcome of the situation, there is a feeling that an agreement is possible between Yuan and a number of the rebel provinces, perhaps not immediately, but after several renewed armistices. Yuan, it is thought, may offer the last concession possible, namely, the appointment of a Chinese regency, to effect peace. The Premier has steadily been replacing officials and army officers through the northern provinces with trusted men, loyal to himself.

RUSSIANS AND PROTECTION.

Harbin, Manchuria, Dec. 23.—Gen. Horvath, the Russian commander here, has expressed a willingness, acting with the railway guards, to protect the property of all foreigners in North Manchuria. Conditions in the country, however, are normal and no foreigners except Russians have asked for protection.

The representative of large British interests at Kinchow and Aigun and also of railways in Central China, has decided to leave the country for an indefinite period and is now on his way to Europe. He says complete chaos reigns in the Chinese empire.

Herbin, Manchuria, Dec. 23.—A band of Chinese brigands to-day attacked $an Imperial convoy which was on the way to Kirin, the capital of the province of Kirin, with a large amount of bullion. The robbers carried off a sum of $850,000.

The number of brigands in the province has increased rapidly since the beginning of the political disturbance, and the consequent unsettled condition of all parties of the country. Many soldiers have deserted from the army, and have joined their ranks, and now live openly by plunder. Murders occur frequently along the high roads, and the brigands even attack at times settlements of considerable size in which they loot the stores, and do not hesitate to murder the inhabitants if they offer any resistance.

EMPEROR VERY ILL.

Condition of Francis-Joseph Considered Serious and Subjects Alarmed

Vienna, Dec. 21.—The feeling of disquietude in Hungary and Bohemia respecting the health of the Emperor is shared by Vienna. The complete absence of all news is not reassuring. The newspapers print no particulars as to the progress of the aged monarch's serious cold, but merely detail a number of persons, all connected with the court, who have been received in audience. The doctors are in close attendance on the Emperor, who is greatly troubled by lack of sleep owing to a hacking cough. Precautions have been taken to keep the temperature of his rooms even and to prevent the aggravation of his symptoms through exposure to draughts. The Emperor is not feverish, and his condition has been stationary for some days.

The entire royal family is expected at the palace here for the Christmas festivities, and this fact tends to reassure the public to some extent.

160,000 TO STRIKE

Cotton Spinners of Lancashire Will Cease Work December 27.

Manchester, England, Dec. 22.—The committee of the Lancashire cotton spinners and manufacturers' associations at a meeting this afternoon decided to lockout the whole of the workers in the mills belonging to members of the Federation, beginning on December 27.

The lockout is a protest against the attempts of trade unionists to force weavers not belonging to the unions to join their ranks. No fewer than 160,000 operatives are involved.

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Let your friends and neighbors know of the special offers on page 3, and, if possible, show or mail them this copy of the 'Witness.'

Wishing you all A Happy New Year,

I am,

Yours for Co-operation,

THE BUSINESS MANAGER.

TURKEY MAY ASK FOR PEACE

Germany Reported to be Secretly Sending War Material to Turkish Forces

London, Dec. 19. —The cession of the Sollum district of Barca, the eastern division of Tripoli, and its occupation by Egypt has a significance in connection with the Turkish-Italian war. At the beginning of the war it was supposed that Italy desired to appropriate Sollum, with its important port, Akaba, in order to protect the projected naval station at Tobruk, but the Italians were induced to retire and recognize the old frontier.

Some experts say that Akaba has the possibilities of a finer naval station than even Bizerta, and would deprive Tobruk of much of its strategical value. Hence there is considerable curiosity as to why Turkey ceded Sollum to Egypt, and what will be its eventual fate.

Little news is being received from the seat of war. There have been some small outpost affair, but indications point in the direction of peace. The postal service between Italy and Turkey has just been re-established.

TURKISH PARLIAMENT NOT PEACTFUL.

Constantinople, Dec. 19. — The parliamentary situation is becoming critical. The members of both parties are at high tension over the proposed modification of article 35 of the constitution and this led yesterday to a personal encounter between a Unionist deputy and a member of the Opposition on the floor of the House. The former attempted to strike the Opposition deputy with a chair, but was prevented from doing so by the intervention of several members. A tumultuous scene ensued, and the president was compelled to suspend the sitting.

The Unionist majority then held a meeting and decided to provoke a dissolution of the Chamber at all costs.

EGYPT AND TRIPOLI.

Cairo, Egypt, Dec. 19. — The Egyptian Government is taking possession of the Sollum district of Barca, which forms the eastern division of Tripoli. The Sollum district borders on Egypt, and was ceded by Turkey to the Egyptian Government, which will retain possession pending the end of the war, when the definite status of the territory will be determined.

London, Dec. 20.— According to a despatch from Rome, it is believed there that Turkey is about to make peace proposals.

The British Foreign Office has issued a statement that Turkey was informed in 1904 that Sollum, in Barca, the eastern division of Tripoli, was included in Egyptian territory, and that its occupation by Egyptian troops now is a mere formality. It is believed, however, that Turkey never formally admitted this view.

GERMANY AND WAR MATERIAL.

London, Dec. 20.—A Sofia despatch to the 'Times' says that a special train conveying war material from Germany has passed Zibeftche on the Turco-Servian frontier, on its way to Salonika. Another similar train is reported to be following. The greatest secrecy is being observed.

The correspondent adds that the Turkish Government has conveyed its thanks to the German Emperor, through the ambassador, for this convincing proof of German friendship.

London, Dec. 20. — It is officially announced that no new development is indicated in the occupation of Sollum, on the coast of Cyrenaica, by troops from Egypt.

The Turkish and Italian governments were informed in November, 1904, that the Egyptian western frontier ran up to and included Sollum.

Despite this statement, it is apparent that Great Britain intends to checkmate any Italian attempt to encroach on Egypt, or to gain a dominant port in the eastern Mediterranean under the pretext of a possible eventual victory over Turkey, whose claim to Sollum might be pleaded as justifying its inclusion in the Italian conquest. So long as Turkey was the only rival and claimant to Sollum Bay, which is the best anchorage on this coast next to Alexandra, Great Britain did not push her claim, contenting herself with merely asserting it.

Italy's entry into the arena altered the complexion of the controversy. Turkey now apparently has a remote chance of establishing her claim to Sollum under the alleged arrangement for the cession of her rights in Egypt until after the present war, but it is very improbable that possession of Sollum will ever be surrendered to Italy.

Marquis Imperiali, the Italian ambassador to Great Britain, conferred with Sir Edward Grey, the secretary of foreign affairs, for some time today. It is reported that he remonstrated on behalf of his Government at the action of Great Britain in making preparations to send troops to Sollum.

FRENCH ACTIVE.

Paris, Dec. 20.—France has given official notice to the powers that she has ordered the military to occupy the oasis of Djanet, in the hinterland of Tripoli. Djanet was formerly victimed by Turkey. It commands the Ghadames, Zinder, and Mediterranean road.

New York, Dec. 21.—At the suggestion of Dr. Lyman Abbott and Dr. Mary Eddy, a woman who has spent many years in Turkey, President Taft took under advisement yesterday the question of tendering the good offices of the United States as mediator in the Turko-Italian war.

Drs. Abbott and Eddy spent more than an hour here with the President, urging him to take some action in the matter. When Dr. Abbott departed all he cared to say was that the President had the matter under consideration.

TURKISH PARLIAMENT.

Constantinople, Dec. 21.—The parliamentary situation remains unchanged. Efforts are being made, however, to reach a compromise by the two principal parties with some hope of success on the basis of the formation of a coalition ministry.

ITALIANS WORKING.

London, Dec. 21.—The Italians continue their work of establishing their position in Tripoli. The occupation of Zangur on Sunday rendered the further smuggling of arms from the west impossible. The continuance of political dissensions at Constantinople prevents the Porte from making any movement in the direction of peace. According to a special despatch last night the Sultan declares that he will not consent to the dissolution of the Chamber.

In diplomatic circles in Rome peace is held to depend on whether banking houses will refuse to lend Turkey the sinews of war. It is reported that some of them are inclined to this attitude.

TO END THE WAR.

London, Dec. 21.—A Saloniki despatch to the 'Times' says it is believed that the government has found the means to settle the war, but that complete independence and dissolution of the Chamber are indispensable for the carrying out of the scheme.

The Bulgarians have begun a campaign against the Committee of Union and Progress, influential members of which have been receiving letters threatening them with death. Two leading members of the committee at Kratovo have been assassinated.

Rome, Dec. 22.—Negotiations between the Powers with a view to inducing Italy and Turkey to conclude peace, are now progressing so rapidly that the hope is entertained that hostilities will cease in a relatively short time.

The pressure, especially from Germany, at Constantinople, has been so strong that the Porte consented to conclude peace on the conditions that the sovereignty of the Sultan over Tripoli was maintained and that Italy pay Turkey an amount corresponding to the portion of the Ottoman public debt that concerns Tripoli and the value of the building's and other properties owned by the Turkish Government in Tripoli and Cyrenaeca.

Italy absolutely refused the first condition, which she considers incompatible with the official proclamation of the annexation of Tripoli.

The efforts of the Powers are now being directed to convincing Constantinople that it is useless to continue the war, which would mean that Turkey would also lose the indemnity, which Italy is still ready to pay.

Tripoli, Dec. 22.—Three battalions of Italian troops that left Ainzara for the interior on Tuesday were attacked by Arab horsemen, and six Italians were killed while 78 were wounded.

The losses of the Arabs are not reported. The Arabs were at first dispersed by the Italians, but attacked again when the Italians were returning to Ainzara. The fighting is described as having been severe.

ARABS ASSEMBLED.

London, Dec. 22.—A belated despatch reports a fight at Derna, on Dec. 16, in which the casualties were small.

No movement is reported from other occupied points. It is said that 15,000 Arabs and Turks have assembled within four or five miles of the Italian trenches at Tobruck.

According to despatches to a news agency, six Italian warships have appeared off Durazzo, on the Albanian coast, and the inhabitants are preparing for fight.

The Porte, in consideration for the cession of the Sollum district of Barca, the eastern division of Tripoli, to Egypt, stipulated that Great Britain use her influence to preserve peace in the Balkans, prevent Italian naval action in Turkish waters and maintain a benevolent neutrality on the Egyptian frontier. Sollum has been occupied by Egypt, and it is announced will be held pending the conclusion of the Turko-Italian war.

THE BALKAN TROUBLE.

London, Dec. 22.—A despatch from Saloniki, European Turkey, to a London ews agency reports a condition of anarchy throughout Macedonia. Murder, pillage and brigandage are rife. Travel in the country districts is safe only for large armed parties. Twenty-seven assassinations have occurred within the past month within a two hours' journey of Saloniki, all the victims being Greeks.

The Christians, finding it impossible to obtain redress, are organizing bands with the object of killing the Turks.

OUTRAGES REGRETTED.

Sofia, Bulgaria, Dec. 22.—In the National Assembly yesterday an interpellation was submitted regarding the anti-Christian outrages in Macedonia. Premier Guechoff announced that a number of arrests have been made in connection with the Istib massacre, and that the persons charged with the crime will be court-martialled. The outrage referred to by the Premier occurred on Dec. 4, when a bomb was thrown in a mosque, twelve persons being killed and twenty injured.

BRITISH VESSEL SEIZED.

Alexandria, Egypt, Dec. 22.—The Italian cruiser 'Puglia,' to-day seized the British steamer 'Menzaleh,' of the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Dock Graving Company, with $150,000 in gold coin on board destined for the payment of the Turkish troops at the port of Hodeida, in the Turkish province of Yemen on the Red Sea.

The 'Menzaleh' let Suez on Monday from Aden, and was to call at Port Sudan, Suakim and Hodeida. She is a vessel of 1,080 tons.

A flotilla of Italian cruisers is keeping a sharp lookout for vessels touching at Turkish ports on the Arabian coast of the Red Sea.

BRITISH PLOT DENIED.

Berlin, Dec. 20.—The navy department yesterday issued a formal denial of the alleged discovery of a British plot to blow up the naval harbor of Wilhelmshaven, published in the 'Rhenish Westphalian Gazette.' The officials of the department say that the story is a pure invention based on the fact that two policemen and one man connected with the navy were recently arrested on a strong suspicion of being concerned in espionage. They attempted to copy an important secret book and send it to a foreign power.

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If any of our subscribers would pin this page up at any store or corner where it would be seen by others, it would help the campaign tremendously.—The more that are posted up the better.

JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Publishers,
'Witness' Block, Montreal.

A CONFIDENTIAL WORD FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

Last spring, as all will remember, there came a crisis to the 'Witness.' It had been losing what, to most people, would be a large fortune each year for about fifteen years. From fifteen to fifty thousand dollars of loss each year, all to come out of the pocket of one man, is a tax no one short of a millionnaire could stand indefinitely. And the Editor of the 'Witness' was very far from being a millionnaire, and could not have stood it so long but for money he had made in his other business enterprises. One after another these had to be sold and their proceeds used to keep his paper going. Then came the fire, and the end was in sight. The 'Witness' itself was in danger of immediately passing out of his control.

Then, and not until then, we told our subscribers how matters stood with the 'Witness'—a paper that had fought its own battles, moral, social and political, without a dollar of political aid and without subsidy from any sect, society or vested interest, a paper that always—and not for mere purposes of boastfulness—refused every advertisement that it considered calculated to injure its readers, no matter what the cost, and no matter how much it needed money.

We told its readers that even under the present financial distress we were not asking either for donations or subsidies—but only for co-operation, and the only way that rich and poor alike could serve and save the 'Witness' was to co-operate with it to double the circulation immediately.

The response was wonderful, immediate, electric. The subscribers of the 'Witness' said: 'It must not die and it shall not pass from under its present control.' Ministers—the leading ministers, the ministers that had the moral and spiritual welfare of the people most at heart—said the same thing from their pulpits. In many towns and some cities every evangelical minister preached a sermon on the 'Witness' as exemplifying the kind of journalism that exalteth a nation. They reminded their people of the fact that the 'Witness' was the only great Metropolitan newspaper that had constantly fought all forms of evil and supported all good causes for three generations, and that it had done so under the greatest difficulty and in the face of most unusual competition—a competition strengthened by the support of those very factors that the 'Witness' was fighting for conscience sake and the sake of the people.

Stirred up by such sermons the people, under the leadership of a citizen's committee of notable men and women, started out to take new subscriptions for the 'Witness'—and they took them by ones and twos and tens and hundreds, until the circulation was increased by fifty percent. Then came the warm weather, the ploughing and sowing season, and the season when many travel, and it was thought best to give the campaign and the campaigners a breathing space. We need more subscribers to put the 'Witness' in fair relation to its competitors so that it may be able to secure its proper share of advertising. These subscriptions themselves are taken at a loss, but the advertisers will more than pay the difference when the circulation has been doubled.

The 'Witness' needs the co-operation of its friends. To be most effective the Campaign must be culminated within the year. IF EACH SUBSCRIBER GOT EVEN ONE MORE BEFORE NEW YEAR'S THAT WOULD BE A PRESENT TO THE EDITOR WORTH WHILE.

The splendid service which the pulpit did for the 'Witness' last spring was paralleled by editors of papers all over the country, who generously gave publicity to the campaign and told their readers what the 'Witness' really was. Leading organizations everywhere, interested in the moral welfare of the country, passed resolutions heartily commending the work of the 'Witness.'

If Many Hate the 'Witness' And are Working Against it Many Love it and are Gladly Working for it

And as a Result the Circulation is Increasing Rapidly and Bids Fair to be Doubled Within the Year.

Many can easily do what one man alone may find an impossibility. The 'Witness' is 'THE PEOPLE'S PAPER' in a very real sense—and in supporting it the people support what is theirs—and it would be their loss more than anyone else's if it should fall into other hands. But it won't! The people will support it. To be personal, we hope for your support if you are not a regular reader already, and if you are we look to you personally to get at least one other. Talk 'Witness' every where you go. It helps YOUR PAPER more than you know. Tell your friends what you think of it. Show them your copy and point out the special features you enjoy most.

Special 'Whirlwind' Subscription Blanks will be promptly sent to any friend of the 'Witness' who will either give them out personally or enclose in his personal or business correspondence. This seed sowing will bring results.

Danger Will Not Be Over

till the circulation of the 'Witness' has been doubled. And to be most effective the doubling process should be completed before the New Year.

There is no doubt to-day of the continuance of the 'Witness.' The only question is whether its present publishers can keep control, or whether it will pass to others, who will not maintain its present character. If the Circulation is doubled, it will be a better newspaper than ever.

Doubling the Circulation of the 'Witness.'

The half-way mile-stone has already been passed. The winning post may be reached by New Year's, and will, if each one—if YOU are willing to do your individual share. No Newspaper ever doubled its circulation before in so short a time. Let the readers of the 'Witness' make the record. A few cannot do it at all, but it could be done in a single day if each subscriber got one new one. Let that day be this day.

It was because of the many assurances that the subscribers would do their best at the turn of the year that the publishers of the 'Witness' ventured to decline all offers to buy the 'Witness' last spring, the promises and the results that had already been achieved constituting a mandate that could not be ignored. Remember, we got half the number of required subscribers last spring—now, at a much easier time, we confidently expect to get the other half and so see this campaign brought to a successful finish.

Friends at some distance from Montreal may possibly not be able to get their subscription even mailed before New Year's Day. They will be just as acceptable later, but if all who can will mail their subscription, and that of a friend, by the New Year it will make the success of the Campaign the more wonderful.

WHO WILL BE THE FIRST?

First of all, we want every reader to draw the attention of one or more friends to the specially reduced 'Whirlwind Campaign' rates, as otherwise many people will never know of them. None are too old, none that can talk are too young to help the campaign.

? ?

Who will be the first to secure a new subscriber in your district?
Who will be the oldest to secure a new subscriber?
Who will be the youngest to secure a new subscribers?
Who will send in the first list of new subscribers?
Who will send in the largest list in your province?

Remarkable Offers To Genuine NEW Subscribers For a Twelve Months' Trial

'DAILY WITNESS'	Regular Rate $3.00	for only **$1.00**
'WEEKLY WITNESS'	Regular Rate $1.00	for only **.65**
'WORLD WIDE'	Regular Rate $1.50	for only **$1.00**
'CANADIAN PICTORIAL'	Regular Rate $1.00	for only **.65**

Or added to any of the others only fifty cents (50c) for the 'Canadian Pictorial.'

'NORTHERN MESSENGER'	Regular Rate .40	for only **.25**

The rates quoted above for the 'Witness' ('Daily' and 'Weekly') are good only in the case of **BONA FIDE NEW** Subscribers who have not taken either 'Daily' or 'Weekly' editions for two years; but such New Subscribers to the 'Witness' may ADD one or all of the other publications to their order at the rates here given, even if they have been taking one or more of these already.

WHY WE GIVE CUT RATES

It is always distinctly understood that special cut rates are merely to induce those who do not know the publication to try it for a year. These rates are not living rates, and it would be quite impossible to allow them for renewal subscriptions, but they are allowed for **Bona-fide New** Subscribers in the confidence that when the time for renewal comes round, the subscriber, who has learned to value the publication, will cheerfully pay the full sustaining rate, or else will make the slight effort needed to entitle him to such reduced rates as are always offered to those who will secure **Two Genuine New** Subscribers.

These special rates to **Bona-fide New** Subscribers are the lowest net rates, and must be remitted direct to the publishers, as they do not admit of the trouble and expense involved by the intervention of an agent.

In sending name, address and subscriptions at these rates, please state clearly that you are a NEW Subscriber, so as to avoid delay in getting on the list at the dollar rate.

And for Your Own Renewal Subscription

to the WEEKLY WITNESS and two NEW Subscriptions (worth $3) for only $1.50

in such cases the other publications may be added for any or all of the subscribers at the rates above quoted.

N.B.—These rates are good for Canada and Newfoundland, excepting only Montreal and surrounding country within a radius of thirty miles.

IF YOU PREFER THE 'DAILY WITNES'

in future instead of the Weekly, you may do so at the dollar rate providing they send at the same time two other new subscriptions to Daily at the dollar rate, or three new subscriptions to the Weekly at 65c each.

JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Publishers - - - - - - - - - - - - 'Witness' Building, Montreal, Can.

Canadian Pictorial

Canada's Popular Illustrated Magazine.

NEWS BY VIEWS.

Crowded with exquisite photogravures representing the world news of the month.
Special attention to things Canadian.
Each month's issue forms a veritable art portfolio of high class pictures, the educational value of which to both old and young is not easily estimated.
No Better investment for your home.
No better gift to an absent friend.

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CANADA'S WELL-KNOWN ECLECTIC.

A Weekly reprint of Articles and Cartoons from the leading Journals and Reviews reflecting the current thought of both hemispheres.

Invaluable to the busy man or woman who wishes to keep abreast of the times, with the least possible expenditure of time or money.

'Almost every article in almost every issue you feel you would like to put away among your treasures.' Editor, 'Telegraph,' Welland, Ont.

(See Contents of latest issue on Editorial Page.)

The publishers will, upon application, gladly send it for three consecutive weeks, **Free of Charge**, that you may fairly judge of its scope. You must know 'World Wide' to appreciate it, and those who know 'World Wide' best consider it the one indispensable publication they take. Regular rate $1.50 a year.

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16-24 PAGES OF INTEREST TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY.

Messenger Stories and illustrations have delighted more people during the last two generations than any other papers designed for Sabbath Reading. Its Sunday School lessons and temperance talks are features that make it invaluable for Church or Sunday School distribution, as such it is the most widely circulated family paper in Canada.

INDIVIDUAL RATE - - - - - - - - - - - 40c A YEAR
SUNDAY SCHOOL CLUB RATE
(In Club of 10 or more to one address) - - - - - 20c A YEAR
Equal to about three copies for one cent.

A FREE TRIAL AT OUR EXPENSE IN ANY SCHOOL.
ASK FOR SPECIAL OFFER TO NEW SCHOOLS IN THE WEST.

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For Special Trial Rates of these Affiliated Publications See Remarkable Offers Detailed Above.

Their Circulation Helps the 'Witness.'

The Great Achievement

To double the circulation of a great Metropolitan Newspaper within the year.

Easily Possible—

at least as easy as that each subscriber to the 'Witness' get one new one.

Most Desirable

All will admit that it would be a national and international loss if the only Metropolitan Newspaper of its kind in the whole world should succumb for the mere lack of the co-operation now requested.

So Unique

Never before in the annals of journalism did any metropolitan newspaper double its circulation in so short a time. But never before was there such an occasion. The 'Witness' will be as proud of its readers as they are of the 'Witness' if the circulation is doubled. The Nation and the whole world will resound with the wonderful achievement ALREADY MORE THAN HALF ACCOMPLISHED.

Will YOU Do YOUR Best

to bring the campaign to an immediately successful issue?

Those who respond most promptly help the campaign most.

WHIRLWIND CAMPAIGN OFFERS

THE 'WITNESS' ON TRIAL for twelve months to GENUINE NEW Subscribers

	Regular Rate.	On Trial. Net.
The 'Daily Witness'	$3.00	$1.00
'Weekly Witness and Canadian Homestead'	$1.00	.65

These special rates to **Bona-fide New** Subscribers are the lowest net rates, and must be remitted direct to the publishers, as they do not admit of the trouble and expense involved by the intervention of an agent.

WHY WE GIVE CUT RATES.

It is always distinctly understood that special cut rates are merely to induce those who do not know the publication to try it for a year. These rates are not living rates, and it would be quite impossible to allow them for renewal subscriptions, but they are allowed for **Bona-fide NEW** Subscribers in the confidence that when the time for renewal comes round, the subscriber, who has learned to value the publication, will cheerfully pay the full sustaining rate, or else will make the slight effort needed to entitle him to such reduced rates as are always offered to those who will secure two or more **Genuine New** Subscribers.

N.B.—These rates are good for Canada and Newfoundland, excepting only Montreal and surrounding country within a radius of thirty miles.

Use the following Coupon for convenience, or refer to the **SPECIAL OFFER** in the **'DAILY WITNESS.'**

Those who know others who have not been taking **THE WITNESS** may let them subscribe at the same rate. In this case each subscriber should sign his name and address on the coupon herewith or it may be copied out for the purpose at the head of a sheet of notepaper.

DC **COUPON**

JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Publishers
'Witness' Block, Montreal.

I am a bona-fide NEW Subscriber to the 'WITNESS,' neither I nor any member of this household having subscribed to the 'Daily' or 'Weekly Witness' for at least two years, and I will take the .....'Witness' ON TRIAL for a year at your special WHIRLWIND CAMPAIGN rate of.....as announced above, which I enclose herewith.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

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Post Office or Express Orders or Registered Mail at publishers' risk.

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JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Publishers
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I am a bona-fide NEW Subscriber to the WITNESS, neither I nor any member of this household having subscribed to the 'Daily' or 'Weekly Witness' for at least two years, and I will take the .....'Witness' ON TRIAL for a year at your special WHIRLWIND CAMPAIGN rate of.....as announced above, which I enclose herewith.

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NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

Post Office or Express Orders or Registered Mail at publishers' risk.

THE REAL LORDS OF AMERICA

Russian Newspaper Says They are the Jewish Bankers

St. Petersburg, Dec. 19.—The American ambassador, Curtis Guild, jr., acting under instructions from the President of the United States, yesterday notified the Russian Foreign Minister, M. Sazonoff, that the treaty of 1832 between the United States and Russia would be abrogated, in accordance with the provisions made by Article XII., on Jan. 1, 1913.

It is pointed out in official circles that Russia has no cause to be dissatisfied with the turn of affairs, President Taft's action in view of the previously contemplated procedure, being likely to increase his popularity here. The notification, it is added, was given with full right and tactfully made no mention of motives underlying the abrogation of the treaty, which leaves full latitude for conducting new negotiations, with the controversial factor eliminated.

This feature of the situation has attracted attention and seems to be fully appreciated. The Russian Government finds not the slightest grounds for objection to the abrogation in such shape as it actually assumed in American Ambassador Guild's note, which is dated December 17.

In a note dated Dec. 18 the Russian Foreign Minister acknowledges receipt of the notification and says that Russia takes notice thereof.

The 'Novoe Vremya' to-day will say:

'President Taft has judiciously chosen the best way out, to put an end of the scandalous Jewish agitation, which is dangerous to both countries. At the same time the incident bears witness that the Jewish bankers have become the real lords of America.'

After dwelling on the sacrifice by the United States and the real and growing trade interests, which the 'Novoe Vremya' says will be felt 'when the tariff war schedule is applied and British and German manufacturers' goods drive out American goods,' the paper continues:

'Commerce will be sacrificed without gain of nation l honor. The menace of a great nation should not be uttered triflingly, as the House of Representatives did, out of caprice. Russia has not yielded before a threat, and the situation leaves the agitators shorn of their most valuable weapon. The supreme shot has been fired; no other shot is left. The fate of future negotiations will show the agitators that unless Milukoff becomes Prime Minister of Russia the concession, which they demand cannot be obtained, especially with reference to Jews of Russian origin.'

State Department officials do not believe that the heavy trade between the United States and Russia necessarily will be jeopardized by the abrogation of the treaty, although a tariff war is possible and Russia would have the right to exclude American ships from any of her ports.

THE SENATE TALKS.

Washington, Dec. 19.—President Taft turned over to the Senate today the task of completing the abrogation of the treaty of 1832 with Russia because of alleged discriminations against American citizens of Jewish faith. Ignoring the House of Representatives, the President sent a message to the Senate announcing that on Friday last he had caused notice to be forwarded to St. Petersburg that the United States desired the treaty to end Jan. 1, 1913.

This notification was officially handed to the representatives of the Russian Government yesterday. Mr. Taft asked the Senate to ratify and give effect to his action. The foreign affairs committee of the Senate voted unanimously to report a resolution of ratification, couched in diplomatic terms, and Senator Lodge offered it later in the Senate. There was every reason to believe that the resolution would be rushed through, inasmuch as the Senate Committee, as an act of courtesy to the House, had decided that the lower branch of Congress should be asked to concur in the Senate's action.

Senator Heyburn, of Idaho, however, took the floor and after protesting vigorously against hasty action, asserted his right under the rules and by formal objection threw further consideration of the matter over until to-day.

Although it is evident that politics would enter into the fight to-day, the prediction was made freely that all obstacles would be overcome, and that before the Senate adjourned the committee resolution would be put through as a substitute for the House resolution, which proved objectionable to the Russian Government.

Chairman Sulzer, of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, author of the House resolution, declared last night that he believed the matter would be adjusted satisfactorily, and that the abrogation of the treaty would be an accomplished fact before Congress recessed on Thursday for the holidays.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The Senate, by a unanimous vote, last night formally ratified President Taft's notification to Russia of the termination of the treaty of 1832. The Lodge joint resolution reported by the Foreign Relations Committee, as a substitute for the Sulzer resolution that passed the House three hundred to one, was adopted after an all day debate over Russian discrimination against the Jews of America. The House to-day is expected to agree to the Senate measure.

Commercial relations between the United States and Russia will not be affected as a result of the abrogation of the treaty of 1832, in the opinion of Senator William Alden Smith, of Michigan, because of the favored nation clause of that treaty has been swept aside by the operation of the maximum and minimum clause of the Payne tariff law carried into effect by the President's proclamation of July 18, 1910.

The Senator's view was discussed widely at the Capitol yesterday as a feature hitherto lost sight of in consideration of the annulment of the pact.

RUSSIANS SURPRISED.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 20.—Having accepted in an equable spirit the notification of the American ambassador that the treaty of commerce and navigation entered into by the United States and Russia in 1832 would be abrogated on Jan. 1, 1913, officials of the Russian Government are now directing their attention to the question of a new treaty.

It is pointed out by Russian officials that the government's hands are tied by statutes which cannot be changed outside of the legislative machinery of the Douma and the Council of the Empire, as instituted in 1906. The whole question, in their opinion, seems to be dominated by a misunderstanding of the treaty of 1832, which makes no reference to passports. Article I. of this treaty provides for the free entry of all American citizens on the sole condition that they observe the internal laws of the empire. This stipulation is reproduced in all the treaties with other powers. Therefore there has been no question of infringement of the treaty, but actually one modification of the internal statutes, which can be done only by legislative means. Further, it is argued, if a passport statute had been originally enacted or if the question of passports were merely one of relations between the United States and Russia, this question might be a matter for diplomatic negotiations. But the Russian statutes having reference to the Jews do not concern only American Jews, but all foreign Jews. A concession to the United States would mean a concession to all other countries having Jewish subjects. Russia, say the officials, has no wish for a bargain, and, they ask, 'What can America concede to Russia for the abolition of Jewish legislation?'

In parliamentary circles here the prevailing comment is characterized by astonishment that the American government has responded so readily to the Jewish outcry. The opinion is expressed by members of the Douma that in all probability the Jews will now attempt to force matters further.

American business men in St. Petersburg and Moscow have been following the situation with tense interest, and depression prevails among them at the prospect of the loss of the market at a time when it was opening most favorably.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The House of Representatives yesterday agreed to the Senate resolution to abrogate the Russian treaty of 1832. The action was by viva voce vote. The only negative vote was cast by Representative Macon, of Arkansas.

THE RUSSIAN VIEW.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 21. — The Russian newspapers are giving small attention to the Russo-American relations. About the only article published on this subject is an interview with M. Timiriazeff, who was minister of commerce in the Witte Cabinet, and has taken a leading part in developing Anglo-Russian commercial relations.

The former minister of commerce says that the treaty of 1832 is old-fashioned and primitive, the principle of the most favored nation being obscurely formulated therein. Commercial treaties, however, he adds, have solely economic objects, never political objects. If the Jewish question served as the reason for the abrogation of the treaty, the United States, he declares, will scarcely gain its point in a new treaty.

'We cannot change our internal legislation,' said M. Timiriazeff, 'to please the United States.'

In the former minister's opinion, the matter will not come to a tariff war. 'Under the circumstances,' continues M. Timiriazeff, 'the American Government's step is not clear and scarcely prudent. Bad economic relations may help to disturb good political relations. The traditional friendship between Russia and the United States is now at stake needlessly. Russia is dependent upon the United States only for raw cotton. She imports half her supply from that country, and grows the other half in Turkestan. The Government's attention should be occupied without delay with this question, and extensive irrigation credits should be voted by the Duma.'

The Moscow newspapers ignore the subject completely. A few despatches from London and one or two mail letters from occasional correspondents in America represent the sum total on the treaty question. It would appear as if the situation in the United States arose too abruptly and developed too suddenly to permit the Russian public to get interested in it.

Washington, Dec. 22. —President Taft yesterday signed the joint resolution passed by Congress ratifying his action in serving notice on Russia of the abrogation of the treaty of 1832 with that country. The treaty automatically will continue in effect until January 1, 1913. In the meantime efforts will be made to negotiate a new treaty eliminating the causes of friction which led to the termination of the old one.

JEWS TAKING ACTION.

London, Dec. 22.— The Jewish 'Chronicle' says that the leading Jewish institutions here have decided to urge the abrogation of the Anglo-Russian treaty, which differentiates against the English Jews.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 23.— A legislative proposal to provide for tariff war schedules applicable to the United States at the expiration of the Russo-American commerce and navigation treaty of 1832, has been introduced in the Duma by ex-President Guchkoff, and other signers, representing the Octoberist and Nationalist parties, which control the majority of the Duma. The bill proposes to raise existing Russian duties by 100 percent, also to impose a duty of 100 percent on articles which are admitted free under the present Russian tariff.

Besides these impositions, the bill proposes to levy also double the gross weight tax established by the law of June 21, 1901, of merchandise arriving by sea, and to levy a double tonnage tax. Should the present American tannage tax be raised to the disfavor of Russian vessels, then the Russian tonnage tax will be correspondingly increased.

It is said that the schedules are to be applicable to all countries which do not grant Russia the most favored nation treatment in commerce and navigation.

OPIUM CONFERENCE ADJOURNS

The Hague, Dec. 22.—The International Opium Conference at which twelve nations are represented, and which has been sitting since Dec. 1 has adjourned till Jan. 8.

EARTHQUAKE IN MEXICO.

Mexico City, Dec. 22.—An earthquake of moderate intensity occurred here at 6.15 to-day. The shock lasted about one minute. No loss of life or damage to property is reported.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Acts directly and peculiarly on the blood; purifies, enriches and revitalizes it, and in this way builds up the whole system. Take it.

There is no "just-as-good" medicine. Insist on having Hood's. Get it today.

Such Letters As These Are Surely Stimulating.

It is not many of eighty-seven years of age who could get so many new subscribers. Yet our old friends are able to say that they have known the 'Witness' for so many years, and can trust it no matter what the emergency to do what it believes to be right—and that is perhaps the greatest thing that can be said of any newspaper. None are too old and none who can talk are too young to say a word for the 'Witness' just now.

Stellarton, N.S., Dec. 4th.

Dear 'Witness'—

I have been a reader of the 'Witness' for thirty seven or eight years, and should not like to lose it, so I got out in the Whirlwind and secured fourteen new subscribers for the 'Weekly Witness.'

I am now in my eighty-seventh year, and am **not so active as I was when younger.**

Wishing the 'Witness' Godspeed, I remain

Yours truly,

JAMES McKAY.

Toronto, Dec. 21st, 1911.

Messrs. John Dougall & Son,
Montreal.

Gentlemen,—Enclosed please find cheque including exchange for $21.65 for your 'Witness' publications, as per enclosed list.

The first three names are renewals, the others, as far as I know, are new. If any should prove to be renewals, kindly let me know.

Yours truly,

(DR.) PAUL L. SCOTT.

PERSIA YIELDS TO RUSSIA AND MR. SHUSTER MUST GO

British Foreign Office Officially Notified That Russian Demands Will be Granted and Trouble Thus Averted.

Berlin, Dec. 20.—A special despatch from Teheran in the 'Lokal Anzeiger' reports that the Persian Ministry has resigned. It states further that it will be succeeded by an ultra democratic cabinet, which will reject the Russian ultimatum demanding the dismissal of W. Morgan Shuster as Treasurer-General of Persia, and will await the results of its action.

Teheran, Persia, Dec. 21.—Serious fighting between the Persian constitutionalists and the Russian troops is reported to have occurred in a telegram from Tabriz. No details are given.

RUSSIA INSISTS.

London, Dec. 21.—It is understood from St. Petersburg that unless Persia decided to-day to accept the terms of the Russian ultimatum demanding the dismissal of W. Morgan Shuster as treasure-general, the commander of the Russian troops now concentrated at Kasbin has been ordered to



MR. W. MORGAN SHUSTER.

advance on Teheran. The troops who number about 4,000 of all arms will in the event of Persia's continued refusal begin their advance to-morrow.

The 4,000 Russian troops concentrated at Kasbin reached there from Resht on Nov. 29 after an ultimatum had been delivered to Persia by Russia demanding Mr. Shuster's dismissal and the payment of an indemnity. The ultimatum was to expire on Dec. 1, but was extended indefinitely.

Kasbin lies about 96 miles northwest of Teheran which could be reached by forced marches of all arms in about three days. A determined dash by a strong force of Cossacks might, however, place Teheran, a walled city with ancient defences, in Russian hands within 24 hours. The nature of the country is rather unfavorable for such an enterprise.

The road though excellent rises for the first forty miles rapidly to an altitude of 7,000 feet, but the last fifty miles are level although sandy and stony.

Teheran, Dec. 22.—The Persian Cabinet has given to the Russian minister, S. Poklevski-Koziell, verbal assurances of its intention to comply with the demands of the Russian ultimatum.

PERSIA YIELDS.

London, Dec. 22.—The Persian legademands.

THE FOREIGN OFFICE ADVISED.

London, Dec. 22 (Later).—The British Foreign Office, shortly after noon, received official confirmation from the British minister at Teheran that Persia had yielded before the Russian threats, and had granted all the demands contained in the Russian ultimatum of Nov. 29. These included the dismissal of W. Morgan Shuster, who has been acting as treasurer-general of Persia since June last.

PEACE AT TEHERAN.

Teheran, Dec. 22.—Early this morning official notices were posted on the walls of the city in prominent places ordering the people to abstain from political meetings of any kind without tion. It is said that this order was issued by command of the cabinet, as the question of the Russian ultimatum was being discussed and was likely to be settled amicably.

MORE TROUBLE FEARED.

London, Dec. 22.— It is felt here that the fighting in Persia yesterday will throw the fat into the fire and prevent a settlement of the dispute with Russia. The despatches from Persia contain only the most meagre details of yesterday's affair. The correspondent of the Times' at Teheran locates the row at Tabriz and describes it as serious. The Russians who were in the fighting were doubtless those who have long been stationed at Tabriz and not the troops who were sent to enforce the Russian ultimatum. These latter have apparently not yet left Kazvin. The Persian constitutionals have always been sore at the occupation of Tabriz by the Russians, and seem to be trying to oust them.

A despatch from Teheran states that the Russians have seized the telegraph line at Mehrand and Khoi, in the province of Azerbaijain, in the Russian sphere of influence, and Castara, in trans-Caucasia on the Caspian Sea.

BASIS OF SETTLEMENT.

London, Dec. 22.—Details have not yet reached the British Government, but it is believed in official circles that Russia's demand that the appointment of foreign advisers to the Persian Government should hereafter be subject to Russian and British approval, has been found, with some slight modifications, agreeable to both parties.

RUSSIA AND PEACE.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 22.—It is inferred here that the action of the Persian Parliament in referring the last Russian ultimatum to a committee of five members with plenary power assures a peaceful settlement of the trouble between that country and Russia.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 22.—A despatch received here from Julfa, 210 miles from Teheran, reports that a body of Persians attacked a Russian detachment and an all-day fight ensued. Artillery was employed. The date of the fight and the place where it took place are not given. Neither does the despatch state which side was victorious.

The telegraph line to Persia is not working now.

London, Dec. 23.— Persia yesterday yielded to the demands of the Russian ultimatum, which demanded that the Persian foreign minister apologize for an insult to M. Petroff, the Russian vice-consul at Teheran, on the occasion of the seizure of the property of a brother of the ex-Shah, and also called for the dismissal from office of W. Morgan Shuster, an American, who held the position of treasurer general.

The Persian charge d'affaires at St. Petersburg called at the Russian Foreign Office late in the day to announce officially his Government's decision to abide by the terms of the ultimatum. Up to a late hour last night, however, no public announcement had been made at Teheran of the recession of Persia from the defiant stand she originally took against the demands of the Czar's ministers, even in the face of threatened aggression. The delay in making public the fact that she had yielded to the Russian demands was through fear of the consequences of public resentment. Mr. Shuster is still without formal notice of his dismissal. He is resolute in declaring that he would have nothing to do with the negotiations and would only recognize the right of the National Council to dispense with his services.

The exact form of Persia's reply to Russia is not yet known, but from the latest news received from Teheran it would seem that the cabinet has over-ridden the wishes of the commission which the National Council appointed to deal with the matter.

It is not probable that there will be a withdrawal of the Russian troops in Persia while disorders such as those at Tabriz are occurring. There are only two hundred Russian troops encamped three miles outside of Tabriz, from which guards are sent to town daily for the consulate and banks. From conflicting Russian and Persian accounts of the trouble at Tabriz it is difficult to ascertain exactly what happened, but reports published in St. Petersburg are to the effect that several Russian soldiers were killed in the fighting there.

LONDON SATISFIED.

London, Dec. 23.— The London morning newspapers generally consider that Persia in acquiescing in the Russian ultimatum acted wisely and averted thereby Russian occupation at Teheran.

The 'Times' in an editorial congratulates the Persian Cabinet. It says the Cabinet needed no little courage to follow so unpopular, if sensible, a course, and adds:

'We trust that the Russian Government will show its appreciation by making the settlement as little unpalatable as may be to Persian pride, and that both Russia and England will do their best to promote Persian interests, for, after all, neither of the two powers is entirely free from responsibility in the recent unsatisfactory developments.'

A despatch to the 'Times' from Teheran says:

'The British and Russian legations have been informed that the Cabinet has accepted the Russian ultimatum. A draft of the note was shown to the Russian Minister, who, I learn, considers it fairly satisfactory. It was unfortunately timed, and the simultaneous outbreaks at Tabriz and elsewhere probably will remove any possibility of the withdrawal of the Russian troops in Persia.'

THE REPORTED FIGHTING.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 23. —The fighting between the Russians and the Persians which was reported from Tabriz on Thursday lasted in the streets of the city throughout the day. The old citadel was bombarded.

The Russian consul general has sent to headquarters a request for reinforcements in view of the danger to Russian subjects and Russian property in the city.

The Russian Cossacks at Resht, which is sixteen miles northwest of Enzeli, on the Caspian Sea, drove the Persians out of their position after considerable fighting. It was found that the Persians were armed with Russian rifles.

According to the despatches received here both at Tabriz and Resht the fighting was opened by an attack on the Russians from a Persian ambuscade.

Washington, D.C., December 23. — American Consul Paddock apparently had an exciting experience during the fighting in the streets of Tabriz. He reported to the state department yesterday that his consulate had been exposed to the fire during the fighting in the city which has been going on since Thursday. So far, he says, the American colony is in no danger.

GERMAN OFFICERS.

Must Inform Superiors of Intended Travel in Britain.

London, Dec. 22.— The Emperor, acting in his capacity as commander-in-chief of the German army, has forbidden all his officers to visit Great Britain without permission from the military authorities. At present German officers must obtain the consent of the authorities to travel abroad, but they have not been required to state their foreign destination.

The Kaiser's new decree is intended to prevent German officers from undertaking at their own risk espionage on British territory. Hitherto this has been a common practice among the ambitious young military men who desired to gain distinction by bringing home useful information about Great Britain's defences.

This new order, however, does not mean that German officers will cease to visit Great Britain as agents of the Intelligence Department, but they will resign their commissions during the period of such activity, so that if they are arrested they may be described as mere civilians.

A PARIS SENSATION.

Four Men Rob and Kill Messenger in Crowded Thoroughfare.

Paris, Dec. 22.—The latest sensational murder here occurred yesterday in broad daylight in the heart of one of the crowded thoroughfares of the city. A bank messenger, who carried a satchel containing $60,000, was stopped by four bandits. They invited the messenger to turn the satchel over to them and when he refused and offered resistance they shot him dead. The thieves then seized the satchel and jumped into a waiting automobile. The murder and robbery were witnessed by thousands of amazed and frightened citizens.

SEEKING CANCER CURE.

Berlin Dec. 22.—Medical men are hopefully paying great attention to the latest results of the fight against cancer, which is being waged by Professor August Von Wasserman and Drs. Keisser and Michael. Professor Von Wasserman has had remarkable success in treating mice which had been infected with cancer, by injecting into the veins a preparation of cosin and selenium. After the fourth injection the cancerous tumors almost disappeared and in ten days some were entirely cured.

The professor, in making this announcement, was careful to say that he was not yet justified in assuming that similar results could be attained in human beings, but he contended that the view which has hitherto been held that it was impossible to reach a tumor by chemical means through the blood and thus destroy it, has been proved by his experiments to be unmenable. The experiments were tried on four types of carcinoma and one of sarcoma.

ROBBED THE DEAD.

Parisian Theives Break Into Tomb of an Actress and Steal Jewels.

Paris, Dec. 22.— An extraordinary sensation was caused in Paris today by the announcement that the tomb of the celebrated Parisian actress, Madame Lucie Lantelme, in the cemetery of Pere Lachais, was broken into last night and valuable jewels were taken from her body and carried off. The jewels included a pearl necklace which alone was valued at $80,000. One of the robbers was apparently wounded while forcing the metal casket in which the beautiful actress's remains are laid, for a trail of blood was left in the vicinity of the tomb and along the pathways leading to the gates of the cemetery.

Madame Lucie Lantelme, who was the daughter of a simple Parisian janitor, achieved great success as a comedienne after her adoption of a stage career. She became known as the most beautiful woman in Paris. She was married to Alfred Charles Edwards, the first proprietor and editor of the 'Matin,' a millionaire. While she was yachting with him on the Rhine near the Dutch frontier on July 24 this year, she fell overboard and was drowned.

GREAT TRIAL COLLAPSES.

Viterbo, Dec. 21.—The trial of the Camorrists has all but collapsed. Witnesses who have been summoned fail to appear, and the authorities have been unable to locate them. The jurors have asked the court to discontinue the trial.

PORTUGUESE ROYALISTS AGAIN

Vigo, Spain, Dec. 22.—Advices from Braga, a city in Portugal thirty-five miles northeast of Oporto, say that a monarchist outbreak occurred there on the night of Dec. 20 in the barracks of the 29th Infantry Regiment. The colonel and a captain of the regiment were wounded in the course of the disturbance. At noon on the following day firing was still heard in the city.

Lisbon, Dec. 22.—An official note issued by the Government says that the revolt reported to have occurred at Braga was confined to a few rifle shots. The colonel of the 29th Infantry was wounded. The affair arose from the insubordination of some soldiers over the question of punishments. A number of soldiers were arrested.

EMPEROR'S CONDITION.

Vienna, Dec. 22.—The Emperor yesterday gave a half-hour audience to Count von Achrenthal, the Austro-Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Emperor Francis Joseph is suffering only from a cold and hoarseness. He sleeps well and his appetite is said to be fairly good. Notwithstanding various reports that are being circulated, alleging the Emperor's serious illness, it was stated yesterday in a most reliable quarter, that there was no reason for alarm. This is confirmed by the fact that Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir presumptive, left Vienna with his family this evening to spend Christmas at his country home near Prague.

GERMAN NAVAL PROGRAMME.

Berlin, December 20.—The Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung published yesterday a summary of the imperial budget for 1912. The total expenditure is given as 2,819,363,000 marks (appropriately $704,840,750), an increase of 58,067,000 marks ($14,516,750). The army expenditure is given as 770,504,000 marks ($192,626,000), an increase of 41,241,000 marks ($10,310,250). On the navy 457,415,000 marks ($114,353,750) is to be spent, a decrease of 789,000 marks ($199,500). The naval ordinary and non-recurrent expenditure shows an increase of 25,542,000 marks ($6,385,500), but the extraordinary expenditure for the navy is decreased by 26,340,000 marks ($6,585,000). The army increase is due to the larger peace footing voted in the Reichstag during the last session. The interest on the national debt calls for 32,792,000 marks ($8,198,000) less.

FRENCH FRIENDSHIP.

Paris, Dec. 22.—France is arranging another imposing testimonial of her friendship and affection for the United States. To-morrow a public subscription is to be opened to offer a bronze bust of 'La France,' by the illustrious French sculptor, Auguste Rodin, which will be plated at the base of the monument to be dedicated next June to Samuel de Champlain, the French navigator and explorer of 'Lake Champlain,' to which he gave his name.

STORM IN FRANCE.

Paris, Dec. 22.—The Eastern districts of France have been swept by a violent tempest of rain and wind. Much damage to property has been caused. Many telegraph poles and trees in the forests have been uprooted, while a score of fishing craft have been cast ashore along the coast and a number of fishermen drowned.

BATTLE EXPECTED.

Manilla, Dec. 20.—A battle is imminent in the Island of Jolo, between 600 Moros and a force of U. S. troops. The Moros, who are defying the ultimatum issued by Brigadier-General Pershing, ordering the disarmament of the natives in the district, have retired to the top of the peak of Bud Dajo, which they have fortified. They are surrounded by infantry and artillery, and a fight is likely to begin at any moment.

HAWAIIAN SUGAR CROP.

New York, Dec 21.—The Hawaiian Islands for crop year ending Oct. 1, 1911, produced 566,821 tons of sugar, 31,665 tons more than the previous highest crop of 1909. In 1901 the islands yielded 360,000 tons. In 1905 the yield was 462,000 tons, compared with 535,000 tons in 1909, 517,000 tons in 1910. Fifty-four sugar companies operate in the insular group, of which 76 are on the island of Hawaii.

BADEN TO CELEBRATE.

Berlin, Ont., Dec. 20.—The village of Baden, the birthplace of the Hon. Adam Beck, is preparing a monster celebration there on Dec. 29, when the Power Minister will formally turn on Niagara power. Mr. Beck will turn on the lights from the little Lutheran Church, where he has just erected a memorial to his deceased mother. The event will terminate with a ban-

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Does any 'Witness' reader condemn conscientious conviction if it happens to conflict with his own, and does he feel that to hold a different opinion on an economic question is so much worse than actually taking a wrong stand on a moral or religious question that it is his duty, as some have frankly told us, to give up the 'Witness' and urge others to do the same?

If you want your friends to think for themselves and to think honestly introduce the 'Witness' to them, even if you do not agree with some of its opinions or want others to. The right is never wronged by honest debate.

DREADFUL ACCIDENT.

Car Full of Church Goers Overturned in Toronto.

Toronto, Dec. 24.—Two women killed and a score of persons injured, some fatally, was the tragic result of a Christmas Eve street car accident in Toronto shortly before seven o'clock to-night.

West-bound King street car No. 1502, crammed to capacity with church-going passengers, got beyond the motorman's control on the slippery rails while descending a steep grade of the new Don bridge, and, dashing past the accustomed stop at the King street car barns struck an open switch at St Lawrence street. The car veered south, but its speed was too great to make a turn safely, and the big car crashed over on its side. The panic-stricken passengers, piled in heaps, and amid showers of broken glass and splintered wood, struggled desperately for egress, the men climbing out of the uppermost windows, above their heads, while the women and children made their way to the dors and windows at the ends of the car.

As the car capsized some of the passengers went through the windows underneath and were pinned under the car, one of these being the first victim, Mrs. Alfred Deacon, of England.

The circumstances surrounding the death of Mrs. Jessie Deacon are particularly sad. She was the wife of Captain Alfred Deacon, commander of a training ship in the British navy, and had come to Toronto with her husband for a Christmas visit, only to witness the death of Captain Deacon's mother, a sufferer from cancer, who died on Saturday at her home No. 23 Elmer avenue, and whose funeral was fixed for Tuesday.

Captain Deacon, doubly bereaved, is expected to be sufficiently recovered from his injuries to attend the double funeral, which will now be held.

Toronto, Dec. 25.—At the hospital last night it was stated that Robert Hall, 726 Gerrard street, was sinking, and was not expected to live through the night. The base of Hall's skull was fractured. Arthur Blow, of 77 Victoria street, who had a severe scalp wound and internal injuries, is also in a critical condition. The other injured persons are doing well, and are expected to recover.

MEXICAN REVOLUTION COL. LAPSES.

Bernardo Reyes, Once Her Greatest General, Has Surrendered.

Linarez, Nuevo Lareda, Mexico, Dec. 25.—Defeated and stripped of former arrogance and pride, General Bernardo Reyes, Mexico's one-time greatest military leader, and more recently leader of a revolt that threatened to tear the country from border to border, to-night is in jail here. He surrendered to-day officially to General Trevino, a personal enemy of years.

Riding alone into Linarez to-day, the grey-haired rebel gave himself up to Lieutenant Placido Rodriguez, commander of 24 Rurales, the sole military guard here. Permission was obtained to telegraph a formal capitulation to General Trevino, commander of the third military zone at Monterey. He frankly admitted his dream of another successful revolution had come to an end, and placed himself at Trevino's disposal.

JAPAN CONVINCED.

Now Believes That a Republic is Only Solution for Chinese Difficulty.

Tokio, December 25.—A conference of members of the Japanese cabinet at which many of the elder statesmen, including Prince Katsura, the ex-premier, were invited to assist, was held here on Sunday. The strictest secrecy has been maintained regarding the discussions at the conference, but it is generally believed that the latest developments of the situation in China were taken into serious consideration. It is understood that the conference reached the conclusion that the adoption of a republican form of government by China was apparently inevitable.

UP-TO-DATE.

Paraguay Now Has Revolution of Its Own.

Paris, Dec. 22.—The French Foreign Office is unable to obtain replies from cablegrams addressed to M. Belin, the French minister resident at Asuncion, the capital of Paraguay. It is thought at the Foreign Office that the Paraguayan city, which has a population of about fifty thousand, has been surrounded by victorious Paraguayan insurgents. The revolutionary movement was started about a month ago.

A ROYAL BIRTH.

Berlin, Dec. 19.—Crown Princess Cecilia, the wife of Crown Prince Frederick, William, gave birth to a son at one o'clock this morning.

The Crown Princess was Duchess Cecilia of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. Her marriage with Crown Prince Frederick Wilhelm took place on June 6, 1905. The family of the royal couple now consists of four sons.

NEW ZEALAND ELECTIONS.

Christchurch, N.Z., Dec. 21.—The political parties are evenly balanced after the elections, and the only possibly way out of the deadlock seems to be to take a vote of confidence in the members. Many members favor dissolution as a test.

A WONDERFUL WEAPON.

Berlin, Dec. 21.— Krupp is reported to be constructing a 38-centimeter gun which will be the biggest piece of artillery ever constructed. The length of the gun, it is said, will be twenty metres, and the projectile it will carry will weigh 390 kilograms.

A Club of ten renewal subscriptions to the 'Weekly Witness' may be sent in, as in previous years, at Seven Dollars for the Club.

THE JOLLY GOOD FELLOW.



IN THE BAR—'Come on lads, another on me. Whoop 'er up. I've money to burn.'



AT HOME —'Confound it woman, why do you bother me about shoes for the kids. I've got no money.'

The National Temperance Pledge Crusade

First Report Shows a Thousand Names Already Sent In.

Let our friends not forget, as they go about picking up new subscriptions for the 'Witness,' that they can at the same time get signatures to the temperance pledge, and so help on that great crusade.

If any one prefers a different form of pledge, let him substitute it for the one sent out. We will send as many more Temperance Pledge Rolls as our readers may require. A post card will bring them quickly.

But anyone may write a pledge against the use of intoxicants as a beverage at the head of a sheet of paper and secure signatures and addresses—the ages also to be stated in case of minors.

It would be splendid to secure one hundred thousands pledges before January 15th, and it could be done.

In the crusade inaugurated by the 'Witness' and 'Northern Messenger' a decade ago, nearly sixty thousand pledges were secured. And we should be able to make it a hundred thousand this time. Let us all try.

Of course much of the best work is done individually, but Sunday Schools, churches and day schools will easily secure the great majority of pledges in this crusade. Temperance workers will kindly forward Pledges and Pledge Rolls as promptly as possible, to facilitate the work of classification, computation and preparation of Honor Rolls for publication in the 'Witness.' The name of every one, young or old, who succeeds in getting the twenty signatures will be printed in the Montreal 'Witness' and 'Northern Messenger' Temperance Honor Rolls, and those who secure the greatest number of names will be invited to write an account of how they did it, which, together with their pictures, will be published. A star will be prefixed to names in Honor Roll for each additional full list sent in. It is suggested that pledge-signing services be held in churches and Sabbath schools. Otherwise, Sabbath school teachers might arrange to have one of the scholars obtain the signatures of the members of the class. Indeed, each member of a class might undertake to get his own blank filled up with 20 signatures of day school or other friends, old or young, and so be entitled to mention in the Honor Roll.

This is a great work, and it is hoped that our readers all over Canada will do their utmost share in it. The zeal of temperance workers in this way will greatly encourage those who are campaigning against the traffic in strong drink.

Though the date suggested for the pledge-crusade to be ended was January 15th, yet a good many lists have already reached us, totalling nearly a thousand pledges. This shows that the crusade is going to be very popular, and we hope temperance workers all over the country will do their best to secure a round 100,000 pledges, thus making it the greatest pledge-signing crusade ever undertaken in Canada.

MONTREAL WITNESS

Temperance Pledge Roll

I solemnly promise by the Grace of God that I will abstain from the use of Intoxicating Liquors as a beverage.

I will also discountenance the use of intoxicating liquors by others, and will encourage any legislation which would reduce or prohibit the sale of strong drink.

	NAME	ADDRESS	All signers under age will please write their age in this column.
1			
2			
3			

Another sheet of paper may be attached below for additional signatures.

In witness whereof .....

Name and full post office address of temperance worker on this line.

All Lists, whether complete or otherwise, must, on or before January 15th, be enclosed in envelope bearing full letter postage, and addressed to John Dougall & Son, Publishers, Montreal, to be placed, when filed, in the custody of the Dominion Alliance.

While there can be no objection to signing the pledge as often as presented, it is important that no one sign these TEMPERANCE PLEDGE ROLLS more than once.

CANADA'S DRINK BILL.

The latest full reports issued by the Dominion Dovernment give us the total quantities of intoxicating beverages of different kinds entered for consumption in Canada for the year ending March 30th, 1910, as follows:

	Gallons.
Canadian spirits	3,777,156
Imported wines	2,269,355
Canadian malt liquors	38,554,898
Imported malt liquors	859,824
Imported wines	757,981
Total	46,319,214

The greater part of the liquor consumed in Canada is sold in the form of drinks across the counter in the bar-room. Some people purchase quantities in bulk for consumption at home, and allowance is made for this. For example, take the case of beer: a gallon sold in half-pint drinks at five cents each would bring eighty cents, and most of the beer consumed is sold in this way. This estimate puts the average price to the consumer as seventy cents per gallon.

After consultation with experienced men, the following prices have been taken as a reasonable basis for a calculation to ascertain the amount actually paid by the consumers for the quantities of liquor upon which duty is collected:—

Canadian spirits	$6 00
Imported spirits	8 00
Canadian malt liquors	0 70
Importe dmalt liquors	2 00
Imported wines	5 00

The application of these estimates to the quantities already quoted will give the following table as the expenditure on intoxicating liquors in the Dominion of Canada for the year:

Canadian spirits	$22,662,936 000
Imported mines	18,154,840 00
Canadian malt liquors	26,988,428 60
Imported malt liquors.	1,919,648 00
Imported wines	3,789,905 00
Total	$73,515,757 00

This enormous expenditure is only a part of what the liquor traffic costs the country. To it must be added the heavy charges incurred in the maintenance of prisons, courts, hospitals, asylums, reformatories, and all the other incidental expenses which are admittedly much greater than they would be were it not for the liquor traffic. Immense losses are also incurred through the idleness of men and women who are incarcerated, demoralized, indisposed, out off employment or otherwise prevented from sharing in productive work through indulgence in strong drink.

If we make the very moderate estimate which can readily be more than justified of indirect losses equal to the amount directly paid for liquor, we have an annual loss to the country of about $150,000,000. Add to this financial burden the awful load of sorrow and sin inflicted upon so many of our people, the loss of many lives, and all the other physical and moral disaster that intemperance entails, and we have an aggregate beyond what mind can grasp.

The aggragate of all expenditures for benevolent purposes is very small in comparison with this tremendous waste. But for this financial handicap, our country's prosperity would be unequalled among the nations of the earth. Take the aggregate of the loss of our people during say ten years of the continuance of the drink system, and the idea of the national impoverishment becomes fairly bewildering. What would Canada become if the liquor traffic were destroyed?

Against this monstrous evil an effective warfare is being waged. It would personally profit every citizen of this Dominion to contribuet liberally towards the maintenance of that warfare. Help is not asked for upon that ground. The appeal of the Alliance for support in its work is an appeal to higher motives, an appeal based upon higher considerations. The appeal is for a crusade for appeal is for a successful crusade for the overthrow of a national sin, for the deliverance of many captives, for the bringing of peace and joy to many broken charts and wretched homes, for the advancement of the kingdom of heaven on earth. Will you share in this compaign?

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

There are eighty municipalities in Ontario that are going to vote on local option. Have you a vote in one of these municipalities? If so, remember that it is not the vote of the liquor people that is going to sustain the licensed bar, it is the vote of the stay-at-homes. If you stay at home you vote for the saloon and for the continuance of the liquor evil. *Vote! Vote! Vote!*

A GREAT PROBLEM.

'The alcohol queston presents tself at every corner to every man and woman desirous of solving the great social problems that await solution.

'It is a kind of root problem, the settlement of which would necessarily involve an adjustment of innumerable other things which have a destructive effect on every hand. As a mere matter of economy and time this is a question worthy most serious consideration.'

SIR VESEY STRONG,
Lord Mayor of London.

TAFT IN MESSAGE ASKS TARIFF REVISION DOWNWARD

Report of Tariff Board on Famous Schedule K. Sent to Congress To-day Together With Presidential Message.

Washington, Dec. 20.—President Taft sent to Congress to-day the long-awaited report of the Tariff Board on schedule K. of the Payne tariff act, and with it a message recommending that the rates on wool and woollens be materially reduced.

The report shows that the existing duties on many classes of wool and woollen manufactures are prohibitory and greatly in excess of the difference in the cost of production here and abroad. The duties are so arranged as to keep out of the United States entirely wools of finer qualities which if imported might be used to displace the cheap substitutes now employed.

Mr. Taft calls attention to these points, and urges that a revision of the schedule be proceeded with at once. He dwells with emphasis upon the fact that the report is a unanimous one, and asserts the belief that it will convince all of the wisdom of making the tariff board permanent.

The Tariff Board's report suggests a general revision of the duties on wool and woollens, and many individual reductions in the rates. The board makes no recommendations, but points out what changes are desirable. In nearly all classes of the schedule, the board's experts report the majority of the rates of duty prohibitory and condemn the systems of levying them.

The report points the way to two great changes in the present system of levying duties upon raw wool and finished cloth. It would assess duty on scrubbed wool-not wool and grease combined; and suggests a graduated scale of ad valorem rate on cloth.

The report is divided into sections viz:—Raw wool, yarn and cloth. They are taken up in the order in which they come in production and manufacture.

On raw wool, the board finds the present system of levying duty bad, and the duties higher than the difference in cost of production in the United States as compared with the cost abroad. The method of levying duty is condemned because of the charges for grease as well as for wool and operates to keep out of the United States the heavy shrinking woollens.

On tops, from which yarn is made, the present rate of duty is found to be prohibitory. It costs 80 percent more in the United States to convert tops into yarn than it does anywhere else. On yarn, from which cloth is woven, the present rate of duty is found to be prohibitory because it keeps out all except the finer grades.

On cloth, the present rate of duty is pronounced prohibitory on heavy weight, cheap and medium grade cloths, principally because of the specific compensatory duty which fixes a certain charge per pound before the ad valorem rate begins. It costs 100 percent more to make cloth from yarn in the United States than it does in England or France. The present system of fixing the same ad valorem rates of duty on different grades of fabric is condemned as unfair.

The board holds that a fair solution would be the adoption of a graduated scale under which the ad valorem rate properly assessed on goods of low value should then increase progressively according to slight increments of value, up to whatever maximum rate should be fixed.

The Board's figures would seem to show that the 'prohibitory duties' do not affect the American consumer so much as would be inferred by the use of those words; for while the duties on sixteen samples of foreign cloth selected by the board averaged 184 percent, the actual excess of the domestic price over the foreign price was found to be 67 percent as the result of domestic competition.

The cost of a suit of clothes from the back of a sheep to the back of a man is computed in the report, and the profits which accrue in the process are traced to their sources. For purposes of computation the board takes a suit of clothes retailing at $23 and wholesale at $16.50. This is said to represent fairly the suit of clothes worn by the average American.

The farmer receives for the wool in such a suit, $2.23, and his profit is 68 cents; the manufacturer of cloth receives for his product $4.78, and his profit is 23 cents; the wholesale clothing dealer receives for his product $16.50, and his profit is $2.18; the retail clothing dealer receives $23, and his profit is $7.50. The figures are aggregate.

PRESIDENT TAFT ON FINANCE

In Message to Congress He Discusses Currency Reform, Among Other Subjects.

Washington, Dec. 21.— President Taft sent another of his promised messages to Congress to-day. This time he dealt with currency reform, Panama Canal tolls and various governmental questions.

On the subject of currency reform, and in connection with the forthcoming report to Congress of the Monetary Commission, Mr. Taft said it was exceedingly fortunate that 'the wise and undisputed policy of maintaining unchanged the main features of our banking system rendered it at once impossible to introduce a central bank.'

He gave his approval to the proposed National Reserve Association. As to the management of this association, the President said this was mainly bankers' work, and the banks could be trusted better than anybody else to conduct it. However, he urged that some form of government supervision and ultimate control should prevail, and that the currency reform should not be a political issue. 'And I trust also that the new legislation will carefully and completely protect and assure the individuality and the independence of each bank, to the end that any tendency there may ever be toward a consolidation of the money or banking power of the nation shall be defeated,' said the President.

The immediate establishment of a rural parcel post was urged.

On the subject of the Panama Canal the President dealt at length with the question of whether American shipping would pay tolls. 'I am very confident that the United States has the power to relieve from the payment of tolls any part of our shipping that Congress deems wise,' said the President. 'We own the canal. It was our money that built it. We have the right to charge tolls for its use. These tolls must be the same to everyone; but when we are dealing with our own ships, the practice of many governments of subsidizing their own merchant vessels is so well established in general that a subsidy equal to the tolls, an equivalent remission of tolls, cannot be held to be a discrimination in the use of the canal.'

Among the President's recommentions were the following: An immediate increase of 2,000 men in the enlisted strength of the navy. Abolition of the smaller navy yards. Contributory pension system for government employees. The elimination of all local offices from politics.

Increased appropriation for the completion of river and harbor improvements along the Mississippi, the Ohio and the Missouri rivers.

An extension of the term of service of the special board of engineers o the waterway from the lakes to the Gulf.

Employers liability and workmen's compensation legislation called to the attention of Congress.

Payment of the French spoliation judgments.

PRESIDENT TAFT AND 1912.

New York, Dec. 21.—President Taft went back to Washington early to-day with assurances that he would have practically solid support from the New York delegation at the coming National Convention. Colonel Roosevelt's friends seized the occasion of the President's visit to reiterate that his predecessor would not allow his name to be used in opposition to Taft's.

The President returned without seeing Col. Roosevelt or receiving any communication from him. A visit paid by Dr. Lyman Abbott started a report that he was an ambassador from his associate in magazine work, but this Dr. Abbott promptly denied.

While William Barnes, jr., the Republican state chairman, would not confirm the report that he and Mr. Taft settled their differences yesterday, and that Barnes promised the President his support, the state chairman did say this: 'I do not believe it is my function to press or urge upon the Republican electorate Republican candidates. I assume that whoever is nominated will adhere to the principles that will be adopted.'

Mr. Barnes added that he would strive to have the Republican state convention which will elect delegates to the National Convention adopt a declaration of principles that would be a clear and decisive expression of Republican doctrine, 'which to my mind,' he said, 'implies resistance to political error, half-thought-out ideas, ill-considered and dangerous demands.'

Samuel Koenig, the Republican county chairman, declared emphatically that the New York delegation would be solidly behind Taft, and that he told the President so.

'Colonel Roosevelt,' said the county chairman, 'is doing nothing, absolutely nothing. I am still taking him at his word, and I know he is not a candidate, at least for 1912. Whether he will be in 1916—well, that is five years away.'

PRESIDENT TAFT AND WOOL TARIFF

Congress Expected to Make Great Reduction Following Executive's Message

Washington, Dec. 21.—Congress will actively begin consideration of tariff legislation in the committees of the two Houses immediately after the holiday recess, though Democratic leaders of the House, the tariff originating body, say that no measure will be ready to report for some weeks.

Republican leader, Senator Penrose, said the finance committee would begin its work in advance of the House, while the Democratic leader, Representative Underwood, declared the bill would not be whipped into final shape for report until February. The committee, he said, must decide just what rates should be fixed after thoroughly comparing its own data with facts submitted by the Tariff Board in the report which President Taft submitted yesterday to both Houses of Congress.

Senator Penrose announced that he hoped the Republican senators would be able to formulate a bill to comply with the tariff board's views. Representative Underwood said the President's message really pointed out the necessity of a great reduction in wool rates, and that he had no doubt the House would carry out the suggestions made.

'The President, in his message, said Mr. Underwood, 'favors placing a specific duty on scoured wool as a basis for importation of raw wool, instead of placing a duty on raw wool and then increasing the duty on scoured wool. If the committee should adopt a specific rate for raw wool there might be much in the President's argument, but I have no doubt the committee will exact an ad valorem instead of a specific duty.

'The President advocates ad valorem duty on manufactured wool. In the bill passed last year the rates were ad valorem, based on import valuations in contra-distinction to the compound, specific and ad valorem rates now exacted in the Payne-Aldrich Law. The President says the present duties on wool and woollen manufactures in many instances are prohibitive. I have no doubt of a reduction. The message clearly justifies the Democratic members in passing the wool bill last year that the President vetoed.'

Representative Dalzell, of Pennsylvania, Republican leader on the Ways and Means Committee, said the message clearly showed why it is necessary to have wool legislation other than that proposed by the Democrats at the last session of Congress.

REPORT STRIKES A SNAG.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The tariff board's report of its investigation of the wool industry struck rough water as soon as it reached the Democratic House yesterday. At the conclusion of the reading of the President's message, which was greeted with applause from the Republicans and silence by the Democrats, an attempt was made to have the report referred to the Ways and Means Committee without printing.

Both the report and message were finally left on the Speaker's table until to-day.

FATAL HOTEL FIRE.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Dec. 21. — The Hotel Grant at Grant twenty miles north of Grand Rapids, was destroyed by fire to-day. Guests jumped from the windows, and Orchellus Seward, aged 84, of Grant, was killed.

WOULD STOP FAVOR TO CANADA

Paper Maker Urges Congress to Revive Root Reciprocity Amendment.

Washington, Dec. 21.—John T. Wheelright, of Boston, interviewed Representative Underwood and other Congressional leaders with a view to reviving the Root amendment to the Canadian Reciprocity Bill prohibiting the free entry of wood pulp and print paper from Canada unless that country reciprocates in this regard.

Mr. Wheelright is a paper manufacturer, and holds that he is compelled to buy raw material in a protected market and sell in a free market. He told Congressmen to-day that the failure of the Root amendment to be adopted was due to the fact that it was regarded as inimical to the whole Canadian reciprocity programme, but, inasmuch as Canadian reciprocity itself has failed, Congress should now adopt it for the protection of the American paper industry. Should the Root amendment be adopted now he believes it would relieve the embarrassment of the Administration with regard to the demand of other nations having favored nation treaties with the United States, which are now demanding free entry for their pulp and paper.

SIX WILL DIE.

Another Italian Convicted In New York Murder Case.

White Plains, N.Y., Dec. 20.—To the company of five men in the death house at Sing Sing prison awaiting electrocution for the murder of Mrs. Mary Hall, at Croton Lake last month, a sixth has been added. This man is Salvatore Di Marco, who was found guilty by a jury here yesterday of having participated in the killing of the woman. Justice Tompkins set the week beginning Jan. 29 as the time for his execution. The other five are sentenced to die during the week of Jan. 15.

ASSAULT OLD MAN.

Retired Doctor, Seventy Years of Age, Beats Off Five Robbers.

New York, Dec. 20.—At the age of 70 years, Dr. George V. Hudson, a retired physician, fought five robbers who assaulted him in the vestibule of his home last night. The aged doctor lost his watch, but saved $400 in cash which he had in his pocket, by actually biting off the end of a finger of the man who attempted to steal the money.

The scuffle had by this time attracted attention, and the assailants, who were all young men, scattered. The doctor bore cuts and bruises on his face from the brass knuckles which the men had used, but he had the finger tip to present to the police as a possible clue.

HOME FOR BLIND.

President Taft Lays Corner Stone in New York.

New York, Dec. 21.—With a silver trowel handed to him by a blind woman, President Taft laid the corner-stone yesterday afternoon of the first settlement house in the United States for the blind. A crowd of several thousand persons choked the street to get a glimpse of the presidential party, which was seated on the rough wooden platform erected on the site of the proposed building, and several hundred more looked down from the house tops.

EXCITING FIRE.

New York Has Early Moving Scare When Tenement House Ignited.

New York, Dec. 22.— Fire broke out in an old tenement house on East 4th Street early to-day, and soon the fire escapes were white with screaming women in night gowns, many with naked children in their arms. The ladder that conected the end of the fire escape with the ground could not be lowered, and policmen caught thirty women who jumped from the second floor, throwing their babies to the outstretched arms below.

On account of the difficulties of rescue it was reported first that several persons had been burned to death, but when daylight came all the tenants were accounted for.

STRANGE DAMAGE SUIT.

New York, Dec. 20.—Fourteen-year-old Ruth Kingsley, daughter of Darwin P. Kingsley, president of the New York Life Insurance Company, is defendant in a suit of $20,000 damages which went to trial in the Supreme Court here yesterday. The plaintiff Miss Teresa Hankinson, formerly a domestic in the Kingsley household, and the sum she seeks is to compensate for an injury alleged to have been sustained at the hands of the little girl, who was then eleven years old.

The bill alleges that the little girl had accidentally snapped a window shade to the top of the sash and that the plaintiff climbed upon the top of a sink to lower it. While she was there, the plaintiff declares, Ruth pulled her skirt, upsetting her balance and causing her to fall to the floor. As a result of the fall, the bill charges, the plaintiff is subject to convulsions and has been unable to perform her duties as a domestic. A general denial is made by counsel for the youthful defendant.

EX-BANKER DOOMED.

Washington, Dec. 19. —Charles W Morse is doomed, according to a report of the medical officers of the army hospital at Fort McPherson, Ga. They say that his present condition is grave, but that his ailment (arteriosclerosis) is progressive and incurable, although it is not possible to predict when the end will come.

BOOTH FISHERIES CO.

Chicago, Dec. 18.— A Booth Fisheries Co. director is authority for the statement that the annual meeting in January will authorize $7,500,000 7 1-2 percent cumulative preferred stock to provide for eventual retirement of $5,000,000 debenture bonds and exchange for present $2,000,000 6 percent preferred stock. The remaining $500,000 will be held in treasury.

ELEVATOR FALLS.

New York, Dec. 21.—Eight persons were hurt, some of them seriously, today, when an elevator in the Importers' and Traders' building on Stone street fell six floors to the basement.

If you want your friends to think for themselves and to think honestly introduce the 'Witness' to them, even if you do not agree with some of its opinions or want others to. The right is never wronged by honest debate.

A SEA YARN.

United States Will Make 1,000,000 Ton of Fertilizer From Weeds.

Washington, D.C., Dec. 22.—The United States will not have to depend on Germany much longer for its potash with which to make fertilizer, Mr. Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture, stated yesterday. In the near future the United States should be able not only to supply its own needs, but also to export a considerable amount of potash, he said.

The principal source of American potash, the experts of the agriculture report, will be in the kelp, of seawed of the Pacific coast. The plan extracts potash salts from sea water and from 25 to 35 percent of its weight is potassium chloride. The Pacific coast should yield annually about a million tons, worth forty million dollars,

KIDNAPPED BOY.

Startling Story of Young Lad Held Captive by Religious Sect.

Chicago, Dec. 21.—How George Lindsay, 12 years old, and sole heir to the millions of the late W. H. Lindsay, of Philadelphia, had been removed from the temple of a 'Sun worshippers' cult, and placed under the charge of the juvenile court, at the request of relatives, was revealed here to-day.

Charles R. Lindsay, uncle of the boy, is responsible for the action. After a nation-wide search for the boy the uncle found him in the 'Temple' here. Detectives in the employ of Lindsay who attempted to take the boy away were attacked by worshippers, it is said. The boy's mother, who placed him in the 'Temple' is said to be known among the cult as 'Vahdah.'

One of the charges made by the boy's uncle is that the lad was kept on a diet of grapes and beer. The Gerry Society and other juvenile organizations aided in the search. He is said to have been in the 'Temple' about six months.

The boy is now at his mother's home here. She has been ordered not to return him to the 'Temple.' Judge Pinckney will hear the case on Jan. 4.

RUSSIAN GIRLS SOLD.

Prisoner in Los Angeles Declares That City Has Marriage Market.

Los Angeles, Dec. 21.—Declaring that the local Russian colony was a marriage market, wherein young girls were bartered like cattle by their parents, Elsie Laviok Navikoff, 17 years of age, while in the Juvenile Court yesterday on a charge of delinquency, screamed that she would bare the secrets of her race rather than to marry a stranger to whom she alleges her parents were trying to sell her.

She declared that in the Russian quarter, with a population of about 4,000, there were 600 young girls for sale, at an average price of $500.

'They have sold me to a man I have never seen,' the girl cried. 'I will die before I will marry him. I love another, and he loves me, and we will be married as soon as I can get away from my people.'

THAW A BANKRUPT

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 21.—Roger O'Mara, trustee in bankruptcy for Harry Kendall Thaw, now confined in Matteawan Hospital, brought the famous case one step nearer the end yesterday, when he filed his final account in the office of Referee in Bankruptcy W. R. Blair. A meeting of the creditors will be held Dec. 27, and the account may be approved at that time, thus ending the long-drawn out litigation.

Thaw has already been discharged from liability in the proceedings, the order having been made Dec. 29, 1910. The account filed by O'Mara shows a balance of $59,963 for distribution.

ABANDON NEW THEATRE.

New York, Dec. 21.—The 'new theatre' idea, which was backed by several millionnaires, headed by William K. Vanderbilt with the purpose of giving the country an endowed theatre with an established repertoire company of the first class, is now announced to have been wholly abandoned.

When the founders of the project gave up the magnificent but unwieldy playhouse they had erected near Central Park it was announced that the idea would not be abandoned, but that a smaller theatre would be erected further down town to house the stock company At a meeting of the founders last night it was decided ,with reluctance to abandon the project altogether. It was stated that the promoters had acted according to the advice of experts. It has been estimated that a fortune of several million dollars has been spent in the new theatre cause which commercial managers have continually berated.

U. S. RAILWAY AND CANADA.

New York, Dec. 21.— As the result of favorable action of stockholders of the Iowa Central Railway, the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad yesterday took over the control of the Iowa Central, its leased and operated lines, which will hereafter be operated as a part of the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad. Formal notice to this effect was issued from the office of Newman Erb, president .

With the formal ratification of the Minneapolis and St. Louis-Iowa Central merger it was learned that the first mentioned road contemplates two extensions, neither, however, in the direction of Duluth, as was recently rumored. Both extensions will be to the Canadian border, one forming a direct line between Minneapolis and Winnipeg. The other will connect with the Canadian Northern and Grand Trunk Pacific lines to Edmonton, in Alberta. Surveying parties are now in the field, and work on one or both extensions will be started as soon as these preliminaries have been completed.

A HOLIDAY TRAGEDY.

New York, Dec. 22.—Joseph Cosgrove and his friend, John Gaddle, were trimming a Christmas tree for Cosgrove's grandchildren in their home on Thirteenth street, Brooklyn, late last night, when the men got into an argument over the artistic fitness of certain ornaments. According to the police, Cosgrove, who is 63 years of age, knocked Gaddle down, and then while the children looked on, cut Gaddle's throat with a carving knife. Gaddle died almost instantly. Gaddle was engaged to be married to Cosgrove's daughter.

TEXAS TRAIN WRECK.

Texarkana, Tex., Dec. 22.—Thirty to forty persons were hurt, some fatally, to-day, in a head-on collision on the Texas and Pacific Railway at Kildare, south of here, between two passenger trains.

INDICT MRS. VERMILYA.

Chicago, December 20.—An indictment containing thirteen counts charging Mrs. Louisa Vermilya with having murdered Policeman Arthur Bissonette, by poisining him, was returned by a grand jury yesterday. She was ordered held without bail.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

—ALL IN ADVANCE.—

DAILY WITNESS, $3.00.

WEEKLY WITNESS AND CANADIAN HOMESTEAD, $1.00.

WORLD WIDE, $1.50.

NORTHERN MESSENGER, 40 cents; S.S. clubs, 10 copies or more to one address at 20c per subscription.

For Special Clubbing Offers see announcements elsewhere in this paper, or write for particulars.

Postage included for Canada (Montreal and suburbs excepted), Newfoundland and the British Isles; also for Bahamas, Barbadoes, Bermuda, British Guiana, British Honduras, British North Borneo, Ceylon, Cyprus, Falkland Islands, Fiji, Gambia, Gibraltar, Hongkong, Jamaica, Leeward Island, Malta, Mauritius, New Zealand, Northern Nigeria, Sarawak, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Southern Nigeria, Transvaal, Trinidad, Tobago, Turk's Island, Zanzibar and Mexico.

Postage for United States, Alaska, Hawaiian and Philippine Islands, 'Weekly Witness,' 25 cents extra; 'Northern Messenger,' 10 cents per copy; for individual subscriptions, 15c per copy in clubs to one address. No extra postage on the 'Daily Witness' to the United States and its dependencies.

For Montreal and its suburbs—No reduced rates are open unless they are specifically declared to be so. And the cost of postage or delivery must in all cases be added for delivery in Montreal or its suburbs.

FOREIGN POSTAGE EXTRA to all countries not named in the above list, as follows: 'Daily Witness,' $6.50 extra; 'Weekly Witness,' $1.50 extra; 'Northern Messenger,' 50 cents extra; 'World Wide' subscription price, including postage to foreign countries, only $1.50.

Sample and subscriptions blanks freely and promptly sent on request.

ADVERTISING RATES.

WEEKLY WITNESS—Casual advertisements, 15c per line per insertion. 'Farms to Rent,' 'Farms for Sale' can be inserted for 1c a word per insertion, from subscribers. The lowest rate for non-subscribers is two cents per word. When replies are to be addressed in care of the 'Witness' Office, an additional charge of twenty-five cents is made. In all cases the full price must accompany each order.

DAILY WITNESS—10c per line per insertion. Contracts on favorable terms. 'Employment Wanted,' 'Situations Vacant,' etc., 10c per insertion, up to 20 words. Money must accompany order, as this quotation is reckoned on a cash basis.

Births and Deaths, 25c per insertion; Marriages, 50c. These must be authenticated by the name and address of the sender. Inserted without charge for subscribers. All obituaries with poetry, 50c a line, agate measure. Money to accompany notice.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

ADDRESS—Give street and number (if necessary), post-office and province.

Remit—By Express or Post-Office Order, or register your letter for your own protection.

Post-Office or Express Money Orders can be obtained at the following rates:—$5.00 and under, 3c; over $5.00 and up to $10.00, 6c; over $10 and up to $50.00, 10c.

U.S. Subscribers should remit by Post-Office Order, or by American Express Co. payable at Montreal.

Stamps are accepted in payment of subscriptions provided they are in perfect condition.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS—When wishing to have your address changed from one post-office to another, it is necessary to give the old address as well as the new.

If this is not done such change cannot be made.

Address all business communications

JOHN DOUGALL & SON,
Publishers,
'Witness' Building, Montreal.

SAMPLE COPIES.

Any subscriber who would like to have specimen Copies sent to friends, need only send upon a post-card the name and addresses to which he would like papers sent.

EXPIRING SUBSCRIPTIONS

Would each subscriber kindly look at the address tag on his paper? If the date thereon is

DECEMBER, 1911

it is time that the renewals were sent in so as to avoid losing a single copy. As renewals always date from the expiry of the old subscriptions, subscribers lose nothing by remitting a little in advance.

While the publishers of the 'Witness' exclude from its columns all financial and other advertisements which they consider calculated or intended to take advantage of or injure the reader, it must be understood that they in no way guarantee advertisements, and must leave their readers to exercise their own discretion in the way of putting faith in them. It is, of course, impossible to know much about mining advertising, which offers probably the most speculative and, therefore, the most risky of all investments. The great chances of gain are balanced by the great chances of loss, and no one should invest in a very speculative property more than he can afford to lose.

The Witness.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1911.

The Persian Government was defeated by Parliament for its decision to yield to the Russian demand for the dismissal of Mr. Morgan Shuster and an apology. This refusal to concur was natural, but hopeless, unless the Parliament wished to see Persia devoured by Russia. Conditions were aggravated by an attack by Persians on a force maintained by Russia for the defence of her interests in the Province of Azerbaijan which adjoins Russia. The Persian cabinet, which under the new constitution, should have resigned, has, after deferring action for a time, taken upon itself to carry out its decision. It has dismissed Mr. Shuster and apologized, but has not dared to make this known to Parliament or to the people. Mr. Shuster says he will take dismissal only from Parliament. Russia is not retiring from Persia, nor will she do so until the people cease to demonstrate and protest.

Yuan Shi Kai's envoy to the Shanghai negotiations to determine the future constitution of China soon came to the conclusion that there was no hope for anything but a republic, and frankly said so, but he had no power to act in that sense and must refer the matter to his chief. The republicans offered Yuan the presidency, but Yuan stands out firmly for at least the form of monarchy. In this attitude he has the best wishes of the western powers, which seem to be meddling a great deal, especially Japan and Great Britain, both of which are no doubt interested in not having a futile wave of republicanism sweep over Asia. Most people would probably come to the same conclusion that Tang Shao Yi, Yuan's envoy, did, were it not that all give Yuan credit for great astuteness. We must suppose either that he is convinced that final success is with his policy, or that his sense of loyalty to the emperor and to the position he very deliberately and reluctantly accepted as his premier demands of him to fight for the imperial house to the last, even to his own undoing.

Mr. Taft has in his last message to Congress urged the immediate establishment of a rural parcel post. This is the most daring attempt on hoary privilege that Mr. Taft has yet made. Does he not know that his free country has been since long before he was born in servitude to express companies? Does he not know that parcels can be sent all over Europe, crossing half a dozen international boundaries, for far less than a free citizen can have the like delivered by post or express at his house in the suburbs. He has proposed the rural parcel post, but will Congress pass it? If it does make parcel rates on a par with those of the effete countries of the old world, we may hope soon after to see a like emancipation in Canada.

The Birmingham 'Post,' a Unionist paper, finds fault with Canada for wanting only agricultural immigrants. It says this principle is anti-imperial. If we want to keep Canada within the Empire, a point with regard to which we have been of late as tenacious as was Mrs. Micawber of her determination never to desert Mr. Micawber, we are making, it tells us, a great mistake by insisting on inviting only farm hands. Great Britain's population is now by enormous majority urban, and is continually growing more and more so, as our farm products take the place of her own. If we insist on getting farm hands only, we must get the mass of them from foreign lands, and must people our country with men who have no British traditions or training to our constitution. If we want a British population we must welcome it such as it is. Now here is a singular thing. We have a fiscal policy which takes the farmers' money to build up city industries, and yet our city industrials are so redundant that they rebel against any increase and insist that we shall add only to the class that hews wood and draws water and sows and reaps to pay industrial bounties.

Happily, the brutal proposal of the British Socialist Party, that railwaymen, miners, seamen, and transportation workers in every branch, should organize a simultaneous stoppage of work, has failed. If such an inhuman proposal had succeeded it would have meant 'starvation for millions of the 'poor, death for thousands of babies, 'and only temporary hardship for the 'well-to-do.' Many of the coal-owners have now met the demands of the miners for a minimum wage, and there is ground for expectation that this will be universally followed. The railways too have made concessions to the men, not so great perhaps as the men's necessities with the higher cost of living warranted, but as much as the railways seem to have been able to grant under the stress of their economic conditions. Thus the crisis has passed for the time with mutual concessions, and it is to be hoped that future adjustments will be able to be arranged with similar good-will.

Living conditions in Germany, as in the world generally, are seriously affected by the continued rise in food-products, many having advanced far above all previous records. The imperial and state governments, as well as municipalities, chambers of commerce, and workmen's associations, have been actively discussing means to alleviate the distressing conditions. But wherever such conditions become galling they mean war against all artificial forms of dearness, and the German people resent the fact that so far the Imperial Government has not granted the petitions to reduce the customs' tariff on bread, cereals, potatoes, etc., to open the frontiers more widely for the importation of foreign meat; and to restrict the large exports of German grain. Several of the states having no say with regard to customs duties have taken what measures they could to alleviate the situation. The Bundesrath, or Federal Council, is now discussing remedial measures to be proposed to the Imperial Government. What they can be short of a reduction of imposts on foodstuffs and of bonuses on exported foodstuffs it is not easy to see. The situation is a grave one, and requires prompt and generous handling, apart from the fact that the elections are near.

Russian utterances with regard to differences with the United States have been to some extent mutually destructive. A minister says that Russia has no desire to exclude worthy merchants visiting Russia on business, that her regulations were aimed at revolutionists seeking protection for their nefarious practices under the cover of an unreal United States citizenship. A newspaper says that the United States in resenting the regulations in question shows herself to be ruled by her Jewish bankers. It is not to be imagined that Jewish bankers would coerce the United States into resenting regulations exclusive only of Jewish dynamiters or revolutionary plotters. It is now said by the Russian Government that the regulations have been officiously enforced in ways that were not intended. It is plain, however, that if regulations are made against Jews as Jews, it will be impossible for honest officials to judge the hidden motives of travellers, and their only safety will be in excluding all Jews. The theory that the United States is coerced in this matter by her Jewish bankers is grotesque. It has been simply a flare up of national pride at a slight offered to United States citizenship; and there is, it appears, considerable rivalry between the Democrats of the House of Representatives and the Republicans of the Senate as to which party shall have the greatest credit for this resentment. The action taken was the revocation of a treaty of amity and commerce of eighty years standing. Russia makes no objection to accepting the revocation of the treaty so long as it is not coupled with statements that Russia has broken its terms, a statement which Russia would vigorously resent. Russia indeed sees that the revocation of the treaty will injure the United States a good deal more than it will Russia, and expects that the revocation of it will be made the ground for the early negotiation of a still more generous one.

The London 'Morning Post' has been publishing a series of articles on 'Socialism and Trades Unions,' in which it is shown that there is no independent auditing of trade union accounts; that balance-sheets either are not published at all or are inadequate; that the cost of administration is enormous as compared with the total receipts; and that the men who are dissatisfied or too curious suffer persecution. The writer suggests that the matter be taken up by the Conservative party, whose leaders should tell the electorate that one of the first acts of legislation they would undertake 'when' returned to power, would be to provide for the proper auditing and publishing of trade-union accounts and for secret balloting. At present, it avers, there is no such thing as a secret ballot, the reverse of what we had imagined. The 'Post' says the men have to sign their names to the ballot-papers, and, it is alleged, that any man voting contrary to the expressed wishes of the leaders feels that he may be ejected from the Union. This is, we think, incredible, but, whether or no, the proper auditing and publishing of accounts should be insisted on in the interests of the members and of the public. If there had been proper auditing and publication of the accounts of the union to which the McNamaras belonged, it would not have been so easy to have diverted money for nefarious dynamiting purposes. Apart from that, it is only right that members should know how their money has been spent, and those who handle it will be apt to spend it more carefully and wisely if they know that their disposition of it will have to be publicly accounted for. It is for the Liberal party to forestall their opponents in this matter of an independent audit of union accounts. To fear to do so would reveal an undue subservience to the trade organizers, as distinguished from the supporting members of the unions who must all be in favor of the independent audit.

The Langevin Block was an addition to the public buildings of Ottawa that did not add to their glory. Architecturally it is singularly out of keeping with the rest. It might be that indeed, and be all the more useful. But besides failure in ornamental qualities, besides having been designed in red stone and finished in buff, because the red was not put in the specifications, it seems to be as insanitary as the rest. It is to be hoped that the new block that is building, and all others, will be worthy of the beauty of those on Parliament Hill, while caring better for the wellbeing and usefulness of those who shall occupy them.

It is curious to see the Conservative city of Winnipeg, in the Conservative province of Manitoba, calling through its Board of Trade for the abrogation of a duty. It is only the cement duty this time, but the smallest hole in the sacrosanct tariff is anathema to the men who put up the money to win the elections in order that their protection might be maintained. It would be like the letting in of water through a rat hole in the dyke, that, if not stopped, would soon flood the whole country. Unfortunately the people of Winnipeg have taken passage on the wrong boat. They can hardly expect success in asking the captain to put his ship about. Indeed he has a pistol at his ear and cannot do it. This is a pity, for the same complaint is voiced in other parts of the country. But annexation must be avoided at all cost, and Mr. Borden must not be allowed to depart from the faith that to let in United States products is to submit to United States trusts, and that to remove trade barriers is to lose our nationhood. This is the true faith which except a man hold he is politically lost.

Another complaint of the Winnipeg Board of Trade voices a cry of pain from the interior of the country, before which a government is powerless. It tells how farmers have reached the last point of their credit and are suffering privation of the necessities of life, while the wealth of their fields lies in the granaries, in the elevators or dumped by the side of the railway track in default of the means of forwarding it to market. There was coupled with this a somewhat futile complaint against the high freight rates. So long as the business is far greater than the existing railways can carry, and so long as the railways are forced to take extraordinary means to meet such exigencies, high rates will necessarily be, as it were, forced upon them. When the three great transcontinental railways get fully under way; when by the second harvest the Panama route greatly relieves the overland traffic; when still later the Hudson's Bay and Georgian Bay routes do their share; when the farmers become forehanded and can afford to hold their grain till it can be shipped under less pressure, there will perhaps be competition enough, and lower rates as a result. These good results are, however, more or less remote, and no government can hasten them. What would have immediately relieved the situation would have been a market for part of the crop in the United States. The Winnipeg people must reflect on the fact that they voted in favor of the long haul and against the nearer United States market for a share of this crop. The Manitoba farmers are no doubt already thinking over this.

All were full of admiration at the noble sentiments expressed on a recent occasion in favor of Civil Service reform by the Minister of Public Works. All were full of sympathy with him as he told how members and ministers were harassed, at a time when great and pressing questions were before them, by demands for the dismissal of public servants that their own hungry ones might take their places. Events are now revealing how much cause there was for this poignancy of feeling, as Mr. Monk was at that very time actively engaged at the repulsive task of acting as headsman for the clamorous followers of the government. It is true that he provided himself with an apology for the guillotine, which he was just then plying with such effect by saying that of course all persons who had been guilty of active partisanship would have to be dismissed. According to accounts this rule would seem to have been varied to mean that all persons accused of active partisanship would be dismissed, the accusing member of parliament, with his client at his heels, wanting the place, being the judge. No wonder the new Minister of Public Works finds some elements in his task singularly distasteful to one of his high-minded ideals. We may therefore look for redoubled zeal on his part to protect future ministers of the King from having to follow the occupation of the common executioner at the bidding of members, who, for their part, are no doubt chafing equally at being made to do hangman service for the riffraff of politics. Ottawa social life is possibly pretty well attuned to the ethics of the placeman; but we should think that even it would give the cold shoulder to those that are taking their places at the crib over the dead bodies of those slain that they may feed. Surely we shall at last see an end to such national humiliation.

Father Vaughan, as a London preacher, knows the value of contentious matter in interesting audiences. The Londoner does not generally mind whether it is himself who is hit or somebody else, so long as somebody gets it square in the face. So Father Vaughan is busy making all the enemies he can. He has set the whole of French Catholicism against him by declaring that other languages besides English may be tolerated in this country, but that English must be dominant, and all must speak the language of the empire. Then he got at the Protestant clergy, telling them that before they busy themselves with Papal decrees, which they do not understand, they had better spend their energies in exhorting their people to attend their services in more than negligible quantities. It is a little difficult to exhort those who do not come. All the same this sally will no doubt be warmly applauded by those who do not go to church. His defence of the Ne Temere decree was equally slashing. He pointed out, among other things, that church laws and state laws might differ. In England the state marriage laws and those of the established church of England were sharply at issue. With the deduction from that we think no Canadian Protestant would find fault, namely, that the Roman Church was free to have what views it likes with regard to marriage, so long as it does not attempt to impose them on the state or on its citizens. It is precisely here that all Protestantism is up in arms, having found that the changing dictates of a certain church were being imposed upon the state.

Germany seems to have been hoaxed by the terrible spy story, about a British government scheme to blow up the naval harbor of Wilhelmshaven. The so-called British spies who have been arrested lately, have all been Germans, by their names. Spying is a base and pitiful business, but far baser and positively hateful is the conduct of a great newspaper that, for the purpose of creating bad blood between peoples, manufactured this story about plans on the part of the British Government to blow up a German naval station. The only fact on which this story was based was the arrest of two German policemen and one German clerk, on suspicion of copying documents for some foreign power. If a spy should be punished severely, surely seven-fold punishment is due to publishers who deliberately concoct such stupendous mischief, when the public feeling was so tense. It is possible enough that the publishers of the 'Rhenish Westphalian Gazette' were themselves, as in the celebrated Kopenik case, the victims of a hoax. If so, the man who put it upon them should be exposed and pilloried before the world.

All Liberals will regret that the late government left to the present one the pressing task of clearing out the public departments. A good beginning was made when Messrs. Courtney, Fyshe and Bazin were appointed to the task. The selection of those men showed that the Government, and particularly Mr. Brodeur whose department of Marine and Fisheries, just inherited from the Prefontaine regime, had been specially indicted, were not in search of a whitewashing. Nor did they get it. No sooner had that commission lifted the lid but it clapped it on again with expressions of disgust. Owing probably to the failing health of Mr. Fyshe, whose voice was dominant in the matter, that commission proved abortive. Its report simply announced that there was much that was 'ancient and fishlike' in the Fisheries Department, and implied that like conditions would be found elsewhere. Then the government named another commission, restricted in its scope to finding out what it was that smelt so bad in the Marine and Fisheries Department. That second commission certainly showed up a great deal, just enough indeed to suggest strongly why it was its research was not more general. We frequently appealed to the government to make a clean sweep; but it did not do so. The conditions that prevailed in the departments were largely an inheritance from long years of patronage and graft. Had the ministers' own record been such as to bear the light of day they might, one would think, have been able without much difficulty to have put a stop to the graft that was going on under them. But there are conditions under which no one dares to be severe. The only hope of reform, it would seem lay in a change of government. There may be some element of political zeal in the commission now appointed, but if ever zeal was in order to prod the lagging footsteps of righteousness it probably is here. We many now look for something thorough. Concurrently with this commission it is to be hoped that the government will lose no time in maturing its promised civil service bill, under which party patronage in the civil service is to be abolished; for nothing is more certain than that if the government begins dismissing for ever such good cause merely to replace the culprits with the nominees of Conservative members the country will refuse to them any sort of credit for their apparent moral zeal.

A short time ago one of the Controllers went to Ottawa to see that the city's interests were not jeopardized by the entrance of the Canadian Northern Railway, and came back bearing the assurance that the city had nothing to fear as the railway had already secured a route around the mountain, not through it. That would seem to be the last official cognizance that the city has taken of this event which means so much to its future welfare. It is now an ascertained fact that the railway is to ent t' city by a tunnel under the mountain to come out it is believed on the Lagauchetiere street level. It seems to be time now for those in charge of the city's interests to get busy. If the railway is to come in by tunnel it must be at a depth at which it will not interfere with important city works. It is only a matter of a few years before an underground railway will have to be constructed under the St. Catherine street level. That tube being the one on which the local traffic will move, has a right to the upper level, and any tunnel constructed across it should be placed deep enough to allow it to pass over.

The 'Weekly Sun,' whose article on iron bounties we copy, says that 'for 'such a system there is no shadow of 'justification.' There is just this shadow of justification for the bounty system, that, as compared with the customs duty system, it is honest. It takes the farmer's money and gives it openly to the iron master; the farmer sees it going and gets as angry as he ought to; whereas the protective duty system is a pickpocket that gets behind the people's back in a crowd and steals it and hands it over to the iron master or the cotton lord, without being seen, under the hypocritical pretence of obtaining revenue for the government, and the farmer never sees it going, and he takes it as part of the settled order of things that he should be poor and pay, and that others should be rich and receive. For this reason we have always defended the bounty system as being an honest form of plunder, which people would of necessity soon rebel against. Still, if we were advising the iron people, we should advise them to hide, if they can manage it with the government, behind a duty, and not take their dole too much in the open.

Now that an influential organized effort is to be made in Montreal to lessen the appalling infant mortality, Montrealers concerned may inaugurate, for one thing, 'schools for mothers,' as has been done in England. These schools, during the past five years, have increased with remarkable rapidity. The movement, indeed, has made such rapid strides lately that it has been found necessary to form a central office at the National League for Physical Improvement, where information, both medical and social, of these institutions may be had on application. The preservation of child life is the great desideratum sought, as well as to 'raise the national stand-'ard of health and efficiency.' The maternity endowment in the Asquith Government's insurance bill should be a big factor in the saving of child life, for Mrs. Janet E. Ashbee says of the poorer mothers: 'I know many 'who, to their great distress, have been 'unable, in spite of valiant efforts, to 'nurse their children. I attribute this 'largely to bad food, the difficulty of 'getting milk, lack of air at night, and 'consequent bad sleep, and the fact 'that they have to get up and work 'on the ninth or tenth day. The 'heroism of these women passes words 'to describe. . . The nation would be 'saved thousands by merely another 'week in bed to each of these over-'worked mothers.' In the meantime, when nursing is really impossible, or for some valid reason undesirable, the schools for mothers give repeated and careful instruction as to the nature of the artificial food, its preparation, the hours when it should be given, and the quantity needed. Practical instruction is also given in the general rules of health. It is a sign of the increasing humanitarianism of the time that this good work is voluntary and unpaid in 'coin of the realm.'

AGAINST MAJORITY DESPOTISM.

The most representative publicists in England are in favor of and are working strenuously for Proportional Representation. Especially at this time, the Proportional Representation Society is anxious that all its friends should take their coats off and get busy in the cause. There are three great facts which combine to make this a crucial time in the movement—the Parliament Act, the renewed promise of the Home Rule question and the approach of a new Parliamentary Reform Bill. Under these circumstances, it becomes more important than ever that the House of Commons shall, at every general election, represent beyond all question the various shades of political opinion in proportion to their strength throughout the country. The experience of many countries shows that this can only be achieved by some form of proportional voting. If the present parliament lasts three years, the government's Reform Bill will almost certainly pass, and this will settle the methods of election and the distribution of seats for perhaps a generation. In these circumstances, the Society feels it is imperative that the country should be roused to a knowledge of the great imperfections of its present system of representation, and be brought to realize that proportional representation is the only system by which those imperfections can be remedied.

To get people to understand it, the Society is now embarking on a great educational compaign, so as to reach the many millions of people spread over the British Isles. Active branches are already established at Glasgow and Manchester, and an allied society has been formed in Ireland. Local branches are now to be formed in all districts, and in connection with them lectures are to be given, literature will be circulated, the press and all political associations will be supplied with information, illustrative elections will be held, and much other work will be done. A travelling secretary will devote the whole of his time to visiting different parts of the country, lecturing and organizing. To carry on this propaganda, the Society is appealing for more funds, and the appeal is signed by Lord Avebury, Lord Grey, Lord Courtney of Penwith, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Sir William Anson, Sir William H. Houldsworth, Sir Alfred Mond, the Right Hon. Horace Plunkett, John M. Robertson, M.P., the Right Hon. Thomas Burt, and others. A similar society to the British one is badly needed in Canada, so as to bring about proportional representation here. At present, the turn-over of a few thousand votes has an effect altogether disproportionate to their real significance, and minorities get no voice in parliament at all. When Lord Grey was here, he was an enthusiastic advocate for proportionate representation, and one at least of the present members of the government, Mr. Monk, has expressed himself as favorable to it. But we cannot expect the government to do anything practical without much outside 'prodding.'

THE WOMAN VOTE.

United States papers are still commenting upon the significance of the civic elections which took place in Los Angeles early in December. Public opinion on both sides seems to have been worked up to fever heat. On one side was an amalgam consisting of organized labor, socialists, and reformers of various types, including with the honest and well-meaning that violent anarchic element which has given Los Angeles such an un-angelic reputation. On the other side were the 'business classes,' the citizens' committee, the good government association, and in general the more responsible portion of the community. Every nominee on the latter ticket was elected. Women have just attained the franchise in Los Angeles, and there was much interest among politicians as to the side on which they would in general throw their influence. Would they avail themselves at all of their new-found privilege? If they did would they be governed by appeals against the inherent iniquities of capital or by repulsion against the crimes of the McNamaras? The women voted, and they voted overwhelmingly in favor of the established order. If Los Angeles in the future is ruled by its big corporations, it has the McNamaras and their brutal school of violence to thank for it. People reason crudely at election times, and as the issue presented itself at the election in question the women seem to have concluded that whatever faults were inherent in 'capitalist rule,' they were not going to be improved on by a rule of dynamiters and aanarchists. But even more interesting than the social or political question at issue was the measure and manner in which the women voted. Over nine-tenths of those who were on the lists cast their ballots. Every woman who had been assigned a part in the day's campaign reported for duty on the instant and filled the day with yeoman service. 'Thousands of women,' says the Los Angeles 'Times,' 'came to the 'polls with the men of their families. 'Husbands and wives, fathers and 'daughters, mothers and sons, stood 'in the waiting line side by side and 'entered the polling places together.' Many very old ladies voted; one was ninety-one years of age. Another at seventy-six rose from a sick bed to vote. The women voted rather more quickly than the men, and fulfilled every requirement of the electoral law with intelligence. The whole election affords an interesting study in woman suffrage. British readers will see with chagrin the women in the wild and woolly west of the United States ranged on the side of order, while some in the Mother Country are vying with each other in deeds of violence and absurdity. Women apparently behave better with the vote than without it.

THE 'ESSES.

The women of England, although they have not yet succeeded in winning the suffrage, play a most important part in public affairs, some of them for years having served on the school boards and parish councils. The death of a Kentish lady, Miss Amelia Andrews, who is said to have been the first of her sex to be elected a parish councillor in England, reveals to a London writer a certain want of nomenclature in English public life. A peer's wife is a peeress, and a mayor's wife is a mayoress, and since a Chicago lady sat on the vice-regal throne of India it is becoming the cis-atlantic custom to call a viceroy's wife a vicereine. But there is no feminine equivalent for councillor, any more than there is for the wife of a bishop, although Queen Elizabeth sanctioned the term 'aldress' for the wife of an alderman. The title councilloress has been suggested for a female councillor, but that is rather a mouthful, and the unreconstructed male is calling upon the wit of both sexes to invent 'a 'euphonious and appropriate equiva-'lent,' now that the female councillor is becoming so numerous and influential. It is not realized that, with the advent of woman, all feminine endings are out of date. There has for a generation back been a revolt among women against such words as authoress, superioress, and so forth, as useless and implying a distinction that was totally uncalled for. In fact, few seem to realize what a revolution in all human thinking is involved in the movement they are lightly supporting or opposing—the greatest social revolution indeed since the world began. All language, and all languages, are soaked with the primordial idea that woman is a dependent on man. With Moses it was, Ye, your wives and your little ones, and so throughout literature and history. It is all right to give a woman a feminine title when it depends on the position of her husband, but we venture to say that the late Councillor Andrews and the whole order of suffragists—to say nothing of suffragettes, another instance where the feminine ending is an offence and meant as such—would resent the invention of any feminine for councillor. The women when they asserted themselves as university students and graduates, resented and resisted any difference in the course for the degrees and any difference in the titles. They become bachelors and masters and doctors just as the men do.

BANK STATEMENT.

Coincident with the excellent demand which is being noted during the past few months in the stock markets for the shares of the Canadian chartered banks, it is interesting to note that there are several of these institutions which have announced, or contemplate, the issuing of additional stock. The newly united banks, the Commerce and Eastern Townships, will increase their capitalization, so as to create a capital stock of $15,000,000, approaching that of the Bank of Montreal, which will be $16,000,000 when the recent stock issue is paid up. The Merchants' is adding $2,000,000, the Royal a like amount, and the Hochelaga at least $500,000, an increase for these five banks of nearly fifteen per cent on former issues. The rapid industrial and commercial growth of the Dominion during the last few years has been such that the banks have been hard put to it, so representative bankers assert, to meet the requirements put upon them. These capital increases, if carried out, will assist materially, but other banks will doubtless follow. There is probably no better barometer of the heavy and constant demands made upon the banks for funds than the figures published by the Department of Finance at Ottawa in the monthly bank statement. The report for November, just issued, shows a marked alteration in form. While the tables are in the same order as in previous months, they are in much greater detail and more informative.

The outstanding feature of the commercial situation as revealed by the report is a gradual expansion of business all over the Dominion, upon a sound and healthy basis. In comparison with the statement for October last, the report for November shows an increase of nearly $10,000,000 in demand deposits, and of nearly $1,500,000 in notice deposits, while an increase of $1,874,411 in current loans is also recorded. It will be of interest to observe that bank notes in circulation on November 30 last amounted to $101,943,056, a decrease of $3,911,965 compared with the previous month, due to realizing on the crops. Another item that denotes the growing wealth of Canadians is shown under the heading of deposits on demand, which total the large sum of $341,710,265, or nearly $10,000,000 over the figures for October. Savings deposits show an increase from $586,451,045 to slightly under $589,000,000. Figures which imply rapid returns to the banks, largely the result of investments in the stock markets, come under the heading of call and short loans in Canada, which aggregate $72,033,493, an increase of close on $3,000,000. On the other hand there is a decrease of $1,232,975 in the volume of similar loans made abroad, a fact that reveals a greater confidence in home conditions. In current loans last month there were $770,566,419 out, an increase of $1,874,411. The report is correspondingly gratifying in other departments, and while it testifies to the increasing wealth and prosperity of the Canadian public, yet the main feature outstanding is the general strength and stability, the weaker banks, whose condition used to blemish these reports, having been weeded out.

BANK MERGER.

There have been bank mergers of late years which the public has hailed with unalloyed satisfaction. The general sentiment was that there were too many small and floundering banks, too hard up for business to be safe. Now we have two great strong institutions merged into one, making a combination evidently determined to run neck and neck with the old premier Bank of Montreal, with its quasi national character. This union raises the question as to

whether an opposite evil may not supervene. The United States was so afraid of banking combinations that it confined each bank to its own office, the result of which has been to restrain the fluidity of capital, to make it overabundant in some centres, while the scarcity of it in others gave rise to all sorts of fiat money notions to relieve the condition of money starvation. To this day, in consequence, the banking problem is a constant occasion for government interference with the money market and for Presidents and Secretaries of the Treasury and Congress to assume control of elements they do not any of them understand. Our system of nation-wide banks and automatically expanding and contracting currency leaves the regulation of the country's needs largely to nature, guided more by the rules of experience and business prudence than by pragmatical strategy.

Still this combining business suggests the question as to what it may grow to. In the presence of a few towering institutions, it will be more difficult for smaller banks to do business, and the smaller man seems to need the smaller bank. People who think only in millions cannot be bothered with the small man's dollars and cents, and his twenty-five dollar notes. The concentration of banking can hardly fail to accelerate the concentration of other businesses in the hands of the few to the wiping out of the many. The negotiations looking to this latest merger have, we understand, been going on for many months. The operations were carefully concealed, until the prospective results began to be told by the tape, when they had to be hastened to fruition. The terms of the agreement include the retention for the present of all the offices of both banks, the overlapping not being very great. The paid-up capital will probably be fifteen million dollars, a figure which places the combined institution in the front rank, while the reserve, the keynote of strength, will be in the vicinity of twelve millions. The total assets are slightly in excess of two hundred and ten millions, a very comfortable figure if realizable.

A GRIEVANCE OF THE WEST.

The Edmonton Board of Trade is distressed by the fact that a considerable proportion of the business carried on in so-called town and city subdivisions in the West is but little removed from common swindling. It has passed a resolution asking provincial legislation to prevent the issue of maps and charts which fail to convey the truth. Not specially in Edmonton, perhaps less there than elsewhere, wild cat real estate propositions are being offered by means of glowing advertising, which in many cases is gross and deliberate misrepresentation of the facts. Such advertising is not done in local publications, but appeals to those too far away to know the facts. It is only by chance that it comes to the attention of people on the spot, to their astonishment and indignation. It is not plain what can be done by local legislation to check the prevailing orgy of speculation in so-called city lots. If a man chooses to buy a farm three or four miles from the nearest point at which there is any demand for lots for actual building purposes, have it laid out in squares 33 x 120 feet, and offer these little squares to the public as building lots, each at the price he paid per acre a few weeks ago, nothing can be done to stop the practice, so long as enough people are found gullible enough to hand out money for them.

But those who have the future of the country at heart do not fail to realize that this mad energy expended in putting on the market subdivision after subdivision, long after all possible demand for legitimate purposes for years to come has been amply provided for, must eventually result in disaster to the whole country. The 'ultimate holder' must eventually be reached; then what? There is calamity in store for the ultimate holder. But to the country that is the smallest part of the harm. The West is in need of vast amounts of outside capital. The very richness of its resources demands that money must be poured into the country for many years to come. Money must be borrowed by the farmer to improve his farm, or to buy cattle to stock it; it must be borrowed by owners of vacant city property to erect much needed houses and places of business; it is needed to promote various industrial enterprises designed to utilize the country's wealth. Canada must retain the confidence of the conservative investor in Great Britain and Europe. If he gets frightened, nothing can save our West, and with it the country, from a financial panic and period of business depression. Development of the West would be retarded for years.

It will be said that the conservative investor referred to is not interested in and is not affected by these get-rich-quick subdivisions. But suppose there are a hundred thousand 'suckers,' largely servant girls, school teachers, widows, and family men of small means, scattered over Eastern Canada, the United States and Great Britain, who find that they have been 'stung,' and that their valuable building lots are unsalable, and have an intrinsic value based on their ability to grow cabbages and potatoes, will not these people decry everything connected with Western Canada, tell everybody that they have been swindled, write letters to the papers, and do many things to destroy confidence in the wonderful resources of that country. How long will it take this want of confidence to communicate itself to the conservative investor whose money we must have to develop our resources? The real estate section of the Edmonton Board of Trade, to which the matter was referred by the Board, has asked for severe restrictions as to maps which mislead or do not indicate the distance from the centre of the town on which property offered for sale depends, also for the punishment of those making misleading statements in advertisements, and that these penalties extend to advertisements published in Alberta with regard to lots elsewhere. As, however, such advertisements usually appear in other jurisdictions than the province in which the wrong is done, there is a difficulty in getting at the matter by provincial law.

CRIME IN CANADA.

The crime statistics of the Dominion for 1910, just issued, show that out of 1,865 criminals in the penitentiaries of the country, 339, or about 18 percent, appear as the product of Montreal; while only 89, or about four and three-quarters percent, are accounted for by Toronto. As there are only about a third more people in Montreal than in Toronto, this disparity needs explanation. Montreal's being an ocean port may have something to do with it, as the 'wharf rat' is always a potential criminal. Some color is lent to this by the fact that Vancouver, after Montreal, supplied the greatest number of convicts last year, being 130, or 7 percent. But, on the other hand, Halifax, another ocean port, had only thirty-nine convicts, or two percent, of the total; and St. John, also an ocean port, twenty-five, or about one and a third of the total. Winnipeg had a hundred and fourteen convicts, or about six percent of the total, which is moderate considering that Winnipeg is so much in the making, and a stopping-off place for all and sundry. It is distressing, but not so surprising on consideration, that ten percent of the entire convict population should be lads of under twenty years of age—at St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary lads in their teens constituted fifteen percent of the total last year—because youth is so easily tempted one way or another, and there are so many tempters in cities to lead weak lads astray; but there is this bright ray of sunshine piercing the gloom, that the convicts are generally well behaved, and that the young convicts are learning and demand to learn trades, which is a certain sign of reform, as expressing a desire on their part so to equip themselves that they may be useful and respectable citizens in the future.

It has long been agreed that reform is needed in the present practice of committing youths to the penitentiary. This need is emphasized by the report, which advocates, for one thing, the removal of the restrictions in this respect placed upon the judiciary by the provision of the Penal Code. Judges should be given more freedom in dealing with youths who have been found guilty of certain offences. There should indeed be detention settlements for such, where they should be taught farming and trades, according to their desire and capacity; they should receive certain remuneration for their work, so as to build up their self-respect; and the length of their detention should depend on their progress and good character. The report of Mr. Archibald, Dominion parole officer, is a cheerful conclusion to the report. It shows that out of a total of 3,731 convicts granted paroles since the system was inaugurated in 1900, only two hundred and one were cancelled for non-compliance with conditions, or forfeited by subsequent conviction. Only two percent of those released on parole were convicted for subsequent crimes, which is a truly remarkable showing, considering how difficult it often is for the submerged to push their heads above water again, and find dry land. Nothing, however, is more proved to-day than that firmness, along with wise kindness, is the most ameliorating influence in the reformation of character. The fiendish way in which society treated those who committed the smallest offences against its harsh, one-sided laws in the pre-Howard days, made hardened criminals of thousands who might have remained good citizens if they had been treated with ordinary humanity. The report as a whole is confirmatory of the general conviction to-day, that while the treatment of criminals has made great advance in inteligence and humanity, much remains to be done before ideal conditions can be said to have been reached.

EDUCATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

When we hear of the success of public institutions in the western provinces, we like to explain the matter by the reflection that many of the people carried good ideas with them from their original homes here in the East. It is also a fact that eastern seeds have flourished much more abundantly when transported to the western soil, and it is not to be denied that many individual men have expanded in the western air who would possibly have merely vegetated if they had remained in the east. The progress of education in the western provinces is due, doubtless, in a large degree to the considerable element from Ontario which migrated early to Manitoba, and later to the other provinces. It is also to be attributed in part to the influx of farmers from the United States who had been accustomed to good schools. In any case, the west is advancing at the present time much more rapidly than the east in the matter of public schools, and is spending money freely and generously for their support both through provincial governments and local taxpayers.

Some interesting facts with regard to the schools of British Columbia are given in the year book of that province for 1911, just issued. The first beginnings of an organized system were made in 1855, when the Hudson's Bay Company established free schools on Vancouver Island. Ten years later, the Vancouver House of Assembly set aside $10,000 for the same purpose for that year (1865). In 1868 the two colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia were united. By that time, however, the original free schools had died out, and school matters were in a crude and unsatisfactory condition. The situation was boldly met in 1872. In that year the legislature passed an education act which not only established free schools, but which placed the expense of maintaining them on the provincial finances. This lasted until 1888, when part of the expense was placed upon the local authorities, beginning with the cities. This principle of local support has been steadily enlarged, in keeping with the material progress of the province, by various amendments to the Education Act in 1901, 1903 and 1906, and is now general. The expenditure by the local boards in the school year 1909-10 was $1,098,660; the expenditure by the government was $612,053 on education proper, and $206,523 on buildings, or a total of $818,576. The cost to the provincial government of each pupil, based upon enrolment, was in 1909-10, $15.36, and based upon average daily attendance, $21.78. The cost to the local ratepayer per pupil was $27.58, based upon enrolment, and $39.10, based upon average daily attendance.

These figures afford matter for an interesting comparison. According to the report of the Washington Bureau of Education for 1910, the total cost per pupil, including salaries, expenditures on buildings and contributions of local governments and local taxpayers, was for the whole of the United States $31.65, based on average attendance. Taking British Columbia's total in the same way, it is $60.88. Again, the cost per pupil in individual states is in only two cases greater than in British Columbia, namely, in the District of Columbia, where it was $63.69, and in the State of Nevada, where it was $72.34. The number of teachers for last year was 1,037, of whom only 98 were without permanent certificates. The salaries in the city schools range from $50 to $135 per month, and in the rural municipality schools from $50 to $100 per month. The west is certainly calling upon the east to wake up in things educational. The cost per pupil, based upon enrolment, according to the latest figures given by the Bureau of Education at Washington—we wish, by the way, that we might be quoting from a Bureau of Education at Ottawa—is for Ontario $19.23, for Quebec $13.78, for Nova Scotia $12.42, for New Brunswick $12.24, for Manitoba $29.14, for Alberta $66.50, and for Saskatchewan $62.22.

The lesson which these figures convey is that the eastern provinces must spend a great deal more money yet on teachers' salaries, and on good school buildings, to come up to the average of the continent in educational duty. At present we rank with the most backward communities. That the average annual salary in the province of Quebec for Roman Catholic female teachers with diplomas should be only $133, not per month, but per year, and for Protestant female teachers with diplomas only $230, is not to our credit. It is, moreover, to put it on the lowest grounds, greatly to our material disadvantage. We welcome, therefore, the announcement that the Gouin Government proposes to introduce legislation which has for its end a very substantial increase to the teachers' salaries. It is time for a great forward movement in this respect in all of our eastern provinces. Much higher salaries are imperative, if for nothing else than to keep the competent teachers in the east. They are now very naturally, migrating to the good salaries of the western provinces. Our best country teachers will not remain with us at twenty or even twenty-five dollars a month, when they can get sixty and seventy dollars a month in the west.

TERRIBLE THINGS.

When is the automobile nuisance going to be abolished in Montreal? At this Christmas season when St. Catherine street is crowded every afternoon and evening, it is a daily miracle that there is no murder done—murder of pedestrians by the skulking juggernaut, and then murder by Lynch Law of the motorist by surviving pedestrians. To elderly people and to children especially, a trip to the shopping district has all the elements of a passage perilous. That the pedestrian has no rights has been from time immemorial the recognized 'rule of the road' in Montreal. He is driven at with a hi! hi! by cabmen, and whistled at by delivery waggon men who could just as easily avoid him as not. There is some chance of dodging or jumping out of the way of a horse, and a street car keeps to its rails. The pace and course of each can be somewhat calculated on. But the motorist is a law unto himself. No one knows at what moment he will fly off at a tangent or increase his speed to that of a rocket or a cannon ball. Then his whistles, his syrens, and all the other fiendish instruments with which he defies mankind, have often the effect of startling and confusing people who are crossing a street, so that they are for the moment blind to the perils which surround them, and helpless to avoid danger. That there are not more accidents is apparently due to the fact that Montrealers have had a life-long training in the fine art of jumping across street car fenders, and running from speeding horses. Our lack of resentment comes from our superstition that this is the normal condition of life in all cities. We are quite proud of the fact that for the last few years a policeman exercises a sort of timid and apologetic regulation over traffic at one or two crossings.

Visitors naturally ask us in amazement why we put up with our present anarchic conditions. In London, Dublin, Belfast, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Paris, Berlin the regulation of traffic is really effective. The lifted hand of a policeman is sufficient to bring the most wrong-headed driver to a stand still, and a speed limit is enforced for the mutual safety of vehicles and for the protection of the life and limb of the foot passenger. Though the crowds up town and the presence of so many old people, ladies and children in the shopping districts, render the motor peril there especially imminent, it is common to all parts of the city. Not long ago we saw an elderly gentleman almost run over on Victoria square. Windsor street and Beaver Hall Hill seem to be considered as speed courses specially provided for the motoring fraternity by a benevolent City Council. St. James street between Victoria square and Windsor street, and Dorchester street from Beaver Hall Hill to Guy street is a similar happy hunting ground. Up and down the cars dash at the speed of an express train, with snow or dust blinding the passerby and with triumphal war-whoops, as if the ghosts of all the Iroquois who once haunted the same regions were once more in full attack on Montreal.

Of course, there are motorists—and many of them—who are gentlemen, and who drive their cars with care and with full recognition of the foot passengers right to 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.' With surprise, we have seen one come to a full stop at Morgan's corner while a car was changing passengers. It would be in the interest of these, and would greatly serve the interests of the motor business, if they would combine to reduce their irresponsible compeers to some sort of rule. It is human nature in the public when it has suffered from a plague of motors to class all motors as a plague. This is why, when a motorist is killed or injured when driving, you hear some people say grimly, 'serve him right'! This is why the destruction of a garage full of motors sometimes provokes the angry comment among non-motorists of 'good riddance!' This is abominable, but it speaks prevailing sentiment. We recognize that the motor has come to stay, and to take the place possibly of all other forms of traction. As it becomes improved and cheaper it is destined to play a larger and larger part in our social and business life. But this is all the more reason why it should be brought under the law of the common good. There are parts of the city where the speed allowed should not be greater than that of foot passengers. There are conditions in which drivers could be allowed much discretion, but always at their own peril when harm is done or when people are in any way incommoded. It should not be very difficult by collating the rules observed in other cities to make effective regulations, and under our new regime we may develop a police force that would be able to enforce them. 'I'm always 'afeered to cross, sorr, with thim terrible things dashin' up and down,' said a feeble old Irish woman as a friendly hand helped her across the street. This is the occasion of this writing. We are quite sure that if two or three of the 'terrible things' were taught a lesson by the law they would all very soon become much less terrible.

JUST TO GET CONTROL.

The official stenographers of Montreal are about to petition the Quebec Legislature for incorporation. When asked for a reason, one of them informed a 'Witness' reporter that it was so that they would be able to pass on any new appointments before they became 'effective,' or, as he added, 'simply to get control.' We have already had far too much of this kind of thing. The doctors and the lawyers have their unions on provincial lines. These have their excuse in the public good by the exclusion of the unfit, of which they are the only judges; but they have elements of provincial exclusiveness. The barbers and some other learned professions are setting up a similar plea. The engineers and the land surveyors have each formed exclusive guilds, more or less frankly for the exclusion of outside competition. No provincial surveyor may work on Dominion Lands, nor do any of the provinces acknowledge the D.L.S. certificate of the national government. The coal miners of British Columbia also hit on the expedient of requiring a miner to pass an examination. That was the great strength of their recent strike. Another method is the law of residence, with which our demagogue aldermen are by large majority seeking to fortify the longshoremen in their war against the trade of the port. When Mayor Gaynor, of New York, undertook to enforce the right of any man to work if he wanted to in the cases of the teamsters strike, he put a policeman on each waggon. The second day the policemen had to come off the waggons, for it was found that the state legislature had made a law that every driver must have been a resident of the city for at least six months, and have a license. Provincial taxes on commercial travellers are of the same order of special privileges to interested groups of men, and also of the same order of burden on the community. If the stenographers are to get their request, there is no good reason why each of the other trades of the city should not ask incorporation and legal status be thus given to their principle, that none shall obtain work except by their permission.

'AIR, MORE AIR!'

Such was the dying cry of a great monarch, gasping in his window-closed palace, and if the anti-tuberculosis movement, begun some twenty odd years ago by a few devoted sanitarians, had accomplished nothing else, it would have earned the world's gratitude by teaching it the value of fresh air, both in health and in the cure of disease. The superstition and prejudices against night air, draughts, and other conditions, chiefly notable for their health-giving qualities, have been hard to overcome, and very much yet remains to be overcome, but what has been accomplished is full of encouragement. It is hard to understand how the 'civilized' human peoples could have 'wrapped themselves for generations in 'inherited misconceptions as to 'their most valuable single commodity'; but so it has been. The development of city life still finds multitudes gasping for breath with relief waiting patiently just outside their doors and windows. Nay, in some cases air and sunlight are not even there. There are countless houses in Montreal, inhabited, not by the poor, in which people sleep in rooms that have only a secondary connection with the outer light and air, either through another room or through an outside well into which the sun does not enter, and under our apology for building inspection these are growing more and more numerous. We no more build self-contained houses to let, nor double, nor triple houses. These latter are bad enough and often of the character described. We now build nothing to let but immense cellular structures called apartment houses. Some of these care for the requisites mentioned by favor of neighboring properties not yet similarly built up, but others need the inspector's veto.

Not only in the crowded city, but in rural parts as well, the problem of fresh air is present and pressing, as the 'Witness' has shown. The investigations of the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis and the Montreal Tuberculosis League prove how frightfully prevalent is tuberculosis in our farming districts, and the chief cause is the sealing up of windows. Experience has shown that fresh, free-flowing air is of the greatest value in other diseases than tuberculosis; it is valuable in convalescence; in helping delicate children to sleep and digest their food. Dr. Northrup, of the New York University and Bellevue Hospital, insists that there is nothing so good. Fresh air, as the only medicine, is now being used in the treatment of many diseases which were treated even less than ten years ago along entirely different lines—closed windows, darkened rooms, and drugs, drugs, always drugs. But, happily for human welfare, physicians, more and more, every day, are obeying Macbeth's command to 'Throw physic to the dogs.' If it could be brought home to both our urban and rural populations that fresh air and simple well-cooked food are preventive of disease, not only tuberculosis, but pneumonia, and other blights upon civilization, would soon be comparatively rare. The trustiest weapon—it cannot be too often repeated—in fighting all preventible disease is 'simple, unadulterated, un-medicated 'fresh air.'

The horror of night air had no doubt its origin in the malarial mosquito, which roams after nightfall; but now that we know him, we know that all that is necessary is to keep him out, and not the air. Florence Nightingale over fifty years ago said there is not any air at night but night air; the only question is between pure and bad night air. Dr. Hay comments ironically in the same strain. 'I am aware of no substitute for night 'air at night, unless some one has 'devised a scheme for storing day air, 'which can be supplied at all hours of 'the night. It would be difficult to 'find any place on earth where Nature 'supplies other than night air after 'sunset; and it is generally conceded 'that in cities, at least, the night air 'has the advantage of being purer, as 'the result of the diminished activity 'of manufacturing plants and commotion in the streets.' Says the doctor: 'The beneficial effects of a plentiful 'supply of fresh, pure air are, primarily, that it dilates the air cells, 'increases chest expansion, thus giving increased capacity, ventilates 'and cleanses the deepest recesses of 'the lung, diminishes the possibility of 'infection by the direct germicidal 'action; the circulation of the blood is 'accelerated, functional activity of the 'glands and various organs increased 'and the renovation of the tissues 'more perfectly performed.' The final result is stimulus of appetite, improved digestion, more restful sleep, normal temperature, and in the case of the tuberculous, 'night sweats are abated, 'cough and expectoration are effectively controlled, nervousness is overcome, and weight is increased.' While the air of the best-ventilated room cannot compare in potency and purity with the open air, the open window is a great factor in the prevention of disease and its cure. Dr. Hays's last words are these, and they convey in memorable form the same truth as we have expressed, and many other others have expressed, are expressing, and must continue to express until the whole world is convinced: 'No single 'factor contributes so much to the 'physical health of man, and no element is so far-reaching in its effects 'upon the mental, moral, and industrial 'development of the race as an unlimited supply of pure, fresh air.'

TO MAKE THE MILITIA EFFICIENT.

The Hon. Sam Hughes Tells of Plans for Improving Our Defence Force.

The Red Room of the Windsor Hotel was the scene Wednesday of a complimentary banquet tendered to Col. the Hon. Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia and Defence, by the Garrison of the city of Montreal, composed of officers of both the active and reserve service. After Lieut.-Col. Roy, O.C.Q., had proposed the toast of the King, Lieut.-Col. Davidson proposed the toast of the guest of the evening.

The new Minister of Militia received a very warm welcome on rising to respond to the toast. The entire assemblage united in singing 'For He's a



THE HON. SAM. HUGHES.

Jolly Good Fellow,' and when the last notes of this chorus had been sung, the officers of the French regiments sang 'Il a gagne ses epaulettes,' and then the whole audience rose, and gave three rousing cheers and waved their napkins wildly in the air.

'I am no stranger in Montreal,' were the first words spoken by the new minister, as he gazed about the room, 'and I see many faces here which are familiar to me, and have been so for many years, in fact since the days when we used to play lacrosse on the old lacrosse grounds south of Sherbrooke street.' Just at this juncture he expressed himself as an admirer of sport, and suddenly he qualified the word sport by adding the word amateur. This remark called forth considerable applause from those present. 'Mr. Monk,' said Col. Hughes, 'has said that he and I have not always seen eye to eye. I am glad that he has got over that temporary blindness, and that now we see things together. He has said that if necessary he would be ready to stop a bullet in defence of the Empire. That is not what we want. What we require is such men who can get out and make the other fellow stop the bullet.' (Applause.)

The Colonel then proceeded in a very forcible manner to explain the advantages of a citizen soldiery, which he declared was the best kind of a defensive force a country could have.

'Canada,' he said, 'had a million and a half men capable of bearing arms. Give me a million such men, capable of hitting the bull's eye at 500 yards, and no foe will ever dare to cross the boundary into the Dominion.

'There was no leisured class in Canada, no military aristocracy, and it was business men of the country, who were prepared to give their time to military work, who were the strength of the country; such men as he saw before him.' The new minister stated that it was his desire to bring about the very greatest state of efficiency in the militia with the greatest economy, and in this he said he was prepared to listen to the advice of representatives from all over Canada, no matter what their politics were.

He declared that the efficiency of the militia could not be improved by increasing the pay, but it could be improved by improving the spirit, which was the great necessary element.

His announcement that he would place training schools at the very doors of the officers of the various regiments was received with great enthusiasm by those present. It is the desire of myself and Mr. Monk that proper armories and drill sheds be placed throughout the country,' he said. 'The Victoria Rifles are about to construct an armory, and Mr. Monk has told me that he will join hands with me in seeing that the Vics get as liberal treatment as the hearts of the Montreal volunteers could desire.'

He referred to the fact that when he heard that the late government had bought a site for the military school at Longueuil, he had looked into the matter, and had decided that such a site was not only unsuitable but absurd.

'I say,' declared Col. Hughes, 'if I am a Minister of Militia any length of time, and a suitable site can be obtained on this side of the river, the barracks will be placed on this side. I spent the day motoring over the island, and I saw fifty good sites for such barracks.'

Speaking with regard to cadet work, he said that it was his intention to drill during the coming summer as many cadets as will turn out—from 25,000 upwards—at the various camps, during the school holiday. 'We will transport them to the camps, ration and uniform them, and instruct them, but they must ask no pay. That is our intention regarding the cadets, and I am sure it will be for the benefit of the country.'

The Colonel promised to gather around him the best ability in the country in any advisory. He wanted to see the men on the retired officers' list take more interest in military affairs; further, the Minister of Militia promised to see that the duty on officers' uniforms and accoutrements coming into this country should be removed. This announcement was received with great applause by the officers present, many of whom had felt the injustice of this tax. Col. Hughes referred to his recent visit to the Old Country this last summer, and in this connection, speaking of the naval review at Spithead, which he attended in company with Mayor Guerin, of Montreal, he said the various visitors from New Zealand, South Africa and Australia could point with pride to various cruisers and designate them as their contributions to the Imperial Navy. 'We Canadians alone could not point to a single ship as our contribution to the Imperial Navy, and we hung our heads in shame,' and, continuing, he said, 'let us hope that the time will come when we shall find our autonomy broadened instead of narrowed, increased instead of diminished, until the flag of the entire Empire will represent a full Empire partnership, where every part of the Empire will stand for the upholding of human liberties, when we stand one King, one flag, one navy, and one people.'

The other speakers of the evening were Mayor Guerin, the Hon. F. D. Monk, M.P., H. B. Ames, M.P., Lieut.-Col. Justice Davidson, and Honorary Lieut.-Col. Rodolphe Forget, M.P.

(From the 'Gazette.')

Ottawa, Dec. 23.—A kindly smile, which deepened into a hearty laugh, was the manner in which Colonel the Hon. Sam Hughes received the news of the attack of Mr. Henri Bourassa on him last night. The genial Minister of Militia was impervious to the demands of your correspondent to answer the Nationalist chief for some time, but finally consented. The colonel read the article in the original French as soon as the evening train brought the paper to him, and then sat down and wrote under his own signature the following statement for publication:

'Bourassa would have been a model fellow if he had only been fortunate enough to have received a military training. He is able, handsome, genial, well educated, critical and energetic; in short, he possesses very, very many of the essential qualities of greatness. Only the one thing is lacking. Had he been fortunate enough to receive a military training he would have had greater balance, a broader and more tolerant spirit, and a more readily controlled mind. As it is he will come out all right. I like him, and always enjoy his attacks upon me. When he learns the great advantages of a military training, and practices them, he will be a truly great man. It will afford me the greatest pleasure to gazette him major to command a squadron of Mounted Rifles or Hussars, should he see fit to raise such a corps and qualify. I would be quite willing to lend him Turpin for a time to assist him.'

Colonel Hughes leaves to-morrow morning for Lindsay to spend Christmas with his wife and family.

The article referred to was a humorous criticism of the military enthusiasm with which the Minister of Militia invaded Montreal recently, and was published by Mr. Bourassa in the 'Devoir' last night.

OUR MAIL BAG.

Hamilton, Ont.

Dear Sir,—Enclosed find my renewal to 'World Wide'. Your last number certainly had a great feast in it, without in anyway disparaging any of the previous ones, which are all filled with good reading matter.

T. H. TAYLOR.

'WORLD WIDE.'

The following are the contents of this week's issue of 'World Wide':—

ALL THE WORLD OVER.

The German Reply to Sir E. Grey's Speech—The 'Times,' London.
The German Chancellor's Statement—Comment of the Foreign Press—The Correspondence of the 'Morning Post,' London.
The Insurance Bill—The 'World,' New York; the 'Evening Post,' New York.
Changing India's Capital—The Brooklyn 'Eagle.'
Woman's Suffrage—Mrs. Fawcett and Mr. Lloyd George—English Papers.
Mr. Lloyd George and Mrs. Pankhurst—The 'World,' New York.
The Italians in Tripoli—Progress of the War—The Military Correspondent of the 'Mail,' London.
China as a Cotton Market—The 'Sun,' New York.
The Disappearing Jews of China—The 'Literary Digest,' New York.
The Jew in Russia—The 'Evening Post,' New York.
The Persian Compromise—The 'Globe and Commercial Advertiser,' New York.
Troublous Times in Portugal—The 'Tribune,' New York.
The 'Conversations' at Madrid—The 'Sun,' New York.
Workingmen's Insurance in Germany—The 'Evening Post,' New York.
Scottish Social History—Lord Rosebery's Address — The 'Manchester Guardian.'
The Unicorn—G. K. Chesterton, in the 'Daily News,' London.
Cheaper Cablegrams—The 'Manchester Guardian.'

SOMETHING ABOUT THE ARTS.

Pictured Politics—The Dilemma of the Cartoonist—Clarence Rook, in the 'Daily Chronicle,' London.
Music—The 'Academy,' London.

CONCERNING THINGS LITERARY.

A Christmas Hymn—Julie M. Lippmann, in the 'Independent,' New York.
Christmas—Elizabeth Gibson Cheyne, in the 'Christian Commonwealth,' London.
Arnold Bennett and Christmas—'Public Opinion,' London.
New Stories of King Edward—The 'Daily Chronicle,' London.

HINTS ON THE PROGRESS OF KNOWLEDGE.

A New Arctic Route to Canada—The 'Standard,' London.
The Aerotechnical Institute in Paris—The 'Scientific American,' New York.
The Aviator's Chart—The 'Youth's Companion,' Boston.
Hearing in the Blind — The 'Morning Post,' London.

PASSING EVENTS.

THINGS NEW AND OLD.

So many men, so many minds. Every man in his own way.—Terence.

'World Wide' is a weekly reprint of articles and cartoons from leading journals and reviews reflecting the current thought of both hemispheres.

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As there are very few who can get several new subscribers, their achievement is all the more appreciated. But our main reliance must be on each individual subscriber who can and will get one new one. For the many can do what would be absolutely impossible to the few.

Let the subscribers of the 'Witness' surprise the journalistic world by doubling its circulation before the end of the year. If only each one gets one, the deed is quickly done.

FLUCTUATION MONEY RATES DURING YEAR

The 1911 money market came in like a lamb and gives no indication of going out like a lion—barring a possible accident. It is of interest to note that time money quotations in Wall Street, at present are about the same as those prevailing in early January last, call rates are perhaps from three-quarters to one percent higher in that centre but show every likelihood of weakening before the turn of the year. The recent money flurry in the United States putting call rates to six percent, and time money one-quarter to one half percent higher was the second breeze of any strength felt this year. Shortly after the opening of August time money in New York shot up one-half percent from the low rate of three and three-quarters percent during the summer. This increase held fairly well through the fall months, but little business was done. With these two exceptions —August and December—the United States money market has been listless. The worst phase of 1911 from a banking point of view, in the opinion of Wall street financiers, has been the weakness in time money. Last year, although call rates were abnormally low time money stiffened very early. A five and a half percent rate was inaugurated as early as June on account, it is said, of apprehension over what the fall might bring forth throughout the United States, and well over six percent was the rule for some time when fall did come. There have been no such bright spots this year. The best commercial paper, from April to July, sold in New York under four percent twice—in March and August call money broke to two percent. This weakness served no purpose from a stock market point of view, for during this period Wall street was dominated by a clique who held stocks in a weakened and threatening position—at least to the man on margin. In Canada rates in 1911, both for call and time loans, have maintained a fairly high average until at times, especially previous to the crop movement the rate touched six percent, and in a few instances seven percent was asked. This advance, however, did not seem to retard the borrowing powers or limitations of the Canadian people. They had legitimate business demands to finance and the situation from every point of view would justify their optimism in the Dominion.

It is stated that the $27,000,000, which the Canadian Pacific Railway will receive from its stock issue of $18,000,000 at 150, that over $20,000,000 will come from English and European shareholders.

N.Y. SYNDICATE BUYS BONDS OF U.S. RUBBER CO.

New York, Dec. 23.—A short time ago the United States Rubber Company's subsidiary, the General Rubber Company, sold a block of $2,900,000 4½ percent 10 year debentures. This brings the total amount of these bonds outstanding up to $9,000,000, the full authorized issue. The bonds are guaranteed principal and interest by the United States Rubber Company and the Rubber Goods Manufacturing Company, jointly.

It is understood that the bonds were purchased by a New York syndicate, headed by the First National Bank, and were quickly sold without public offering. The bonds have but about 3½ years to run, and were sold practically as a three year note.

'Proceeds of this issue were to be used to finance the company's entrance into the raising of crude rubber in the Far East. The company has spent large sums in acquiring enormous rubber plantations in the East, and further cash has been needed for plantings. A portion of the proceeds of the bonds will also give the General Rubber Company, which handles the crude rubber end of the system ,additional working capital.

BIG DROP IN BANK RESERVE

London, Dec. 21.—The weekly statement of the Bank of England shows the following changes:

Total reserve, decreased	£2,409,000
Circulation, increased	590,000
Bullion, decreased	1,813,699
Other securities increased	6,419,000
Other deposits, increased	3,281,000
Public deposits, increased	718,000
Notes reserve, decreased	2,399,000
Government securities, increased	34,000

The proportion of the bank's reserve to liability this week is 41.55 percent; last week it was 49.40 percent.

Bank Rate Unchanged.

London, Dec. 21.—The rate of discount of the Bank of England remained unchanged at 4 percent to-day.

CLEARINGS.

The present year appears to be drawing to a close under the same bright auspices with which it began. Bank clearings of this city for the week ending to-day show the followin g large gain:

Total for week ending Dec. 21, 1911	$51,971,216
Corr. week, 1910	40,850,495
Corr. week 1909	45,296,358

Opinions on the Market

Miller & Co.: We continue bullish. There are hours when the market seems to be having a little indigestion, because it has had absorbed so much good news all at once, but the trend of the market, to our way of thinking, is to a materially higher level.

Hunt, Ellis & Co.: The cumulative force of sustained betterment in general trade is surely making optimists, and the usual December halt is very apt to be followed by a decided upwards trend.

Business Conditions at Extreme West Good

Vancouver and Victoria reports say business there and at all points is active. Wholesalers have been busy rushing forward supplies up to the last moment and retailers generally reports a most satisfactory season.

Business from Kootenay points has increased lately owing to the re-opening of the mines there. Collections are generally fair to good.

POSITION OF OUR BANKS IS QUITE STRONG

The following list gives a comparison between the earnings reported by various Canadian banks during the past year together with the rate of earnings to capital and the dividends paid:

	EARNINGS. 1911.	Rate.	Div. paid P.C.
Bank of Mont.	$2,276,518	15.20	10
Can. Bank of Commerce	2,305,409	19.70	10
East. Townships	459,570	15.	9
Bank of Hochelaga	415,000	16.6	09
Mer. Bank	1,179,581	19.65	10
Molsons Bank	712,539	17.81	11
Quebec Bank	276,391	11.	7
Bank of Toronto	677,964	16.36	11
Bank of Ottawa	595,225	17.	11
Union Bank	662,437	14.	8
Bank of Hamilton	443,505	16.22	11
	$10,004,142		

Aggregate increase for eleven banks, $1,605,214, or 19 percent.

MR. DRUMMOND ON UPSET IN STEEL TRADE

Mr. T. J. Drummond returned to Montreal this morning from a visit to the plant of the Lake Superior Steel Corporation, where he found working conditions as satisfactory as usual.



Mr. Drummond.

'The rail mills are running to full capacity,' said Mr. Drummond to the 'Witness,' 'but the Merchant Mills are running light owing to unsatisfactory market conditions resulting from the United States situation.'

On being asked as to the outlook, Mr. Drummond, assuming a quizzical exhe wouldn't have pression, said that the audacity to venture upon anything so difficult.'

'Until these legislative investigations in the United States cease,' he said, 'no permanent improvement, in my opinion, can set in. Politics are more or less hindering trade and commerce for political reasons.'

'The politicians of the old days,' he concluded, with quiet sarcasm, 'played on the heart strings. Those of to-day play on the financial strings, with results more disastrous.'

BANKS SHOW BIG FIGURES

The November bank statements, just published at Ottawa, shows the following interesting figures as compiled by Canadian banks for that month:

Capital paid up	$105,472,558
Circulation	101,943,056
Demand deposits in Canada	341,712,265
Savings deposits in Canada	588,942,142
Deposits elsewhere	73,264,439
Call loans in Canada	72,033,493
Call loans elsewhere	87,489,665
Current loans in Canada	770,356,419
Current loans elsewhere	38,991,698

Union Bank Statement Shows Excellent Gains in Profits and Business

The annual statement of the Union Bank submitted to shareholders at the annual meeting yesterday shows increased business in all departments. Net profits are remarkably good, being an increase of $200,000 over the previous year, or 50 percent higher.

During the year which ended November 30 the bank increased its paid-up capital by $914,000, adding $557,000 to the Rest Account. Deposits increased by over $7,800,000, while total assets gained by $11,000,000. These latter now amount to $58,434,000.

The net profits for the year amounted to $664,477, or at the rate of 14 percent on the paid-up capital.

Due partly to the absorption of the United Empire Bank of Toronto with its twelve branches in Ontario, with its paid-up capital of $559,000, the balance to credit of account leaves a total of $1,199,000 available for distribution.

The Union Bank is strong in cash reserves, gold and other quickly available assets. These amount to over 37 percent of total liabilities.

That the bank is well equipped to carry on its business, is shown by the fact that its deposits have increased by nearly $8,900,000.

Stock Exchange Talks

As a step towards combatting increased cost of living the French Cabinet has introduced a bill which will place municipal authorities in position to exercise effective control upon the price of the necessaries of life The plan is to lend the money for the establishment of local co-operative butchers' and bakers' shops under a municipal regime.

It is officially stated that Germany had at one time decided to go to furthest extremes in the Morocco situation, but abandoned the project at the beginning of August, when the Kaiser was told by the bankers that war was a financial impossibility.

After this assurance the Kaiser remarked: 'Then we must come to an understanding with France.'

The opinion appears to be gaining ground locally that the Toronto Railway will sell higher after the turn of the year. From the earnings so far this year, there is reason to think that not only will the dividend be largely over-earned, but something in the way of a distribution to the shareholders will be made within the coming year, or at the outside two years.

In this connection is to be recalled the statement credited to one of the directors, to the effect that in the past the company has thought of the city first, but in the future, shareholders would be the prime consideration.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK.

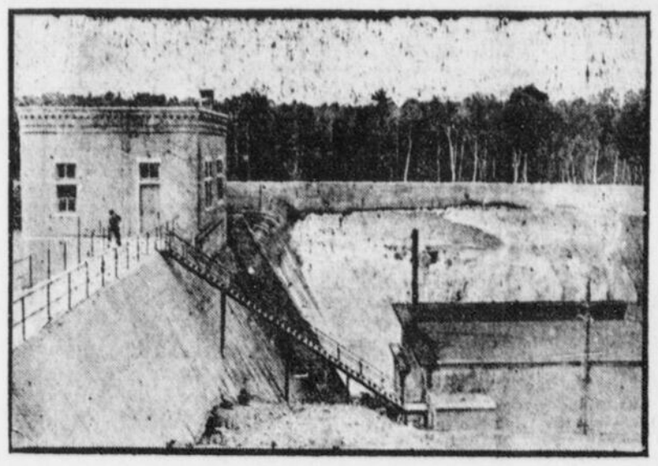
Chicago, Dec. 22.—Cattle receipts, estimated at 2000; market strong; beaves, $4.80 to $8.90; Texas steers, $4.20 to $5.75; western steers, $4.50 to $6.80; stockers and feeders, $4.25 to $5.85; cows and heifers, $2.00 to $6.50; calves, $5.00 to $7.25.

Hogs, receipts estimated at 21,000; market steady to strong; light, $5.60 to $6.12½; mixed, $5.80 to $6.25; heavy, $5.90 to $6.30; rough, $5.90 to $6.05; good to choice hogs, $6.05 to $6.35; pigs $4.50 to $5.65; bulk of sales, $6.00 to $6.20.

Sheep, receipts 6000; market firm; native, $2.50 to $4.10; western, $2.75 to $4.10; yearlings, $4.25 to $5.35; lambs, native, $4.00 to $6.30; western, $4.25 to $6.25.

BALED HAY FIRM.

No. 1 hay, $16 to $17; No 2 extra good, $15 to $15.50; No. 2 ordinary, $13.50 to $14; No. 3 hay, $11 to $14.50; Clover, mixed, $10.50 to $11.



PART OF THE POWER HOUSE AND DAM OF THE QUEBEC RAILWAY LIGHT AND POWER CO. AT MONTMORENCY FALLS.

INTERESTING FIGURES IN BIG BANK MERGER DEAL

In the following table will be found the most important items reported by the Eastern Townships Bank and the Bank of Commerce, to the government, at the end of November together with the totals of these figures as they would have appeared had the amalgamation taken place previously:—

	Eastern Townships.	Commerce.	Total.
Capital paid up	$ 3,000,000	$ 11,697,275	$ 14,697,275
Reserve	2,400,000	9,757,820	12,157,820
Circ. Nov. 30	946,385	12,004,649	14,951,034
Deposits	19,366,605	141,507,967	160,874,572
Call loans	1,789,440	15,025,318	16,814,758
Current loans	19,321,081	110 1-1,596	129,422,677
Bank premises	1,390,854	3,142,487	4,533,341
Assets	28,406,451	182,389,983	210,796,434
Liabilities	22,816,577	160,731,493	183,548,070
Profits year 1910	410,696	1,838,065	2,248,761
Profits year 1911	459,570	2,305,409	2,764,979

When comparing the above figures with other banks in Canada, the striking feature is the fact that, although the capital is not the largest, the profits are far in excess of any other bank. During the past year the earnings of the Eastern Townships Bank were 18 percent on its paid-up capital, those of the Bank of Commerce being 19.70 percent. The present dividend of the Eastern Townships Bank is 9 percent, that of the Bank of Commerce being 10 percent.

No doubt, under centralized management, the profits for the year 1912 will be preportionately much greater than those for 1911.

SPECULATION IN APPLE MAY CAUSE LOSSES

Mr. George M. Richardson, of the big wholesale fruit firm of Glover Hill and Company, of Liverpool, has left Montreal on his return to England.

Before leaving this city Mr. Richardson—who had been in this country for about two months purchasing apples and other fruits—stated to the 'Witness' that he was able to do very little business with Ontario apple men, but that he did an immense trade with Nova Scotia growers. He reasoned that those responsible for fixing prices in Ontario were too much given over to the fallacy, that that province held a monopoly of this fruit.

'The plain and simple reason for this,' said Mr. Richardson, 'is that Nova Scotians were asking reasonable prices and were furnishing apples of excellent quality. The Ontario manipulators, on the other hand, comforting themselves with the supposed assurance of a permanent western demand, fancied that prices could be set at any level they desired.'

'One of the results, as you already know,' he continued, 'is that Montreal has now received large shipments of apples from Nova Scotia which found an immediate popularity. This is unprecedented, but establishes a good business example.

'This juggling of prices, I believe is going to harm the Ontario operator,' concluded Mr. Richardson, 'and when he comes to figure out his position at the end of the season, he will find it out. At any rate, this sort of speculation upsets the confidence of purchasers abroad and will not help the good reputation of the country.'

MERCHANTS BK. ENJOYED GOOD YEAR PROFITS

In his address at the annual meeting of the Merchants' Bank of Canada, held yesterday, Sir Montagu Allan said in part hat it was with leasure the directors once more meet he shareholders. We have, he continued, nother favorable ear to report. Our rofits, after making full provision for ll doubtful debts ue to us, amount to he sum of $1,179,-81. Notwithstanding the increase of the dividend to 10 percent, making the second increase in two years, we have again written $100,000 off the bank premises account, added $50,000 to the officers' pension fund and placed $500,000 to our reserve fund, which now represents the important sum of 90 percent of the paid-up capital, and carried forward $58,878 to next year's profit and loss account. We trust our shareholders will find this showing satisfactory.'



Sir Montagu Allan

Sir Montagu referred to the extension of business as enjoyed by the bank, and he expressed regrets at the recent death of the late Charles F. Smith and the retirement from the directorate of Mr. Hugh Allan. Both vacancies have been filled by the appointment of Messrs. C. C. Ballantyne and A. A. Allan.

Mr. Hebden, the general manager, in a brief, but optimistic review of the year's business, referred specially to his observations while on a trip recently through the western provinces. He said that the bank was making excellent progress in the West, and he hoped that 1912 would see a continuation of these profitable times.

A discussion followed as to a bonus or like renumeration for the staff, but the opinion among the directors as voiced by Sir Montagu, was not altogether favorable to such a policy. Sir Montagu explained that the salaries of the staff were increased from time to time according to merit and time of service. However(Sir Montagu promised to give the recommendation consideration.

After further routine matters had been discussed, the usual vote of thanks was passed and the reports adopted. The election of directors is as follows: President, Sir Montagu Allan; vice-president, Mr. Jonathan Hodgson; Mr. Thomas Long, Mr. C. M. Hays, Mr. Alex. Barnet, Mr. F. Orr Lewis, Mr. K. W. Blackwell, Mr. Andrew A. Allan, Mr. C. C. Ballantyne.

Toronto Clearing.

Clearings of the Toronto banks as passed through the local clearing house during the past week, totalled $41,591,921. Last week clearings totalled $41,394,268, during the corresponding week last year, $36,134,362, and $31,623,900 during the similar week of 1909.

PRESIDENT OF CEREAL CO. IS MORE HOPEFUL

Mr. J. D. Flavelle, president of the Canadian Cereal and Milling Company, was in the city yesterday, consulting, it is understood, with directors and others relative to the immediate welfare of this concern.

Mr. Flavelle has worked hard and consistently in an effort to improve the position of the Cereal Company, and although certain retroactive incidents have cropped up recently ,those who know Mr. Flavelle best are confident that he will improve and extend before long the present position of the company, financially and otherwise.

In discussing the cereal situation with friends in the morning, Mr. Flavelle was quite optimistic as to the future of the company, and he is more determined than ever to make this particular undertaking a success.

As regards the recent destruction by fire of one of the western mills, Mr. Flavelle stated that the company would either rebuild or purchase another mill, as business in the west demanded immedite action to replace the mill recently burned.

SHAREHOLDERS E. T. BANK, GET UNION NOTICE

Sherbrooke, Dec. 22.—(Special).—The following notice has been sent out to shareholders of Eastern Townships Bank by the management.

You are hereby notified that an agreement has been entered into by your directors with the Canadian Bank of Commerce subject to your ratification under which the two banks are to be united on a basis of even exchange of shares that is two shares of their stock for one of ours, the par value of their stock being fifty dollars and the par value of ours one hundred dollars.

Notice containing full particulars is being mailed you. No further information is obtainable at the present.

MANAGER DOM. STEEL PLANT VISITS OTTAWA

Ottawa, Dec. 19.—The presence in Ottawa of Mr. M. J. Butler, general manager of the Dominion Steel Corporation, is accepted as indicating that he is furnishing certain details and figures relative to the recent request made to the government by the Canadian steel interests for some kind of remuneration from the Federal authorities towards this growing and important industry.

Mr. Butler stated to the 'Witness' that he had nothing to state as regards his visit to Parliament Hill. However, it is not likely that he would divulge his errant here, under existing circumstances.

BRITISH CATTLE MARKETS.

London, Dec. 11.—At the great Christmas market held to-day, the supply of beasts, compared with the corresponding day last year, showed increase of 320, chiefly due to large arrivals from Scotland and Ireland. As usual, on this day, consignments from Scotland, Ireland, and Devonshire, were the chief feature, all being of very good quality, and quite, if not more than, equal to last year's show, some excellent Scotch cattle being shown by Miss W. Reid, Taylor Bros., Bound & Son, and others. Next to these, in point of quality, we must draw attention to Irish bred consignments from this country, consisting of 154 Dublins, 63 from Meath, 215 Waterfords, 70 of the first having stood in the Royal Dublin Society's show, these being shown by Mr. F. Oliver. Norfolks were in short supply, and not quite up to the average in quality. However, some very choice Scotch beasts, bred in Norfolk, made up the deficit, and made 4d per 8 lbs. more money than the best Devons. For both prime and second quality cattle trade opened slowly, buyers holding back for easier terms, which sellers would not concede to. Prices, however, settled down at an advance on previous years currencies. Fat butchering cows and bulls were slow but steady, anything choice selling at an advance. Top prices paid per 8 lbs. as follows:—Eighty to ninety stone polled Aberdeens, 5s 6d to 5s 8d; ninety stone Norfolk Scotch, ninety-five stone Dublin Society Show cattle, and ninety to ninety-five stone Waterfords, 4s 4d to 4s 6d; ninety stone fat cows, 3s 10d to 4s; one hundred stone fat bulls, 3s 4d to 3s 10d; rough do., 3s to 3s 2d.

London, Dec. 11.—Fair supplies, and trade rather slow, but chilled beef dearer. English beef, 3s 8d to 4s 2d; Scotch sides, 4s 2d to 4s 4d; shorts, 4s 8d to 4s 10d; Deptford and Liverpool killed, 3s 8d to 4s 2d; Argentine chilled hindquarters, 2s 10d to 3s 2d; do. forequarters, 2s 0d to 2s 2d. Mutton.—Scotch wedders, 4s 0d to 4s 4d; do. tegs, 4s 0d to 4s 8d; do. ewes, 2s 4d to 2s 8d; English wedders, 3s 10d to 4s 0d; do. ewes, 2s 6d to 2s 8d; Dutch sheep, 3s 2d to 3s 8d; English lamb, 6s 0d to 6s 8d; veal, 4s 0d to 6s 0d; English pork, 3s 8d to 3s 10d; extreme, 4s; Dutch do., 3s 8d to 3s 11d per 8 lbs.

NOV. TRADE IN THE U.S. SHOWS A SMALL LOSS

Washington, Dec. 23.—The preliminary figures of the total values of United States exports and imports for November and 11 months compare with actual figures for the past three years as follows (000 omitted,:

Merchandise:

November	1911.	1910.	1909.
Imports	$126,146	$129,785	$140,508
Exports	201,608	206,620	193,998
Excess of exp	75,461	75,993	53,490
Eleven months—			
Imports	$1,392,550	1,425,770	1,336,776
Exports	1,867,605	1,636,990	1,555,720
Excess of exp	475,054	211,220	218,944

WINNIPEG RY. WINS FIGHT AGAINST CITY

A London cable announces that the Winnipeg electric has won a very important victory in its suit against the city of Winnipeg. It will be remembered that Winnipeg won the case in the lower courts, in which the judgment contended by its charter with the city, the company did not have the privilege of manufacturing the power outside of the city limits and conveying it into the city.

The Privy Council in its judgment, rules that the company has full right to change its current from direct to alternating outside the city limits, and then convey it into its sub-station, and that this change does not necessarily come under the heading of anything the company is prohibited doing.

Becides the Privy Council rules that under the charter of one of its subsidiary companies, known as the 'Consumers,' the Winnipeg electric also has the right to erect poles in the city of Winnipef, and, in this way, to supply electric lighting to private consumers.

'The victory is a very signal one for the Winnipeg Electric Company, and greatly strengthens its position in the fight that is taking place between it and the city of Winnipeg.

SHIPMENTS OF COAL ARE BIG

Taking two of the most important coal companies of the Maritime Provinces, shipments are largely ahead of a year ago. For the first eleven months of the present year the figures for the Dominion Coal and the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Companies are as follows, as compared with the corresponding period of 1910.

	1910.	1911.
Dominion Coal	$ 2,971,741	$3,385,127
N.S. Steel & Coal	765,634	686,623
	$3,737,375	$4,071,750

Eight district failures are reported for the week, with liabilities of $102,000.

Winnipeg the Centre of Active Business.

Winnipeg reports say retail trade there and at all points continues very brisk, and it is evident that December business will show a good increase over that of the same month in any previous year. Wholesale business is seasonably quiet.

NEW TRUST CO. FOR THE WEST

Full particulars of the recently organized Imperial Trust Company, with head office at Winnipeg, have been published, and they show a rather promising and thoroughly represented corporation destined to play a leading part in the financial and industrial growth of the Western provinces.

The capital of the company for the present is fixed at $1,000,000, with power to increase it to $3,000,000 as business warrants, while branch offices will be opened at leading banking and commercial centres throughout the West.

Mr. William Robinson, the well-known lumber merchant of Winnipeg, is president, and among the leading business and professional men on the directorate are Messrs. the Hon. D. C. Cameron, E. F. Hutchins, Sir Gilbert Parker, M.P., the Hon. A. C. Rutherford, M.P.P., E. L. Taylor, K.C., F. H. Alexander, James Short, K.C., and William Duncan.

FARMERS' MARKET PRICES, Dec. 22.

Farmers' rigs were more numerous in the vicinity of the Bonsecours market this forenoon than has been the case on any market day this season, and beef quarters were more numerous than has probably been the case on any farmers' market ever held in Montreal. There were over two hundred sleighs with beef quarters or pork carcases for sale. The basket brigade crowded both of the market halls to overflowing, and the crowd of buyers caused considerable difficulty in getting around. Oats sold at $1.15 to $1.25 the bag; $1.50 the bag was asked for the few samples of buckwheat; potatoes, $1.20 to $1.30 the 80-lb.; dealers charge $1.50 the 90-lb. bag for potatoes. Turnips, 50c to 70c the bag; beets and carrots, 65c to 75c do.; onions, $2.25 do.; dressed hogs, 9c to 9¼c per lb.; beef hindquarters, 7c to 9c do.; do. fronts, 5c to 7c do.; dead turkeys, 20c to 23c per lb.; geese, 15c do.; ducks, 18c to 20c do.; chickens, 14c to 16c do.; hares, 35c to 40c the pair; tub butter, 25c to 30c the lb.; print butter, 25c to 33c do.; new laid eggs, 65c to 70c the dozen; older eggs, 40c to 55c do.; cream, 30c the quart; apples, $3 to $5 the barrel; cranberries, $8 do.; oranges, $4.50 the case; Almeria grapes, $5.00 the keg; cabbages, $1.00 to $1.40 the barrel; celery, 20c to $1.25 the dozen; Brussels sprouts, $1.00 do.; cauliflowers, 50c to $1.50 do.; bananas, $1.75 to $2.25 the bunch; hay, $10 to $12 the 100 bundles of 15 lbs.; straw, $5 to $6 the 100 bundles of 12 lbs.

CHEESE AND BUTTER.

There is no change in the condition of the cheese market, business being still quiet. Western September, 14¼c to 14⅝c; October, 14¼c to 14½c; Eastern September, 14¼c to 14½c; fine to finest Octobers, 14c to 14⅜c; Culls, 13¾c to 13¾c.

A fair volume of business continues in butter. Choicest creamery, 30½c to 31¼c; Seconds, 29c to 30c; Manitoba dairy, 22c to 23c; Western dairy, 25c to 26c; Rolls, 25c to 26c.

A RECORD SHIP LOCK.

Buffalo, Dec. 19.—The largest inland ship lock in the world has just been completed here, at a cost of $1,250,000. The contract was let by the government in 1908.

The lock is 600 feet long and 70 feet wide. It is considered one of the greatest engineering feats along the Great Lakes, being big enough to carry the largest freighters. The gates are operated by Niagara Falls power.

(Official Report.)

UNION BANK OF CANADA

Annual General Meeting.

The Forty-Seventh Annual General Meeting of Shareholders of the Union Bank of Canada was held at the Banking House in Quebec, on Monday, December 18th, 1911.

There were present:—Hon. John Sharples, Wm. Price, R. T. Riley, E. J. Hale, W. Shaw, S. Barker, M.P.; E. E. A. DuVernet, K.C., G. P. Reid, M. Bull, G. H. Thompson, Righ Revd. John Grisdale, Stephen Haas, A. E. Scott, H. Veasey, Col. J. F. Turnbull, F. M. Duggan, John Shaw, A. Veasey, E. E. Code, H. E. Price, A. J. Price, Capt. W. H. Carter, T. C. Aylwin, John Hamilton, A. S. Jarvis, G. H. Balfour, H. B. Shaw, Lt.-Col. G. E. Allen Jones, R. Harcourt Smith Achille Dussault, H. E. Dupre, N. G. Kirouac.

The President, the Hon. John Sharples, having taken the Chair, Mr. H. Veasey was appointed to act as Secretary to the Meeting, and Messrs. John Shaw and A. E. Scott were appointed Scrutineers.

The Chairman read the Annual Report of the Directors as follows:—

The Directors beg to present to the Shareholders the following Statement of the result of business for the year ending November 30th, 1911, together with a Statement of the Assets and Liabilities of the Bank.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Balance at credit of account, November 30th, 1910		$ 80,486.43
Net profits for the year, after deducting expenses of management, interest due depositors, reserving for interest and exchange, and making provision for bad and doubtful debts, and for rebate on bills under discount, have amounted to (being 14 percent. on the average paid up capital during the year).		662,437.04
Premium on New Stock		457,060.00
		$1,199,983.47
Which has been applied as follows:		
Dividend No. 96, quarterly, 2 per cent		80,000.00
" No. 97, quarterly, 2 per cent		89,211.85
" No. 98, quarterly, 2 per cent		93,516.09
" No. 99, quarterly, 2 per cent		98,220.20
Transferred to Rest Account	$200,000.00	
" " " Premium on new stock	457,060.00	657,060.00
Written off Bank Premises Account		100,000.00
Contribution to Officers' Pension Fund		10,000.00
Balance of Profits carried forward		71,975.33
		$1,199,983.47

General Statement

LIABILITIES.

Notes of the Bank in circulation		$4,490,963.00
Deposits not bearing interest	$13,866,59	
Deposits bearing interest	31,385,9	
		45,232,460.80
Balances due to other Banks in Canada		234,667.61
Balances due to Agencies of the Bank and to other Banks in Foreign Countries		194,710.80
Total Liabilities to the public		$50,152,802.21
Capital paid up		4,914,120.00
Rest Account		3,057,060.00
Reserved for Rebate of Interest on Bills Discounted		138,215.05
Dividend No. 99		98,220.20
Dividends Unclaimed		2,429.53
Balance of Profit and Loss Account carriqd forward		71,975.33
		$58,434,822.32

ASSETS.

Gold and Silver Coin	$ 630,273.02	
Dominion Government Notes	5,305,276.00	
		$ 5,935,549.02
Deposit with Dominion Government for security of Note circulation		190,000.00
Notes of and cheques on other Banks		3,030,197.11
Balances due from other Banks in Canada		276,403.97
Balances due from Agents in United States		372,508.25
Balances due from Agents in the United Kingdom		64,971.11
Government, Municipal, Railway and other Debentures and Stocks		2,607,732.72
Call and Short Loans on Stocks and Bonds		6,379,925.67
		$18,857,287.85
Other Loans and Bills Discounted Current		$8,010,497.51
Overdue Debts (estimated loss provided for)		69,766.96
Real Estate other than Bank Premises		181,.265.00
Mortgages on Real Estate sold by the Bank		25,776.95
Bank Premises and Furniture		1,211,453.69
Other Assets		78,774.36
		$58,434,822.32

G. H BALFOUR,
General Manager

During the past year twenty-four branches and agencies of the bank have been opened in the following provinces: New Brunswick, 1; Quebec, 2; Ontario, 9; Saskatchewan, 5; Alberta, 2; British Columbia, 4; England, 1.

Two branches in Alberta and one branch in Ontario, which proved unproductive, have been closed. The total number of branches is now 242.

During the year the capital of the bank has been increased from $4,000,000 to $4,914,120. The premium arising from the disposal of new stock has been credited to the Rest Account.

The customary inspections of the head office and of all branches and agencies of the bank have been made.

Quebec, Dec 18, 1911.

JOHN SHARPLES,
President.

Before moving the adoption of the report, the president addressed the meeting, giving the shareholders further particulars as to the increase of paid up capital by $914,120. Increase in number of shareholders by 415, making a total of over 2,675. Mentioning specially the absorption of the United Empire Bank of Canada on April 1, which added twenty branches in the richest portion of Ontario, where this bank was previously unrepresented. He also spoke in regard to the proposed removal of the head office from Quebec to Winnipeg, as recommended by the directors, after considering the matter for two years, and which was to be voted on by the shareholders later. Mr. Sharples, commenting on the hearty support which he had at all times received from the board of directors and the executive officers of the bank, stated that the condition of his health would not permit of his continuing to discharge the important duties of president of the bank after its removal to Winnipeg.

Another important event had been the opening of a branch in London, England which was undertaken after the most careful consideration of the board, and the personal visit to London by the general manager and the assistant general manager. Mr. F. W. Ashe, formerly eastern superintendent, was appointed manager of this branch, and the results to date have exceeded expectations.

It was then moved by the Hon. John Sharples, and seconded by Mr. William Price, that the Report of the Directors, now read, be adopted and printed for distribution amongst the shareholders. Carried.

The general manager addressed the meeting, referring particularly to the figures as shown by the balance sheet, and giving additional details as to the policy of the bank in various matters of interest to the shareholders, mentioning in particular the opening of twenty-four additional branches during the year, making a total of 242, as follows:—

New Brunswick	1
Nova Scotia	1
Ontario	76
Quebec	7
Manitoba	39
Saskatchewan	67
Alberta	39
British Columbia	11
London, England	1

Mr. Balfour expressed his regret at the decision of the Hon. John Sharples to retire from his duties as president at a future date, and said that he was voicing the feeling of the directors, shareholders and officials in expressing the hope that he would long be spared to exert that keen interest in the institution which he has displayed during the past seventeen years as director, vice-president and president of the bank.

After the adoption of the Report, Mr. R. T. Riley in a short address, stated that it was the wish of the Directors that when Mr. Sharples finds it necessary to retire from the. Presidency of the Bank that he be tendered the position of Honorary President. He also spoke specially in reference to the Western Division in which there are now 155 Branches with a staff of 755.

Mr. Samuel Barker, M.P., of Hamilton, also addressed the meeting, congratulating the Shareholders on the Report presented to the meeting, thanking the President and Directors, the General Manager and other Officers of the Bank for their efforts on its behalf, and expressing his approval of the proposed removal of the Head Office to Winnipeg.

At the request of the President, the Secretary then read the draft bill, now before the House of Commons for the purpose of amending the Bank's charter, and moving the Head Office of the Bank from Quebec to Winnipeg.

It was then moved by Mr. William Price, seconded by Colonel J. F. Turnbull, and unanimously resolved that the action of the Directors in applying for the foregoing amendment to the Bank's charter be and hereby is approved.

Moved by Mr. R. T. Riley, seconded by Mr. E. E. A. DuVernet: 'That the Meeting now proceeded to the election of Directors for the ensuing year, and that the ballot box for the receipt of votes be kept open until a quarter past four o'clock, or until five minutes have elapsed without a vote being offered, during which time proceedings be suspended.' Carried.

The Scrutineers appointed at the Meeting reported the following gentlemen duly elected as Directors for the ensuing year; Hon. John Sharples, Messrs. Wm. Price, E. J. Hale, Wm. Shaw, George H. Thomson, R. T. Riley, E. L. Drewry, F. E. Kenaston, John Galt, M. Bull, Samuel Barker, M.P.; W. R. Allan, E. E. A. DuVernet, K.C.; George P. Reid, and Stephen Haas.

At a subsequent Meeting of the newly-elected Board, the Hon. John Sharples was elected President, and Mr. Wm. Price, Vice-President.

GREAT COTTON CROP IN 1911

Washington, Dec. 20.— The census bureau's report on cotton ginning for the seventh period of the season, from Dec. 1 to 12, inclusive, issued at 10 a.m. to-day, shows the number of running bales ginned to the latter date from the great record-breaking cotton crop grown in 1911, with comparative ginning statistics to the corresponding date of last year and the former record years of 1904 and 1908 as follows:

About 13,749,652 bales, compared with 10,695,443 bales last year, when 92.5 percent of the entire crop was ginned prior to Dec. 13, 11,904,269 bales in 1908, when 91 percent was ginned, and 11,971,477 bales in 1904, when 89 percent was ginned.

Round bales included were 93,294 compared with 106,486 bales last year, 140,024 bales in 1909 ,and 212,059 bales in 1908.

Sea Island cotton bales included were 99,436, compared with 75,228 bales last year, 85,177 bales in 1909, and 80,316 bales in 1908.

TORONTO GRAIN MARKETS.

Toronto, Dec. 22.—The local grain market is a little firmer in the undertone, but steady at last night's close.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF JOURNALISM

The Relations Existing To-day Between the Editor and His Readers.

Reproduced, by permission, from 'Collier's.'

FACT OR GOSSIP?

'Most news,' says Tiffany Blake, 'is not fact, anyway. It is gossip about facts.' In this, I think, he has said a wise and final word. News, as it works out in newspaper practice, amounts to gossip, the impressionist picture of truth. It is gossip organized to our uses, subdued to our hand, and raised to both a science and an art. For before journalism was, the town or tribal gossip discharged in irregular and primitive fashion most lower functions of a newspaper and some higher ones. He 'mixed,' he found by force of his prying curiosity the things which were his business as a member of the tribe, and the things which were no one's business. After that, he circulated through town or settlement, telling. And I conceive of one gossip, expressing most closely the bad sense we have come to feel in that word, whose tongue wagged on the hinges of malice and vanity, who spread no good thing about his enemies, and who made a mountain of rumor from a mole-hill of fact for the satisfaction of attracting attention. To him tribe or town listened, though they despised. He was a curse to his world. Foolish rumor and baseless report play a large part in the history of all ages down to the one which brought accurate journalism, and the springs of destructive rumor were such tribal gossips.

Another kind of gossip there must have been. I imagine a man of ready speech, rolling and curious eye and attractive manner, an ornament at any fireside, who came with his mouth full of greater and better things. The chiefs and the council had decided to change the spring planting from the east field to the west: that was a good thing; he had dug into the land and found it rich. Rab had wounded Ush and stolen away his wife: that was a pity, and Rab had his hands full with her, which served him right. A sickness was on the cattle in the northern fold; let those in other parts of the village keep their cows away lest the devil get them also. The chief's counsellor had been caught stealing. Many thought that the tribe should exercise its immemorial right of deposing the unfit leader. I imagine him telling these tales of the day with the narrative gift, but also with a ripe philosophy and a point of view as high and progressive as the age knew. I think of him as ignoring the trivial things, the mere surmises, the facts which, spread abroad, would have injured individuals without benefiting the tribe. Such as he helped the upward march from tool to machinery, tribe to nation.

THE POINT OF VIEW.

Each of these gossips had the eager curiosity and the burning desire to communicate its results which mark the real journalist. The difference between them consisted partly in moral intention, but mainly in point of view. And that necessity for approaching truth from a point of view rules us of the twentieth century A.D. as it did them of the twentieth century B.C., though they spoke simple things by word of mouth to one full fireside, and we complex things by word of pen and type and lightning press to a hundred thousand firesides. Nothing above a market report, or a tabulation of stock fluctuations, but shows the point of view of him who wrote.

Picking at random, as a Scotch tooth-sayer pricks his Bible for a sign, I lay my finger on a piece of news in this morning's Boston 'Post.' It is an item a 'stick' long, from Lynn; it relates to a young girl who went to sleep with a revolver under her pillow. The revolver exploded in the night, wounding her in the shoulder. As you read it, you find the reporter's point of view. It was a 'regrettable accident.' 'Restlessness in sleep' was the probable cause. A reader sympathizes with the young woman. I imagine its treatment from other points of view. First, the flippant and jocular—the girl who went 'heeled' or that old fetish of humor, the man under the bed, and shot only herself. Then the sensational, hinting, by a twist here and a turn of phrase there, that there was more in the case than the girl told. Then the heavy monitory, implying—if only by inserting the adverb 'carelessly'—that the girls should not keep revolvers under their pillows. Be a journalist anything more than a clod, anything less than an archangel, he must have a human point of view; be his work any warm expression of, himself, anything beyond a dry, unreadable lump, he must throw on it that light which is an expression of character and belief.

The old editor, feeling about for proper use of the news-force, either overemphasized this factor or ignored it. The blatant old party organ published, if Democratic, only the Democratic rallies and speeches, ignoring the Republican or sneering at their meetings in little ten-line reports. The point of view was there, but bigoted, narrow, and unfair. Another kind of editor, who left no descendants to this generation, held, as the fettered English do, that news should be colorless, that all expressions should come in the editorial columns. So he killed art in reporting, reduced it to a mechanical formula, thereby dulling the minds of his readers and forfeiting some of his hold on his public.

THE EDITOR LEADS.

Part of our inheritance from the yellows has been a blending of news and editorial; a recognition that the paper's policy, if consistent, must infuse both—a color which is a tint in the news columns and deepens in the editorial. Since the individual, by the spirit of the age, is coming more and more to form judgments on public affairs from the raw data, the editor's statement of facts is more important in forming public opinion than his opinion on the facts. Also, bald, colorless relation of important news about an institution or a person that the editor is madly denouncing on his editorial page is really an inconsistency. Suppose his editorials declare that the local political gang is a band of robbers. When news 'breaks' that the city auditor has vindicated prophecy by stealing a million dollars, shall the reporter who writes it withheld his hand? Is not the paper inconsistent if he does?

No; it is the directing editor or publisher who most potently sets this point of view for the whole paper. By all the laws of popular psychology, he can not be effective unless he does this. Even the simplest new idea is not inserted into the public mind by a single thrust, but by continual hammering. He can not give every reporter his head, allowing him his own point of view. This would produce only a fabric of stitched things. Moreover, reporting involves so much 'leg work,' requires so much spurring from the buoying sense of adventure that, as a rule, only very young men do it successfully. A reporter's useful life is about contemporary with that of an athlete. Men so young have, of themselves, a point of view too immature for final trust with important affairs. The editor must guide them in this, must educate his 'cubs' and instruct his older acquisitions in his own attitude toward life and the news.

TWO FRONT PAGES.

Newspapers, in fact, tend always to take on the character of their directing hands; it is a trade saying that 'a paper can not rise higher than its source.' Every journal of the ripe age acquires personality like an individual; that is the point of view at work. In New York the Hearst 'American' is fighting the Pulitzer 'World' for circulation. They are of the same type. Each has abandoned the extreme yellow policy; each is after the wide appeal. They often interchange men, so that an 'American' executive may have worked last year on the 'World,' or vice versa. Yet they differ widely in their selection from the same news supply. Says an editor of the 'American': 'Often in looking over the news of the day, deciding what stories we shall run on the front page, I think of the "World," try to pick the stories which they think most important. I can usually do it, too. I don't know why; but this is a first-rate "American" story and only a second-rate "World" story, and that a great feature for them, and only a mild one for us.' And this difference only expresses the varying viewpoints of Hearst and Pulitzer, as they make their way downward through the editorial staff.

In considering the editor's relation to the news, we have seen how the supreme head of a newspaper sets the major point of view for his writing gentlemen, is keeper of their larger ethics. He determines, in his functions of selection and training, whether his newspaper as a whole shall be radical or conservative on public questions, shall treat money and property with exaggerated respect or with scant courtesy, shall make man more important than wealth or wealth than man, shall appeal to the head, the heart, or the lower nervous centres. He cannot, however, set for his writers their minor points of view on the little things which come under their notice. If he tries to do so, he tends to destroy all originality and individuality in the product of his force.

What now of the reporter, the newest arm of this newest power in civilization? He is a young man sent out among the million complexities of the day to find the facts which will interest his world, to see truth for the homestayers, as truth presents itself to his point of view. 'He wields,' said Dana, 'the real power of the press.' This is only measurably true since the editor or publisher should, and generally does, lay out the larger scheme for his reporters. But the fact remains that this prying, romantic individual, wholly an outgrowth of modern life, is a more vital member of the social organism than the philosophers have let themselves admit. Through the glass which he holds up before us, most of us see our times. His product is daily bread of the minds to three-quarters of the population. He is to the individual reader the most important functionary in a newspaper organization, just as the police power is to the humble private citizen the most important function of law. If he write sanely, truthfully, with good taste and art, he cultivates sanity, truth, taste, and sense of proportion in his readers. If he write narrowly, cynically, loosely, and without taste, he correspondingly lowers the intellectual standard of his time. He furnishes the raw material for public opinion. If the strand be shoddy, how can the finished fabric be sound?

There is a craft in reporting and an art; the reporter must first get his material, by burrowing as far as he can through the wrappings which hide fact and truth, and then write it. Each of these activities calls for a separate faculty not always united in the individual. The experienced city editor has this dual function in mind when he speaks of his 'break-in reporters' and his 'artists' or 'writing men.' The man who possessed merely the faculty of getting news was all-important in the times which followed Bennett and preceded Dana. Later he divided importance with the news-artist. Yet he who is merely a writer, with no 'nose for news' and no knack of getting it, is still less vitally important than the reporter with the mere sense and skill of news-gathering.

The first personal question which a layman asks a reporter is usually: 'What do you do? Just go out and hang around until you find a piece of news?' That was exactly the method of the earliest reporters, and is still of the country editor. But expansion has brought system into metropolitan journalism. A city is now 'covered' by a machine as fine and complicated as a rotary press. The city editor keeps men day and night at the police station and emergency hospitals, these being the points where news of crime and disaster first manifests itself. He has a man or a bureau at the local financial centre, whether it be a stock exchange or a banking district. 'Routine men' watch the local centres of government, as the City Hall, the courts, and the Federal Building. Others visit daily such institutions as the Public Library, the Chamber of Commerce, and the bureaus of charity. If it be a seaport, each newspaper has a marine specialist at the water-front. Specialists keep in touch with the churches, the labor unions, 'society,' and the women's clubs. By a similar system the press bureaus keep watch of the wider world.

Probably nine-tenths of the news, and on most days all of it, comes originally from one or another of these sources. For the rest, the original information—the 'tip,' in trade slang—proceeds generally from some private source, as a gossipy friend of the city editor or of a reporter. In the scope of that narrow tenth lies the 'beat' or 'scoop,' the exclusive piece of news so cherished and esteemed by the older generation and of so little real use to modern newspaper building.

NEWSPAPERS AND THE TRUTH.

In the larger and more advanced cities these routine activities are taken off the individual newspaper's hands by a news agency, which 'covers' the regular sources and rushes the bare information to all its clients at once. Then from his own staff the city editor sends a reporter to look further into the matter and to write the story. Little remains to chance; the machine for news-gathering is as well-ordered as it can be, considering that it must constantly encounter emergencies.

Truth, fogged by the imperfections of human sight, hidden under the wrapping of lies, stands the final aim of a reporter when he goes out on a news tip. It is the working hypothesis of a reporter. 'Why don't our newspapers tell the truth?' ask politicians and excellent ladies of women's clubs. Could they only know the difficulty of reaching an approximation to the hidden fact! Accurate perception of the event which has just happened before the eyes of flesh is so exceptional as to be almost unknown. Hugo Munsterberg tried an experiment once before his Harvard class in psychology. As the students settled themselves to the lecture, two men rose from the front seat and started to fight. Others joined in to separate or to assist them. A minute of lively action followed. 'Gentlemen,' said Dr. Munsterberg, when the disturbance was quelled, 'we have only been acting for your benefit, a little drama, rehearsal beforehand. We know, for we followed our lines, just what happened. Please write down all you saw.' The resultant papers differed ridiculously from each other; and all differed materially from fact. Later, Munsterberg produced another such drama, this time warning the class, asking them in advance to observe, and to write out their observations. The results were only a little less inaccurate. A professor at a Kansas university, imitating the Munsterberg experiment, staged a pretended 'shooting scrape. One of the actors sprang into the melee flourishing a monkey-wrench. Not a member of the class but saw it as a pistol. The steamer 'Rio de Janeiro' struck the reef off Fort Point in the Golden Gate, ran out toward the sea in the darkness and ebb tide, and sank, blowing her whistle until the water drowned her steam. In the subsequent inquiry the duration of her whistle blasts became important. A company of soldiers was quartered just above Fort Point; most of them heard the blasts. Part of their drill in soldiering had consisted in counting off seconds. Yet some said that the blasts were ten seconds long, some two minutes, and some that there was just one continuous blast.

Now the reporter really approaches accuracy of perception. Daily training has made him so. Had Professor Munsterberg produced his drama before a body of journalists, I venture that certain individuals among a body of reporters watching the Kansas experiment, would have detected the monkey-wrench, and that had there been a trained journalist in the barracks over Fort Point we should know more than the Government ever learned about the means the Rio took to save herself.

But the reporter sees few of his comedies, tragedies, dramas, and little novels of the street first-hand. He is not there when the trains collide, the maniac shoots, or the thief escapes. He must take his information second-hand from witnesses with untrained and imperfect eyes. The courts, when they come to adjudicate these matters, will have trouble enough and to spare in getting at the probable truth; yet lawyers and detectives have weeks to weigh, sift, and correct by that circumstantial evidence which is often the best evidence, where reporters have but minutes.

This would be difficult enough were all the witnesses of the events which he sets about to chronicle disingenuous and truthful. But no one is so beset by the falsity of man as this same reporter. 'Half the population,' some one says, is trying to keep out of the newspapers and half trying to get in.' And both these classes lie consistently, or employ press-agents to do the lying for them. In unravelling these tangled things, in arriving at his results—marvel of accuracy in, view of his difficulties—the reporter's feet, like Patrick Henry's, are guided by the one lamp of experience. Roughly acquainted with all classes of men, all kinds of human institutions—for each day brings him in contact with a fresh aspect of life—he develops an intuition, which is only crystallized experience, for the probable fact hidden under human contradictions and lies. You, reader, as a consumer of newspapers do not often see a newspaper story about a little girl lured away from home and imprisoned in a dark cellar by a villain. Yet cases of that kind are commonly reported to the police. Now experience has shown that a certain kind of hysteric girl who has played truant from home for a day or so usually falls back on her Laura Jean Libbey and invents such an excuse to her (family. The girl's assertion is uncontradicted; but the reporter, remembering previous cases, does not accept the story unless it has strong circumstantial corroboration. Here we have an obvious case of experience in action.

In this elemental function of finding just what happened, reporters and those editors in most immediate touch with them are, by and large, about as sincere as we may expect imperfect humanity to be. The untruth in our journalism resides elsewhere. William Jennings Bryan once raised the question: 'Have we an honest press?' Were news investigation all of journalism, the answer would need be a strong affirmative. Excepting for the very 'yellow' reporter, who has lost his sense of truth and proportion, these men are after the fact and nothing else. Indeed, reporting is an unsurpassed training in sincerity. And where news results seem untruthful, the fault lies often with the reporter's judgment, not his intentions. He may accept, in the first excitement following a disaster, the statement of some hysterical official that twenty people are dead, may telephone in this estimate for an extra, and may find later that the victims number only two or three. Here the public is partly to blame, since it demands immediate information. News editors, in throwing out extras while the event is still fresh, generally make allowance for this tendency and cut down the first figures. 'Halve 'em,' is the rule of a great press bureau. And in late years the roster of victims grows rather than diminishes with succeeding extras.

Again, the layman criticises, as the reporter writes, from a point of view. I have heard the same news report of a political or sporting event criticised as 'unfair to us' by both sides. Still more does this apply when the critic is a galled jade. In the height of the Roosevelt war on corporations, I encountered a stranger who denounced with violence and some profanity the 'lies' of the American press concerning corporations. To the Washington 'Post,' I believe, he paid the tribute of exception. For the rest—lies, all lies! 'Why, they make you think Roosevelt is a well-intentioned man!' he said. 'Why don't they tell the truth and show him up for a demagogue?'

'What is his name again?' I asked when the stranger had gone.

'— of the Salt Trust,' came the answer.

Unaware, as most men are, that truth must be stalked from a point of view, he took the variant point of view for deliberate falsehood. The criminal on trial believes that he is 'getting the short end of it' from the newspapers, when they are trying fairly to present both side of the evidence. With much just criticism of the truth in newspapers is mixed always this unjust carping.

Curiously, the falsity in newspaper presentation of the world increases as it rises to the top. It is, in fact, when he passes up from news-gathering to writing, when he sits down to tell in his most interesting fashion the story which he has found, that the reporter meets his greatest temptation to depart from truth. As he reviews the facts on his way to the office, they may seem bare, unilluminating. An imaginary detail here and there, a conjunction of this remote fact with that, a remark taken from its context and thrown to the fore, would give it, he feels, more dramatic, pathetic, or comic force. Few newspaper writers are so conscientious as never to have yielded to this temptation. Yet truth, illumined by a point of view, is the very kernel of the reporter's art, as it is that of his ethics.

And this introduces the fact that reporting—contrary to the opinion of Robert Louis Stevenson and his kind—may be dressed out with ornament; that an art akin to Stevenson's own distinguishes the great, smashing, effective news stories from the mere dull tabulation of events. The craft is like to furniture-making and interior decoration. A trade in its mediocrity, it becomes an art at its best. This art is a reporter's special province, as keeping major ethics is that of an editor.

Even in the academic definition of that hazy word, journalism blends with 'literature.' Living between book covers, passed on from generation to generation, is a great body of English letters written solely for the need of the day. It includes most essays by Addison and Steele, a good part of De Foe, the Junius letters. De Foe wrote 'Sunday stuff'; Addison, 'features'; Junius, editorial. Further back than that, Pliny's story of the Pompeiian disaster was a news story supremely done. Charles A. Dana used to say with all reverence that the story of the crucifixion in the Gospel according to St. Matthew was the greatest of all news stories. Xenophon wrought but as a reporter when he wrote the immortal 'Anabasis' to tell the Athenians what account their ten thousand had given of themselves in Persia. Had Athens possessed daily newspapers, doubtless Xenophon would have published his story in them, instead of on papyrus. In our own time, Mark Twain laid his hand to little more worthy of preservation in his complete works than the news story, done first for a Sacramento daily, of the shipwrecked crew which he found in Hawaii; and Hazlitt's 'The Fight' is a sporting report.

Though journalism reaches these immortal heights but seldom, we have produced in this country volumes of matter for the daily press much better by any literary standard than most which we preserve in magazines or embalm in books and call literature. Of such are the unhappy John P. Dunning's account of the Samoan disaster and Lindsay Denison's story of the struggle to rescue Bill Hoar the diver—both lost now in old files, their very dates forgotten.

THE REQUIREMENTS OF NEWS WRITING.

One principal canon governs the art of news writing—severe plainness. The novelist writes to tell an imaginative tale for the reader's leisure; perhaps, going deeper, he writes also to illuminate, criticise, and explain life in bulk. The poet writes to conjure beauty. Seemly for each of these is all proportionate decoration of style and philosophical digression. The reporter is telling a story of the day. He writes in haste; in like haste his patron reads. A swift, rushing narrative, whose movement to an end no ornament dams or delays, should be his aim. He may catch the reader's attention by a trick, of style or a turn of wit in the opening sentence, he may carry it on from stage to stage by similar devices, but he cannot stop long to moralize or to describe. In the first place, it clogs the story; and the rush of narrative is more important to him than even to the fiction writer. In the second, he has no time to struggle for those decorations which come spontaneously only with leisure. If he follow the right method, this haste need not make him a mere stringer of stock phrases—'still smoking revolver,' 'mad panic,' 'prominent citizen'—as so many mechanical reporters are.

Within these seeming narrow limits is room, nevertheless, for art—wit, humor, pathos, drama—so long as it abides by the journalist's chief ethical canon of truth, and is not merely an invention. A man in New Jersey sat on a hickory limb and sawed between himself and the trunk. He fell forty feet on his head. 'Having the kind of head which goes with that kind of trick, he was uninjured,' wrote the reporter. That play of wit lay within the canons of his art, even though he showed a brutal attitude toward the victim. A woman left her baby in its carriage at the door of a department store. A policeman found it there, apparently abandoned, and wheeled it to the station. As he passed down the street, a gamin yelled: 'What's the kid done?' The reporter put that in; and here again he was within the limits.

Curiously enough, if one look only on the surface, but naturally if one but look deeper, the more artistic a story is, the more it squares with the facts, with the event as it happened—which is perhaps only a fashion of saying that good journalistic writing lies in finding the art in truth.

For imagined details seldom quite fit in a news story. Somehow they stand crudely out from the picture. Critical writers of fiction have observed this principle at work in the reverse process. An actual and remembered incident, incorporated in an imaginary story, usually remains an insoluble lump in the finished product; it is the first thing on which a clever critic lays his finger, saying: 'This is incongruous.' Just so, imagined detail lumps and mars a good news story. For fiction is the art of lies—often true lies paradoxically—and reporting the art of truth. The greatest reporters, such as Julian Ralph, Harry Stevens, and Stephen Crane, have got their effects from details which they perceived in the event.

How poor, indeed, is the imagining of any ordinary man compared to the detail which surrounds the event itself! If it be great enough to get into the newspapers, it must have personality, atmosphere, a background. Behind every tragedy lies a whole novel, behind every movement for human good a poem. No story so dull, so commonplace, that the writer cannot get the incident he needs from what he sees.

What he sees—there is the point, there the difference between the mechanic of news and the artist. Those very perceptions which make the good news-getter, applied to a different purpose, make the news artist. Forty reporters met Mrs. Maybrick at New York after her release. One, a woman, saw that she was wearing a ready-made gown. No one else noticed that. Another, a man, saw that for all her nervously erect carriage she showed the stiffening and coarsening of the back which hard labor imprints on woman—mark of her scrubbing at Woking Jail. No one else saw that.

In fact, most false, yellow, and unduly sensational newspaper writing is only a confession of lack of art. Let us go back to the type-story which I have used already as illustrating the yellow method with news—the servant girl in cheap clothing who has committed suicide by the park lake. Put an artist in reporting on that. If it strike him on his sympathetic nerve, he will observe the poor, worn hands, the cheap clothes, imagine the struggle against poverty, scorn, and vice to which she has succumbed, and make a story whose pathos will carry it to every one. It is the yellow reporter, untrained to do this, who makes it a 'Mystery of the Park,' a 'Pretty girl richly dressed.' By a lie he tries to match the other's skill in truth.

Weddoe of the Chicago 'Tribune' had a story one morning about a girl who had gone the easiest way—and turned on the gas. It was a plain suicide, good for an inch-long item in every other Chicago newspaper except one, which tried to make it a mystery. Weddoe marked the knot of white crape on the tenement-house door, listened to what the neighboring women, gossiping palm to face on the steps, had to say about her case, and wrote a classic. The knot of white crape ran through it like a refrain, as he traced her course from the tough public dance to the gas-chamber. And he never once threw in a word to bring his own point of view to the surface—never once raised his voice. Buried in the dusty old files of the 'Tribune,' it lingers in the memory of Chicago. A child, lost for an afternoon, was found dead in an alley—she had fallen from a roof. That happens commonly in the tenement district of New York. E. C. Hill told exactly what happened, with skilful management of the little details. And what old reader of the 'Sun' has forgotten 'A little child in the dark'?

QUALITIES OF A GOOD REPORTER.

It may seem that I am treating only of the exceptional man; it may be argued that the rank and file cannot hope to be artists. As a matter of fact, such abilities lie hidden in nearly every man who has the sense of romance, the thrill of life and the power of expression which made him a journalist in the beginning. Ignorant, mechanical copy-reading, and a false view of news, have spoiled good reporters by regiments. Dana himself said that he produced his great results with pretty ordinary material. It was not that he got exceptional men, but that by intelligent handling, knowing where to curb the point of view and where to give individuality its head, he made the most of material little above the ordinary. He had unusual assistance in this; Amos Cummings and Chester S. Lord were artists in news, and Selah Merrill Clark, chief schoolmaster to the 'Sun,' has put genius into the ungrateful task of copy-reading. William R. Nelson, of the Kansas City 'Star,' whose ideas on the journalistic mission differ from those of the 'Sun,' but whose view on the art in his craft is about the same, makes like comment on his own staff.

'Any one who can write an interesting letter,' said Julian Ralph, 'has it in him to be a good writer for the newspaper.' And any one with that faculty is amenable to training in seeing and recording details. Above that, of course, lies capacity, the qualities of mind and heart which approach greatness; these set off the exceptional reporter. But none who is capable of holding a place on a newspaper need be a mere mechanic.

THE EFFECT OF THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

On his way to Europe after the Civil War, that great old correspondent, George Alfred Townsend ('Gath') sighted the steamer which was laying the first Atlantic cable. 'There's the end of newspaper writing,' he said. Gath was wrong; we were hardly at the beginning of good newspaper writing, for Dana had not yet acquired the 'Sun.' But the cable, and succeeding forms of swift transmission, have vindicated his back-thought. For they have introduced a uniformity, a kind of monotony, into the literary form of newspapers. In Gath's time the New York 'Herald,' the Cincinnati 'Enquirer,' the Chicago 'Tribune,' and whatever other great newspaper of the period you may name, sent its own correspondents to the seat of important news, no matter how far away. After the Atlantic cable had finished the application of Morse's invention to journalistic needs, the general press bureaus appeared. Even the greatest newspapers came to rely on them for all but the most important news outside of their own territory; and a press bureau, ministering to all kinds of organs, tries to keep its writing bald and colorless. Telegraph editors can go only so far in rewriting the bare statements of the Associated Press or the United Press, and even then the rewriting avails little, since it is second-hand work.

The St. Cecilia Society, oldest social organization in the United States, comes near to governing Charleston, South Carolina, citadel of venerable Southern manners. It does absolutely govern 'polite society' in Charleston. He—or she—who belongs to the St. Cecilia is 'in;' all others are 'out.' Wealth, power, and social position all group together, even in Charleston, which professes to set blood above all the other social qualifications. It follows that the class of people who create most of the best news, as modern journalism defines news, belong to this circle.

Charleston gentility has in its unwritten code an article concerning newspapers. It crystallizes that sentiment of Southern chivalry which Henry Watterson expressed when, in his criticism of American journalism, he made transgression of private right the main indictment against our press. Journalism must keep its hands off a gentleman. When he gets into public affairs—as when his bank changes management—he will tolerate brief and pleasant mention. But the reporter must not move a step beyond the borders of his home. The newspaper must not mention his wife, his daughter, or his guest. The St. Cecilia publishes, at the beginning of each season, a one-inch advertising notice of its assemblies. Further, this, the most important institution in Charleston, must not be mentioned in type. No social disturbance is so violent as to drag the name of a St. Cecilia woman into print. 'What would happen,' I once asked a Charlestonian, 'if a young woman of the St. Cecilia set should elope with her father's coachman?' 'In the first place,' he answered, 'it would not happen, sir. In the second, it would not be printed—not if the editor valued his standing in the community.' The Pinckney murder strained these ethics to the breaking point. Thomas Pinckney, jr., was secretary of the St. Cecilia. He had called on a young woman and started home; the next thing seen of him was when a neighbor heard a pistol shot, and found him sitting on the pavement, wounded unto death. He died without telling who did it, and the case remains a mystery.

No such news had 'broken' in Charleston since the war. The press bureaus sent columns of fact and conjecture to the remote corners of the country. The city talked of nothing else. In face of that the local papers could not quite keep silence. They published just what came out in the coroner's inquest—no more. Of late, one Charleston newspaper has kept up a society column, differing from similar departments in Northern newspapers in the fact that real 'society,' as viewed by Charleston, does not appear therein. In fact, reporters and editors keep lists on their desks of the St. Cecilia members and their families, lest they transgress the unwritten law.

Cut off from most of the local matter which feeds Northern journals, the 'News and Courier' and 'Post' have let their power flow into the editorial page, precisely as did the old newspapers in the period before Bennett discovered news. In no small city is there a pair of more able editorial writers than Major J. C. Hemphill—just now, after twenty years in Charleston, transferred to Richmond—and Thomas Waring. Further, the journalist occupies a position of personal power and high esteem. To take on full dignity, a public meeting must have an editor on the platform.

The New York 'Evening Post' has stood for half a century as an exemplar and model to a certain kind of American journalist. Godkin, whose soul goes marching on in its pages, had the highest professional ideals. He believed in journalism as a mission and a trust. His idea of journalistic technique was modified British. He kept out of his pages scandals and most events which disgraced the individual. In one period the 'Post' never mentioned murders at all. Now it usually keeps them down to paragraphs. By little more space than a bare paragraph it reported even the Thaw murder, which filled pages next morning in all the other New York dailies.

GOOD MAY COME OUT OF EVIL.

I state a platitude when I say that government by the people is the essence of democracy. In theory, the people watch and know; when, in the process of social and industrial evolution, they see a new evil becoming important, they found institutions to regulate it or laws to repress it. They can not watch without light, know without teachers. The newspapers, or some force like it, must daily inform them of things which are shocking and unpleasant in order that democracy, in its slow, wobbling motion upward, may perceive and correct. It is good for us to know that John Smith, made crazy by drink, came home and killed his wife. Startled and shocked, but interested, we may follow the case of John Smith, see that justice in his case is not delayed by his pull with Tammany. Perhaps, when there are enough cases of John Smith, we shall look into the first causes and restrain the groggeries that made him momentarily mad or the industrial oppression that made him permanently an undernourished, overnerved defective. It is good to know that John Jones, a clerk, forged a cheque, and went to jail, or not only shall we watch justice in his case, but some day we shall watch also the fraudulent race track gambling that tempted him to theft. If every day we read of those crimes which grow from the misery of New York's East Side and Chicago's Levee, some day democracy may get at the ultimate causes for overwork, underfeeding, tenement crowding.

No other method is so forcible with the public as driving home the instance which points the moral. General description of bad conditions fails, somehow, to impress the average mind. One might have shouted to Shreveport day after day that low dives make dangerous negroes, and created no sentiment against saloons. But when a negro, drunk on bad gin which he got at such a dive, assaulted and killed Margaret Lear, a school-girl, Shreveport voted out the saloon.

THE RIGHT OF PRIVACY.

Ever since Bennett entered the field, our newspapers, an uncontrolled power, have continually trampled on the right of privacy. Even when they have served the ends of higher justice, they have generally done it not with those ends in view, but with the sole object of ministering to curiosity. This indictment holds, of course, chiefly against the sensational and yellow newspapers. They have published, for the purpose of gratifying unhealthy curiosity, the very things which we consider scandal and unfair gossip when uttered by word of mouth. Through those means of extracting information which are part of a news-gatherer's craft, they have worried intimate private details from reluctant witnesses. While the suicide lay newly dead in the chamber, the reporters have bullied and browbeaten the family in the hall. Going further toward the depths, certain yellow newspapers have habitually approached actual crime in news-gathering methods. Stealing from waste-baskets, prying open desks, taking photographs from the wall when left alone in the reception room, impersonating coroner's deputies—all this stands against the account of yellow journalism.

Within the law, but without all rules of good taste and seemly conduct, are other habitual yellow methods. I have known the whole family of a 'star' criminal, nay, the very criminal himself, to draw a salary from a newspaper from the day he was arrested to the day of his execution. The salary was earned by giving up exclusive information and an intimate view of family affairs. I have known a police reporter to apply third degree methods to a woman until he drove her into hysterics. I am acquainted with a man who owed his position on a newspaper solely to his skill in obtaining photographs by stealth. These methods, it is true, are all employed by detectives; and the law yields to detectives the right to use them. But the supplementary law which the newspaper enforces is not so well recognized that we yield the same right to reporters and editors.

Further, the addition of intimate details imagined by reporter or 'rewrite man' was a regular method of yellow journalism in its wildest days. These imaginations almost always hurt; usually they made the subject of the story seem ridiculous and cheap. Knowing how far to go was one of the tricks.

Libel is a curious law in its practical application in the United States. Few others fail so signally in accomplishing their object. For the most sensitive, and therefore the most deeply injured, are the last people to bring suit. They fear not only the appearance in court, but also the raking over of their private affairs, the resurrection of their family skeletons, by which the yellow journal often replies to a libel suit. In fact, those who demand and recover libel damages are usually those least damaged.

I have known an all-round criminal to get a ten-thousand-dollar award because a newspaper called him an 'ex-convict,' whereas he had simply served in the House of Detention. Few of our editors have ever been convicted for criminal libel. Yet one who nearly went to jail, and did pay a fine, merely committed the error of slipping an unproved crime into the record of a 'crooked' saloonkeeper whose dive was a centre for municipal corruption and gang rule—a man whom the editor was fighting from the high motive of reforming city politics. Laws will hardly serve to correct this abuse.

Now there must be a line somewhere between refusing to cast light on dark places and walking over human rights. Neither you nor I, nor yet any editor who ever lived, can draw that line exactly. The fact is that it comes down to a matter of personal conduct. The newspaper, like the man who makes it, should be a gentleman. No one is able exactly to say what a gentlemen is, though every one thinks that he knows a gentleman when he sees one. For manners are an art, not a code.

I have compared a newspaper to a highly organized, highly specialized gossip. A gentleman, setting out to investigate the affairs of his village and relate them to his neighbors, would know what is fair and decent to repeat and what to keep secret as of no real importance; what questions he should ask in getting his information and what he should not ask. No other rule guides those newspapers which approximate the motto of the New York 'Times'—'All the news that's fit to print.'

And no other rule guides the best reporters—such men as the corps of Washington correspondents—who are bringing their craft from low esteem to something like professional standing.

In character, as in efficiency, the man who 'works the street' has improved greatly during this generation—that in spite of the yellow flood. Journalists do not blink the fact that this department sprang from bad beginnings. The typical reporter of Bennett's generation, who hammered the news-cog into the world-machine, was not an exalted human being.

Perhaps it was the university man who changed all this. Greeley used to announce that he would not have a college graduate in the basement—not if he knew it. Most of his colleagues held with him. But in the seventies the Bachelor of Arts began to invade newspaper offices, in the eighties they arrived in numbers, and in the nineties they took the profession unto themselves. Guessing roughly, I should say that half of the reporters on our metropolitan newspapers and three-quarters of the editors are now college or university men. Is it intellectual snobbery to say that the university man in bulk brings to his work not only a better equipped mind, but a finer sense of personal conduct? Then, too, with the organization of news as a force in society appeared a conviction that writing for a daily paper is a worthy career. The older generation held differently; still under the belief that the power of the press must reside in editorial opinion, the great editors regarded news-gathering as a necessary nuisance. They looked down on their reporting staffs—and picked their men accordingly.

THE CODE OF ETHICS.

Now, strangely, these men at the bottom of the profession—if we measure standing by salary and public esteem—have come nearest of all American journalists to forming a professional spirit and formulating an ethical code. Not all reporters hold that code, of course, but the best, the directing journalists of to-morrow, do. These are its main articles:

First—Never, without special permission, print information which you learnt at your friend's house, or in your club. In short, draw a strict line between your social and professional life. The journalist must keep such a line if he is to be anything but a pariah. The layman generally does not understand this. The remark, thrown at him across a dinner-table, 'Of course, this is not for publication,' offends the very young reporter; later, iteration breeds indifference.

Second—Except in the case of criminals, publish nothing without full permission of your informant. The caution, 'But this is not for publication,' stands between every experienced reporter and a world of live, sensational matter. As a rule, reporters and their directing editors abide by this article of the code to the last item. It is a question not so much of morals as of convenience. In news-gathering, acquaintance is half the battle.

A man once betrayed goes forever off your calling list; continue the process, and you lose all acquaintance. Politicians, popular clergymen, police officials, and others who have daily contact with reporters understand this working agreement. The Washington corps has called Theodore Roosevelt 'the greatest journalist of us all.' He showed this in his confidences to the newspaper men. Again and again he told the reporters, at his daily interviews, the whole secret of a blind event. 'This is for your own information. Don't print it until I tell you,' he would say. And woe to the wight who did it. Seldom was Roosevelt betrayed, and then only on minor points.

Not only convenience holds good reporters to this article of faith, but also real sense of morals. I know a reporter who was ostracized for years by his fellows because he published matter after the admonition of secrecy from his informants. The breaking-point came when seven men from as many newspapers went to interview a politician under fire. He gave them the formal news, and later the story of his private relation to the event. 'But you won't print that, of course,' he added. 'Oh, no!' responded all the reporters except this one. He published it; the story was a fine beat. 'You didn't notice that I didn't say "No,"' he said in extenuation. This read him out of the craft.

Third—Never sail under false colors. State who you are, what newspaper you represent, and whether or not your informant is talking for publication. If there is keyhole work to be done, leave that to the detectives, who work inside the law.

THE CARDINAL ARTICLE IN THE CODE.

Fourth (and to Henry Watterson)—Keep this side of the home boundary. Remember that when the suicide lies dead in the chamber there are wretched hearts in the hall, that when the son is newly in jail intrusion is torment to the mother. Nearly all reporters who expect to remain in the business respect articles one and two. Articles three and four most of them would like to respect. They can not do so, however, without permission of their directing editors and of the publisher, a court of last resort. Half the reporting staffs are forced to do distasteful things because the publisher needs the news and does not care how the mere agent gets it. Yet with the passing of yellow journalism, and the contemporaneous passing of the craze for beats, publishers begin to see that enlightened self-interest may demand observance of even these articles. The reporter is, to the plain citizen, the visible representative of his newspaper. A violated home becomes a hostile home; and certain journals owe their special facilities for news-getting to the decency and acceptability of their reporters. There are city editors as scrupulous about the methods of their men as any reporter could wish. On the New York 'Sun' and 'Post,' the Kansas City 'Star,' the Chicago 'Post,' the Boston 'Transcript,' and the Washington 'Star,' the reporter who presented information plucked from a waste-basket, or bullied from a woman at the back door, would be presenting an application for discharge. Most of these newspapers have their shortcomings; in some, the vices may be more harmful to the body politic and social than any lapse in manners. But they do insist on decent relations between the reporter and his public.

THE LIMITS OF GENTILITY.

The newspaper should be a gentleman—such is the whole formula. However, some arbiter of manners has said: 'It is never gentlemanly to knock a man down, but sometimes a gentleman must do it, nevertheless.' When the law is not the regulator of society but its disturber, not the protector of the weak but the bulwark of the brutal strong, then the newspaper, chief expression of public opinion, becomes agent of a justice higher than formal law. Justice is grim business; its processes from arrest to execution are not pretty. And in such a fight as that with the Quay gang a few breaches of mere manners count for little beside the ultimate object.

(This series will be continued next week.)

SHOE MACHINERY CASE AT QUEBEC

Mr. Caron Says His Business Was Ended at Behest of U. S. M. Company

Quebec, December 20.—That there was little use in inventing machinery when it was impossible to put it on the market, was the opinion expressed by Mr. John Ritchie, one of Quebec's leading shoe manufacturers, in answer to a question put to him in the investigation into the United Shoe Machinery Company, which was re-opened in Quebec yesterday.

The commission, which is composed of Judge Laurendeau, Mr. W. B. White, K.C., and Mr. J. C. Walsh, K.C., expect to spend the balance of the week in Quebec, as there are a large number of witnesses to be examined. The Hon. T. Chase Casgrain and Messrs. Laflamme and Brown appeared for the United Shoe Machinery Company, while Messrs. Beaubien and Falconer represented the Canadian Shoe Machinery Company.

The principal witness yesterday was Mr. Ernest Caron, the promoter of the Canadian Shoe Machinery Company, who was under examination practically the whole day. Mr. Caron stated that he had been engaged in the manufacture of machines for the past eleven years. Mr. Caron stated that he did not make all the machines necessary for the manufacture of shoes, but those which he did not make were imported from Northampton, England. He had sold a number of his machines in England and Germany, and he had received repeat orders. Mr. Caron stated that he sold his machinery absolutely, but that his business had ended when the United Shoe Machinery Company took exception to the local firms using them. Only three companies in Canada were now using his machines.

Mr. Caron was put through a severe cross-examination by Mr. Casgrain. The latter tried to prove that it was owing to Mr. Caron not taking the right means to push his machines that his business had not succeeded. Mr. Caron stated that he had spent hundreds of dollars every year in advertising his machines.

During the cross-examination of Mr. Caron in the afternoon, he referred to 'the trust.' 'What do you mean by the trust?' asked Mr. Casgrain.

'It is a popular expression just now,' answered Mr. Caron.

Mr. Casgrain asked how the witness found it was a hardship if the shoe manufacturers found that the shoe men were better pleased with the United Shoe Company's machine. Mr. Caron stated that he had never attempted to secure from the United Shoe Company the locking machines in his system.

Mr. Falconer, for the Canadian Shoe Machinery Company, suggested that the commissioners pay a visit to-day to the works of the company at Levis.

'It will show,' said Mr. Falconer, 'a fully equipped factory, ready with machines to sell, a real business proposition, and a factory ready to supply all demands.' It was finally decided by the commissioners to visit the factory at Levis to-morrow.

After Mr. Caron had concluded his evidence, Mr. John Ritchie, one of the leading shoe manufacturers of Quebec, was called to the stand. He looked over the contracts presented by Mr. Falconer, and said that in a general way they were the contracts which he had signed for the machinery used in his factory. Different conditions had existed before the United Shoe Machinery Company had entered the field, the different machines used in the turning out of shoes being controlled by individual companies.

There were different companies in these machines, but these had all disappeared since the United Shoe Machinery Company came into control. There had been an improvement in the machines within the last four or five years. He was not so familiar with the terms of the different contracts as he used to be, as there was no alternative but to sign the contracts if he wanted this machinery. Mr. Ritchie said he had made complaints as to the stringency of certain of the clauses in the contract. He had thought that the clauses were not legal, but was awaiting the test of the same. He had never a serious offer to buy the machines nor had any invitation been made to him that he ought to do so. Asked as to what the result of the present situation was, Mr. Ritchie said that it seemed useless for an inventor to produce new machines, if they could not be placed on the market.

The witness was still under examination when the hour for adjournment came. It was suggested that possibly the examination of Mr. Ritchie might be finished before adjournment. 'Mr. Ritchie is too important a man and too important a witness,' said Mr. Casgrain, 'and I cannot finish with him to-day.' It was finally arranged that Mr. Ritchie would again appear to-morrow afternoon, when he will complete his evidence, and will be cross-examined by Mr. Casgrain.

Quebec, Dec. 21.—'I take the position that this is nothing less than a direct threat against the manufacturers of Quebec,' said Mr. Falconer during a heated discussion with Mr. T. Chase Casgrain at the investigation into the matter of the United Shoe Machinery Company yesterday afternoon. The discussion arose during the examination of Mr. John Ritchie, who, in response to a query from Mr. Falconer, produced a statement of the royalties which he had paid to the company for the past year, and which amounted to over $7,000. Mr. Casgrain intimated that if this statement was put in the record he would ask Mr. Ritchie to produce his books and show what revenue had accrued from the machines upon which these royalties had been paid. Mr. Ritchie said that he had produced the statement by request, but if he had to bring up the business of his firm he would withdraw it. He had only done as he had been requested, and he was not filing the statement.

Mr. Falconer then said that it was a threat to the Quebec manufacturers, who would be under the impression that every one of them who came before the board would have his private business exposed to the public.

Mr. Casgrain said that the statement was not complete, and was liable to lead the public astray. It would be said: 'Oh, see what Ritchie pays,' while no reference would be made to the capacity or the work done by the machines.'

Mr. Falconer said that under the circumstances he did not wish to force the matter, and would for the present take his figures in regard to the royalties from the company.

After Mr. Ritchie had been allowed to withdraw his statement, Mr. Casgrain pointed out that Mr. Ritchie's statement had been taken from the company's figures.

The whole afternoon was taken up with the examination of Mr. Ritchie, who stated that in his opinion the abolition of the 'tying' clause of the United Shoe Machinery Company would encourage invention. It was generally known that the company had taken action to enforce its leases. The suits had had no effect upon him, as he knew he was tied up, and was waiting the settlement of the matter.

There was a discussion between counsel as to the introduction of petitions from the Quebec shoe manufacturers, one of which Mr. Ritchie had signed, and the other which he stated he could not sign because of the 'tying' clauses. He was satisfied with the company outside of the obnoxious clauses. He said he had signed it because of the communication from the company that its representatives were willing to meet the manufacturers and endeavor to remedy any objectionable sections. The petition asking for delay in the investigation had, to the best of his belief, been sent direct to the minister at Ottawa. While he agreed that the leasing system enabled a man to start with little capital, the trade of the country was limited, and somebody must pay for it in the end.

'Too much competition,' interjected Mr. Casgrain.

There had never been any attempt at a monopoly or merger of the shoe trade in Quebec, said Mr. Ritchie, nor had there been any attempt to limit the output.

Upon cross-examination by Mr. Casgrain, Mr. Ritchie stated that he employed about 350 hands. As a result of improved machinery he now employed less hands than formerly. Mr. Ritchie stated that on certain auxiliary machines there was no royalty or premium. He said that he had never examined Mr. Caron's machines closely because he was unable to buy them. Mr. Ritchie said he would not object to a merger in certain groups of shoe factories in Quebec. Mr. Ritchie said he was satisfied with the service which he received, but objected to the 'tying' clause and the length of lease.

In answer to Mr. Walsh, Mr. Ritchie said there was practically no choice to-day. Prices were fixed by the United States company. The only reason why he could not take any other machine into the factory was because of the leasing clauses.

Answering Mr. White, Mr. Ritchie said that considering the company was a monopoly, the royalty charges he thought were fair. If the 'tying' clause was out, competition would bring about the desired result. The royalty on the Goodyear main machine was 5 1-2 cents on $2.50 boots, which Mr. Ritchie thought was too much.

In answer to Mr. Casgrain, Mr. Ritchie said that while the cost of labor and material had increased, the royalties on machines had not done so. Concluding his evidence, Mr. Ritchie said that the leased machines were the most important ones in his factory.

Quebec, Dec. 22.— The board of commission who are inquiring into the matter of the United Shoe Machinery Company finished its work for the present in Quebec, after the morning session yesterday. The members of the commission will go back to their homes for the Christmas holidays, and although no date has been set for their reassembling it is understood that they will meet in Montreal on the 5th of January. Later on they will return to Quebec, as on the conclusion of the sitting yesterday they had not concluded the examination of Mr. Cleophas Blouin, sheriff of Quebec. Mr. Blouin stated that he had conducted a shoe factory in Levis for ten years. He had given evidence in the case of Brunet and Company against the United Shoe Machinery Company. He did not, however, remember just what evidence he had given and referred the commissioners to the printed testimony of the case.

Mr. Thomas Duchaine gave evidence to the effect that he had used the Caron machines in his factory for two years. There were certain machines which were not satisfactory, and applying to the United Shoe Company for machines which he needed he was refused unless he installed the United Shoe Company's machinery entirely. This he did and sold the Caron machines to the United Shoe Company. Mr. Duchaine stated that if the 'tying' clause was cut out of the lease of the United Shoe machines, they could use others. He stated that the thread used in the manufacture of shoes turned out in his factory had to be purchased from the United Shoe Machinery Company, and the cost was 12 cents more than that charged ordinarily. Witness stated that it costs him one-half cent more per pair of shoes manufactured by United Shoe Machinery Company machines.

Prior to 1905, when the firm was dissolved, Mr. T. Lachance, formerly of Brunet, Lachance and Guay, testified that they had used other machines than those of the United Shoe Machinery Company. The other machines were manufactured by Mr. Caron. The company was served with an injunction restraining them from using other machines than those of the United Shoe Machinery Company make. Litigation followed this, and finally the case went to the Privy Council, which sustained the United Shoe Machinery Company in their contracts. Following this judgment Mr. Brunet continued the business, and witness and Mr. Tanguay formed a new partnership. They installed United Shoe Machinery Company machinery. He had found the machines satisfactory, and thought that the lease system was advantageous to the small manufacturer. Mr. Laflamme one of the counsel for the United Shoe Machinery Company, yesterday afternoon crossed over to Levis to attend the investigation into the Dube case.

TWO DRY HOLIDAYS.

Ottawa Hotels Will be Closed Christmas and New Year's Day.

Ottawa will be 'dry' on both Christmas and New Year's day.

The new provincial law requiring hotels throughout Ontario to be closed to the public on Christmas goes into effect for the first time this year. As Chrismas falls on a Monday the hotels will be closed from seven o'clock Saturday evening to Tuesday morning. And Ottawa thirsty ones cannot slake their desires by going over the river the way many have done in the past when hotels were closed on the Ottawa side. The Hull hotels, under a Quebec regulation, are closed on Christmas Day.

New Year's day falls on the first Monday in January which is the day for the municipal elections. Under the law the hotels in the city must be closed that day which also means a dry spell from seven o'clock Saturday evening till Tuesday morning.—Ottawa 'Citizen.'

NOT MAINTAINED.

Sir Charles Tupper's Condition Less Satisfactory.

London, Dec. 22.—Sir Charles Tupper's improvement is not being maintained.

INVESTIGATIONS UNDER WAY

Searching Inquiry into Many Dynamite Explosions to Take a Month

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 19. — Hotel registers showing the movements of those suspected of complicity in the dynamiting conspiracy, other than the McNamaras and Ortie McManigal, were taken before the federal grand jury yesterday.

Thomas J. Reftingon, of Youngstown, Ohio, the first hotel man to be examined, brought with him his hotel register and some account books said to show by whom certain hotel bills had been paid. A bridge being erected by the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad at Youngstown was damaged by an explosion on the night of Oct. 30, 1907. Non-union iron workers had been employed on the contract. This explosion was followed by numerous others in Northern Ohio, all alleged depredations of the 'dynamiting crew.'

McManigal's and McNamara's movements are well known, and the hotel records are being brought from places in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, from the east and from as far west as Salt Lake City, Utah, with a view of tracing others whose names have not yet been mentioned, but upon whom the Government is keeping close watch.

Other persons examined yesterday were believed to know circumstances connected with the stores of explosives which the dynamiters kept. The stores were at Tiffin, Ohio, where, in April, 1911, 540 pounds of dynamite were taken from a barn in the rear of McManigal's father's home; at Indianapo's, where more than 100 pounds of explosives were found in the basement of the building occupied by the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, and in a barn outside the city; at Rochester, Pa., where nitro-glycerine was found, and at Muncie, Ind.

Detective W. J. Burns, who through evidence left at these places traced McManigal's connection with the McNamaras, probably will be a witness later.

District Attorney Charles W. Miller said the Government was progressing rapidly with the investigation. He said more than the preliminaries had been gone through, and it was probable al the evidence would be in within a month.

McNAMARA BRIBE CASE.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 19.—Bert H. Franklin, formerly an investigator employed by the defence in the McNamara dynamiting cases, was brought before Justice Young yesterday for preliminary hearing on the second bribery charge against him—that of having bribed Mrs. Robert F. Bain to influence her husband, a juror in the trial of James B. McNamara.

One witness, Mrs. Maud Clifford Farley, a neighbor, testified that Mrs. Bain came to her home one day and used the telephone; that Mrs. Bain used the name Franklin several times. The case then went over until to-day.

Deputy District Attorney W. J. Ford stated that one more witness would be called to-day, and that immediately afterwards he would file criminal information against Franklin.

New York, Dec. 20.—The heads of nine of the principal international unions, in a signed statement given out here, discuss the result of the McNamara case. The statement, which is addressed to 'trade unionists and their friends,' says in part:

'It cannot be denied that labor in its organized form and unorganized for, has suffered temporarily; but it will rise again, more powerful and determined, for its cause is just and its methods are correct. We condemn crime and violence, whether in trade unions, in commercial enterprises, or in newspapers.

'There can be no distinction as to quality of participants in crime, no palliation of crime; and the present enlargement on a particular crime committed by a member of a trade union, smacks much of an attempt to cover up crime in other quarters and to enlarge the opportunity for criminals in high places.

'We believed that John J. McNamara was the victim of a foul conspiracy. That belief grew into conviction, largely because of the manner in which McNamara was spirited from Indianapolis. The guilt of the McNamara's cannot be pleaded in extenuation of the guilt of those who were responsible for the kidnapping.'

Indianapolis, December 20.—Walter Drew, counsel for the National Erecting Association, was last night served with a summons to appear before the Marion County Grand Jury. The subpoena was drawn by Prosecutor Frank P. Baker.

In explaining his action, Prosecutor Mr. Baker said: 'I subpoenaed Drew because he said that he had evidence which involved certain persons in the local dynamiting cases. I do not know whether Drew has such evidence, but if he has I am going to give him a chance to place it before the Grand Jury.'

Drew stated that he was willing to give all the aid he could.

DETECTIVE BURNS GETS REWARD.

Los Angeles, Cal., December 20.—A county warrant for $5,000 was drawn yesterday in favor of William J. Burns. This is the first of the rewards to be paid for the capture and conviction of the McNamara brothers. As far as the county is concerned, according to District Attorney Fredericks, no other rewards will be paid.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 21. — With Ortie E. McManigal, confessed dynamiter, located where he could see every witness called, the Federal Grand Jury yesterday afternoon resumed its investigation of the alleged nation-wide dynamite conspiracy.

The session followed unexpected developments of the morning when McManigal was brought face to face with E. A. Clancey, a San Francisco labor leader, in the private offices of Government officials. What connection yesterday morning's meeting had with the mention in McManigal's confession that he had been told by J. J. McNamara to meet a man Clancey in San Francisco, when he came west upon a dynamiting expedition, could only be conjectured. Clancey left the offices pale and weak.

McManigal was the first person other than officers to enter the Grand Jury chamber yesterday afternoon. It was said he appeared briefly as a witness, and then was posted in an ante-room through which all other witnesses had to pass. While there he could see Mrs. Belle Lavin, Mrs. Lena Ingersoll, Mrs. A. Brown, and Mrs. A. Johannsen, all of San Francisco, who were called.

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 22.—Claude E. Myers, chief of police of Tiffin, Ohio, where 540 pounds of dynamite and other explosives were found hidden in a barn the day after the arrest of John J. McNamara in Indianapolis on last April 22, was the chief witness before the federal grand jury in the investigation of the dynamiting conspiracy yesterday.

He was among those from whom it was said the investigators expected to learn facts as to who, besides the McNamaras and Ortie McManigal, were implicated particularly in the explosions in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana, to carry on which the stores of explosives at Tiffin were used as a base of supplies. Information was said to have been obtained by United States District Attorney Charles W. Miller that the explosions were directed from McNamara's headquarters in Indianapolis, where as secretary-treasurer of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers he had his offices, although the suggestion fof the destruction of property erected by firms employing non-union men came originally from the city where the explosions afterwards took place.

In connection with Chief Myer's appearance it was learned the district attorney's office had accumulated important data relative to local conditions in the score of cities where structures were blown up in the past five years. County Prosecutor Frank P. Baker, also was before the grand jury. He was summoned because of his work of prosecutor in Indianapolis. Baker earlier in the day had been fined fifty dollars for contempt because he interrupted a murder trial in the County Court by dragging in a detective who was working on the dynamite investigation, and whom Baker said was 'shadowing' him.

Seven days' work by the Federal Grand Jury has developed that the evidence is more voluminous and the number of witnesses to be called from distant cities is greater than was anticipated. The investigation temporarily will stop to-day, when the jurors will adjourn until Jan. 3. It will then require a month to complete the inquiry.

Los Angeles, Dec. 22.—With some witnesses who had not even been asked to testify being excused, and others being examined only briefly, and with those who had been considered the most important left to the last to give testimony, the Federal Grand Jury investigation of a national dynamite conspiracy proceeded here yesterday.

Among those who were excused were Mrs. Anton Johannsen, wife of a Shan Francisco labor leader, who has not been asked to testify himself. A witness who was expected to give valuable information was O. A. Ellis, of San Francisco. Ellis formerly was a building contractor here, having employed non-union labor.

The forenoon session was devoted to an investigation of the Salt Lake and of the alleged dynamiting conspiracy. Alfred Goodrich, fifteen years old, from Salt Lake City, was the first witness called. He was followed by his mother, Mrs. J. E. Munsey, wife of an officer of the Salt Lake Union of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers. Later Munsey himself was called. Prior to the confession of the McNamara brothers Mrs. Munsey is said to have made a statement that J. J. McNamara had been in Salt Lake City.

Before the witnesses were called a mysterious box, received by the federal authorities from Salt Lake about ten days ago, was taken into the jury room.

E. A. Clancey, the San Francisco labor leader, who answered a subpoena to appear before the Federal Grand Jury investigating the alleged nation-wide dynamite conspiracy, said yesterday he had been told the jury would not call him until he was ready to talk first with the government prosecutor.

Apparently Clancey respected this suggestion, for he left the Federal building immediately after. His statement, however, caused many conjectures as to what he meant.

J. E. Munsey, an official of the Salt Lake City Iron Workers' Union, appeared before the jury but did not complete his testimony. Another witness was W. E. Beckner, asistant agent of the American Express Company, who took books into the grand jury room. It was supposed his testimony related to shipments of explosives concealed under false descriptions in bills of lading.

TORONTO'S MAYOR

G. R. Geary Elected for Third Term.

Toronto, Dec. 22.—George Reginald Geary, barrister, was to-day elected by acclamation Mayor of Toronto. This will make Mayor Geary's third term as mayor, and it is the first time in the history of this city, since mayors were elected by the popular vote, that a candidate for the office has been returned by acclamation on his third appeal to the electorate.

NEW GOVERNMENT COMMISSION.

Ottawa, Dec. 21.—There is some disappointment in Ottawa over the announcement that the commission which will inquire into the government departments will be, in a measure at any rate, open to the charge of being a partizan body. Mr. R. S. Lake is a former Conservative member of Parliament, and A. B. Morine a strong party man, who once ran against the Hon. W. S. Fielding. No exception is taken to G. N. Ducharme, the Montreal business man, who is the third member of the commission. The commission appointed by the late government consisted of an ex-deputy minister (Courtney), a retired banker (Fysche), and a retired business man (Bazin), the contrast between this commission and the one now named is distinctly noticeable when the political standpoint is considered, and it is felt that the inquiry would carry more weight if recognized politicians had not been named to the commission.

HUDON'S BAY RAILWAY.

Ottawa, Dec. 22.—The announcement that the government will change the starting point of the Hudson's Bay Railway from The Pass to Prince Albert has brought a flood of new competitors out. Regina and Saskatoon have put in applications for the honor, and have intimated to the Minister of Railways that they propose to press their claims for the road in the most vigorous fashion.

THE CABINET MINISTERS.

Ottawa, Dec. 22.—The majority of the cabinet ministers will not take any Christmas holidays at all, but will remain in the city to attend meetings. The ministers will forgather for the despatch of public business on every week day during the holiday but Christmas and New Year's. Those who will be out of the city for the holiday will include the Hon. Robt. Rogers and the Hon. W. J. Roche, who have gone West; the Hon. J. D. Hazen, who will go to St. John; the Hon. Frank Cochrane, who will spend Christmas in Toronto, and the Hon. Martin Burrell, who left last night for St. Catharines.

HOUSING OF CIVIL SERVANTS

Hon. Mr. Pelletier Takes Up Old Grievance and Hopes for Quick Action

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 19.—For some months past complaints have been made by the local health authorities as to the insanitary conditions which exist in the Langevin government block, on Wellington street, the lower story of which is occupied by the employees of the Post-office Department. Conditions in the basements of none of the great departmental buildings are what they ought to be. Owing to the pressure for space they have been worse in the departmental blocks than elsewhere. It has been practically impossible for the ministers in charge of the departments to better conditions although they have desired to do so, as the Public Works Department, which has charge of all buildings, has been unable to supply further accommodation, or at any rate has not done so.

In recent years conditions in the Langevin Block have become more serious, and in 1905, the Hon. Mackenzie King, then Deputy Minister of Labor, stated that owners of a private factory would be prosecuted for allowing similar conditions to exist. The employees made representations to the late government in regard to the matter, but nothing was done, and on Nov. 28 the matter was again laid before the Hon. Mr. Pelletier, the new Postmaster-General. Mr. Pelletier has done, what his predecessors in office have done before him, and that is to lay the matter before the Public Works Department, and ask that new quarters be provided for the members of the stores branch, who have suffered both in health and comfort as the result of the crowded and insanitary conditions under which they labor. Besides, the rats, which infest the basement, have done much damage to the stores.

Apparently Mr. Pelletier is taking a keen interest in the matter as he has made a personal inspection of the quarters complained of, and the employees who have been compelled to work for so long in such unsuitable quarters are hopeful that their new minister will be able to induce the Minister of Public Works to come to their relief without delay, and provide a new building. That Mr. Pelletier fully intends to put an end to the conditions which have prevailed for so long is apparent. The Department of Public Works, in refusing to provide new quarters in the past, pointed to the fact that there would be accommodation for everybody in the new department block to be built, and that practically every available block in Ottawa has already been rented by the government. Mr. Pelletier is, however, determined that new quarters must be provided for the staff in question without delay.

STRONG LANGUAGE

Chairman Mabee of Railway Commission Scores Grand Trunk Pacific

Ottawa, Dec. 22.—Chairman Mabee, of the Railway Board, had a few pointed remarks to make in regard to the Grand Trunk Pacific, when hearing an appeal of Robert Kelley, of Vancouver, for fulfilment of a contract under which the company had agreed to locate its station at Hazelton, B.C., at lot 82. According to evidence submitted on behalf of Mr. Kelley, the company, after entering into this agreement, decided to move the station to lot 851.

'If any private individual had done this thing,' commented Judge Mabee,' he would be sent to the penitentiary, and rightly so.' He added, in a most emphatic manner, that he had never known of a more deliberate attempt to deprive an individual of his rights.

The Chairman said that an order would be issued at once compelling the Grand Trunk Pacific to locate the station where it had been agreed to place it, and an injunction would be issued against the company restraining it from carrying out its own proposal. It is apparent that the chairman of the Railway Commission does not propose to allow railway companies to change town sites in the west, or elsewhere, to suit their own convenience, and quite regardless of the rights of other people.

ONTARIO'S FUTURE

Hon. W. H. Hearst Paints Glowing Picture to Toronto Audience

Toronto, Dec. 19.—'If we are true to our responsibilities in the development of this rich heritage; if we are true to our country, if we are true to ourselves and the race from which we have sprung, Ontario will no longer be merely the backbone of the Dominion, linking the east and the west, but the heart, the lungs and the very vitals of this country.'

nI words vibrant with the buoyant enthusiasm of one who knows the wondrous possibilities of the rich hinterland of Ontario, the Hon. W. H. Hearst, Minister of Lands and Mines, unfolded his vision of the future of New Ontario, or as he preferred to call it, Greater Ontario before a meeting of the Liberal-Conservative Association of North Toronto last night.

In words vibrant with the buoyant itial bow to Toronto Conservatives. They were delighted with the eloquence and the masterly speech, and told Mr. Hearst that he was the right man in the right place. Mr. Hearst who was greeted by loud applause, said the development of Greater Ontario was a question of prime moment, fraught with immeasurable results for not only thee province, but the whole Dominion and the British Empire. What was known as New Ontario comprised 112,000,000 acres, about four times the extent of old Ontario.

There were 26,000,000 acres of land west of Port Arthur. A few years ago their vision of the land was one of barrenness and unproductiveness. The impression was largely created by the location of the Canadian Pacific Railway main line and the 'Soo' line. Between these two lines of steel stretched vast reaches of rich timber reserves and hidden mineral wealth. Then, of course, there were the wonderful agricultural possibilities bound up with the great clay belt, 20,000,000 acres in extent, land which would be producing when the prairie farms had become impoverished, and fertilizers would be necessary. More than that, the New Ontario climate was better and more wholesome. Splendid settlement had already taken place along the line of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway at New Liskeard alone last year $100,000 was spent on agricultural implements. In a few years there would be a widespread colonization of this northland tributory to Toronto. The education of the public on the riches of Greater Ontario, the co-operative arrangement which was now being made between the provincial and Dominion governments, and the education of the settlers by the government on the best methods of farming and conserving timber to obtain the best results would render a mighty impetus to the settlement of the north land.

HON. JAS. BRYCE ON CANADA

British Ambassador in United States Congratulates McGill on Fund's Success.

In connection with the recent campaign, a letter has been received from the Rt. Hon. James Bryce, British ambassador at Washington, in which the importance of the McGill appeal is set forth in the following words:

'The wonderful growth of Canada, its increase in wealth and population, the demand for the highest kind of instruction in all the branches of practical industry, and the even greater need for providing that foundation for mastery of scientific principles, both in the physical and in the economic world, upon which true and permanent progress must rest — all these changes suggest that every effort should be made to strengthen and develop such a great institution as your university, placed as it is in the greatest of Canadian cities. Not Canada alone, but every citizen of the British Empire who sees that the growth and prosperity of every part makes for the strength and unity of the whole, must join in congratulations on the success of your movement.'

$1,000 From Mr. D. Macmaster.

A contribution of one thousand dollars has been made by Mr. Donald Macmaster, K.C., M.P., who writes the principal as follows:—

'I was greatly pleased to see from the newspapers that there was a general desire to aid the university in its difficulty, and though I am not living there and have many burdens to meet here, as you will very well understand, and am not in the enjoyment of the income that I had when at the local Bar, I am nevertheless desirous to participate in the effort to preserve and strengthen the great educational institution over which you preside, and which is certainly a prime capital asset, not merely of the province, but of the whole Dominion.

I have therefore the greatest possible pleasure in subscribing the sum of one thousand dollars as a Christmas gift, for I see that you have already obtained the $1,500,000 which was your great objective point.

Certainly Montreal has done itself credit, and I am sure that its investment in the university will bear abundant revenue to the present and future generations of 'articulate speaking men' throughout the whole Dominion.

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Toronto, Dec. 19.—Government preparation for the coming session of the Legislature seem to have begun in earnest, though the House will not be called together probably till the first week in February. The Cabinet had a busy session to-day. The Hon. Adam Beck, who is in Ottawa looking after Hydro-Electric matters, was the only absentee. All the other members, including the Hon. J. S. Hendrie and the Hon. I. B. Lucas, both without portfolio, were in attendance. Who will be the next Speaker is a chief topic of discussion among the Conservative members, many of whom are in town to-day, and are being met by Dr. R. F. Preston, M.P.P. for North Lanark.

Mr. W. H. Boyle, of North Ontario; Dr Jamieson, of South Grey, and T. Herbert Lennox, of North York, are all mentioned as possibilities.

ONTARIO'S HEALTH.

Government Endeavoring to Improve System of Inspection.

Toronto, Dec. 22.—Before the new Legislature meets next month, the Ontario Government will, it is understood, give serious attention to the problem of improving the system of health inspection in the province. The comparative uselessness of boards of health in hundreds of small municipalities with their local health officers meagerly paid and devoting but a portion of their time to public duties, has caused much dissatisfaction, and while no reform has yet been planned, the matter is being considered.

A number of solutions of the problem have been suggested, but the one most in favor provides for the division of the province into perhaps seven or more departments, each in charge of an experienced physician. This plan would do away with the necessity of local boards of health throughout Ontario, except perhaps in the cities where large problems might arise. The seven district medical health officers would receive salaries large enough to insure qualified men, who would, of course, devote their whole time to the work of safeguarding public health, not only by keeping watch of infectious diseases, which is often the limit of local health officers, but by studying and reading with sanitary conditions, the water supply and similar important matters. Instead of being appointed by local authorities, they would act as appointees of the government, and the cost of the new arrangement would be borne by the municipalities.

The recent outbreak of typhoid fever in the town of Sarnia is an evidence of the need of a change in the system. Typhoid made its appearance there, and as a result of a disposition on the part of the health authorities to keep the matter as quiet as possible there were nearly fourscore of cases under attention before the danger of the town became generally known. Then came the hurried despatch of Dr. Bell, provincial health inspector, and the call upon Toronto for an engineer to instal a chloride water system.

Urgent as is the need for reform the proposal to do away with local health officers and boards is not likely to escape some opposition. There are about eight hundred boards of health in Ontario, and as many local officers. Most of the boards are allowed a small sum for each day they are in session, but as board meetings are held only once or twice a year—and in some places not that often—the pecuniary advantage amounts to little.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

Toronto, Dec. 22.—The Hon. A. B. Morine, the chairman of the new Civil Service Inquiry Board, believes that the work of the commission offers great opportunities for usefulness and that a permanent commission having similar functions may ultimately be formed. Some idea of the scope of the new commission may be gathered from the fact that it is given power to appoint sub-committees to carry on the work begun in any place by the parent body and report to it.

A letter which Mr. Morine has received from Ottawa makes it quite clear that an unusually thorough and searching inquiry into the civil service is to be made. Mr. Morine says that the inquiry will not be destructive, but constructive. 'I shall take up my duties,' he said, 'with determination to investigate beyond effects and cause. I have no desire to be a scandal monger, or a muck raker. The purpose of such a commission as that which has been named, could not be just to disclose waste in any department, but to devise methods and systems which will prevent waste in the future.

'It may perhaps be found that a permanent commission will be necessary. There can be no question, I think, of the necessity of such a commission. The territory of the Dominion is very vast, and the problems confronting the different departments of the government are sometimes intricate that the administration of each cannot be too carefully watched.

'I am glad that authority has been given for the appointment of sub-committees. This will enable us to go deeply and thoroughly into matters which otherwise could be investigated only more or less superficially.

'I know my colleague, Mr. Lake, intimately, and am pleased to be associated with one so well qualified in every way for his new duties. I do not know Mr. Ducharme personally, but I have always heard of him spoken of most highly.

'I am going to Ottawa next week for a preliminary interview regarding the work, but the commission will not begin any investigation until the new year.'

ONTARIO NOMINATIONS.

Many Mayors Elected by Acclamation Throughout Province.

Hamilton, Ontario, Dec. 23.—Hamilton George H. Lees was re-elected mayor here yesterday for another term by acclamation. Nine controllers and thirty-four aldermen were nominated.

Kingston, Ont., Dec. 23.—Ald. Francis J. Hoag was yesterday elected mayor of Kingston by acclamation. He has been in the council several years and is a Conservative.

St. Ctharines, Ont., Dec. 23.—Alderman Dr. William Hamilton Merritt has been elected mayor by acclamation.

Other nominations throughout the province are:—

Almonte: Mayor—W. W. Pittard and J. Haydon.

Renfrew: Mayor—Dr. N. McCormack (acclamation).

Pembroke: Mayor—W. Leary (acclamation).

Perth: Mayor—F. W. Hall (acclamation).

Smiths Falls: Mayor—A. Foster. G. F. McKimm.

Vankleek Hill: Mayor—G. Cheney (acclamation).

Russell: Reeve—C. St. Onge (acclamation).

Kemptville. Reeve—F. Kallan, H. Hutchins and L. M. Davis.

Cumberland. Reeve—S. Davis, F. P Johnston and C. Rathwell.

Metcalfe: Reeve—D. McDiarmid (acclamation).

Gloucester: Reeve—R. Spratt, C. Hardy.

Arnprior: Mayor—Dr. A. Jamison. D. McLachlin.

London, Ont., Dec. 23.—Aldermen: Eckert, Stevenson and Copper and former Alderman Graham, were nominated to-day for the mayoralty.

Ingersoll, Ont., Dec. 23.—Nominations for mayor: William Partlo, Dr. Mackay, Walter Mills, James Coleridge. James Stevens, W. J. Elliott and C. A. O'Neill.

Barrie: Mayor—J. F. Craig, A. W. Beardsley and Alex. Cowan; reeve—Sam. Caldwell (acclamation).

Bowmanville: Mayor—J. B. Mitchell (acclamation).

Belleville: Mayor—A. G. Vermilyea, George I. Thomas.

Collingwood: Mayor—D. McKay, B. A. Currie, J. W. Archer, E. Gilpin, W. B. H. Pattee, D. G. Barr, G. W. Bruce.

Guelph: Mayor — George J. Thorp (re-elected, acclamation).

Hamilton: Mayor—George H. Lees (re-elected, acclamation).

Newmarket: Mayor — W. A. Brunton, E. S. Cane, P. W. Parson, P. S. Cane, Dr. Wesley, Danford Roche.

North Toronto: Mayor—A. J. Brown (acclamation).

Niagara Falls: Mayor—O. E. Doris. C. H. Cole.

Owen Sound: Mayor—Elias Lemon, John McQuaker.

Port Hope—Mayor—R. A. Mulholland (acclamation).

Thornbury: Mayor — G. H. Boone (acclamation).

Trenton: Mayor — Dr. Jacques, Jesse Funnell, J. H. Dickey, Dr. Farley, R. Weddell, C. W. Saylor, Dr. Kidd, Dr. Forcombe, O. T. Fortune, P. J. O'Rourke, E. T. Marsh, W. H. Matthews, A. E. Bywater, T. D. Kinsella.

Thoroid: Mayor—John J. Broderick, A. McCulloch, J. A. Laughlin.

Listowel: Mayor—J. Nelson Hay, A. W. Featherstone, Wm. Climie.

Ridgetown: Mayor—E. A. Taylor, R. W. Stokes, John McCulloch. Reeve—W. E. Morrison, E. Bien, W. C. Newman, A. Long, C. West, Geo. H. Grant.

Walkerton: Mayor—John Henderson, Mr. McBurney. Reeve—A. McNab, J. Arscott.

Berlin: Reeve—Joseph Abra (acclamation). Deputy Reeve—Wm. G. Shaw (acclamation).

Sarnia: Mayor — John McGiven, Alex. Kelly. Reeve—John Goodison, Dr. Morison.

Waterloo: Mayor—W. G. Welchel, M.P. (withdraw), A. E. Sanderson, John B. Fisher. Reeve—John Kaufman, C. N. Huechen, Geo. Suggitt.

Paris: Mayor — G. H. Armstrong (acclamation). Reeve—John Brockbank.

WELLAND CANAL.

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 19.—The department of railways and canals in taking up the question of the deepening of the Welland canal has made the discovery that the work as proposed will cost more than the estimates given during the Graham Administration. Engineers who have studied the problem believe that the estimate of twenty-five to thirty millions will not by any means cover the straightening and deepening work which must be done, and that the final bill will be nearer forty millions. The government, however, is almost certain to go on with the work.

MR. LAVERGNE OPERATED ON.

Quebec, Dec. 22.—Mr. Armand Lavergne, the well-known Nationalist politician, was stricken with appendicitis last night and had to be operated on at two o'clock this morning. Mr. Lavergne had been under the doctor's care for a few days past, and his condition became so aggravated that he was removed from his home to the Hotel Dieu Hospital during the night. The operation was very successful, and he is doing well now under the circumstances.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Every Province in the Dominion Has Sent Coupons.

At the time of going to press the plebiscite on 'Votes for Women' stood at 1,222. Every Province in the Dominion has now been heard from, although there has scarcely been time for any general response from British Columbia and the West. Still, the last mail brought in several from the Coast. Almost every part of Ontario has suffrage advocates, and the same can be said of Quebec, while a number of localities in the Maritime Provinces have workers for the cause. An interesting feature of the plebiscite has been the fact that some small towns have expressed themselves more strongly in proportion to the population than the cities. Enough coupons have come from rural districts to show that the women in the country are becoming interested in this question.

Although opposed to the methods used in some places by women, for equal suffrage for all, I am in favor of votes for women, and would consider the ballot as a sacred trust, to be used by us to the best of our ability for God and humanity.

MRS. McLEAN.

Spencerville, Ont.

I certainly believe in 'Votes for Women.' It makes my blood boil every time I think of it, and I consider it an unspeakable injustice, and the deepest insult to our sex, that educated and cultured women should not be allowed a vote, while the lowest and most ignorant man, who cannot even write his own name is eagerly solicited for his. I can only account for it by supposing that wickedness would not be so likely to flourish in high places if women had anything to say in the matter.

S. E. D.

309 Mackay St., Montreal.

I never think of bothering about politics, but I would gladly vote the whiskey away. If I could, I would vote for peace all over the world: I would vote for the uplift of mankind. I would vote for children to be kept at school till 12 or 14 years old.

C. J. McDAVELL.

I return coupon with five names of my next door neighbors attached. Any woman who is aware of the unjust laws we suffer from in these North-West provinces, will record herself as being in favor of having a vote. I find a prejudice here amongst some women, against the methods of the Suffragettes in London, because they do not understand that they (the Suffragettes), have been denied the privilege— which the meanest subject of the King should have —to present a petition to the Prime Minister. I wish some capable women who understand the matter, would come and lecture in our towns here.

MRS. JAMES L. FLEMING.

Moosomin, Sask.

To see how the women of this place felt on 'Women's Suffrage,' I spent a few hours yesterday securing names. I was only refused in three places, and secured twenty-seven names. If I had more time, I could get many more. I think their influence in politics would be for good, and as one woman said, 'They would at least be sober when they voted.' I only wish our city were more interested in the question.

J. HIGGINS.

105 Gladstone Avenue,
St. Paul, Montreal.

The happiest and most successful homes are those guided and controlled by the wise co-operation and united counsel of both father and mother. So in the state, the larger home, will this co-operation and united counsel bring best results. God made man head of the home, and of the state, and so it is his bounden duty to see that laws on which the purity, safety and upbuilding of the family, are rigidly enforced, though woman shall have an equal share and right in framing such laws. The labyrinth of party politics, in which even the most patriotic of our leaders become entangled, will only be opened up by the ballot in the hand of woman.

M. B.

Women have obtained important positions in all the industries and have won high places for themselves in the professions. True woman can have no more exalted sphere than home; but that she should labor there alone can only be urged by the ignorant and narrow-minded. Most women, if they wish, can find time to spare, after their household duties are performed, and few are so absorbed in its cares as to find it impossible to read and think, or engage in some work for the general good, by using her ability in aiding to frame laws for the peace, safety and preservation of her country. Does she destroy her womanliness in petitioning for a vote in order to preserve and improve the public morals? Surely not!

JESSIE OHMAN.

Westmount.

I, for one, would be careless in voting, especially if we would have to mix among men to do so, unless it was for something pertaining to the home, or equal rights. Then I would vote believing it to be a duty.

MRS. W. G. SCHURMAN.

Summerside, P. E. I.

Despotic power is out of place in a civilized land. Then why is half the adult population of Canada outside the pale of responsible government. No sound reasons have been given for the perpetuation of this remnant of barbarism, but 'ridicule,' the most cowardly of weapons has been hurled at those brave enough to avow themselves 'Suffragists.' Of all persons, our law-makers should be responsible to mothers, who, with their God-given maternal instincts, are fitted to be custodians of the interests of children. Women should be encouraged to have an intelligent interest in everything pertaining to the home. And what is there in all the realm of human activity that does not influence the home directly or indirectly? This should not be a question of men giving the franchise to women, but of women voluntarily assuming the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

(MRS.) MARGARET BEARMAN.

76 2nd Ave., Ottawa.

I am returning herewith coupon signed by myself and two daughters. I am not sure that I fully understand just what you want in this line, but after reading carefully the whole matter, I came to the conclusion that it is only readers of the 'Witness,' and that those readers must be women readers only. So I have signed the coupon accordingly. But the men of my family would have been pleased to sign too. Also I am confident that if I carried the paper round, that I could get at least two-thirds of the people of this neighborhoood, both men and women, to sign in favor of votes for women.

MRS. JOSEPH DAVIDSON.

Lake Charles, Ont.

Women have all rights that men have, and one more, protection. Why do they abuse it? Can man do woman's work? Soon there will be no real homes at all, if women will not stay at home, and be what they were created for. Domestic science can fill their lives to overflowing. No mean accomplishment. How many know it, and its true value? Juno has no time to tread on Jupiter's toes, nor Jupiter upon Juno's. Both have all they can do, for a united and perfect harmony. I have no time for voting. Jupiter must vote for me.

Montreal. A JUNO.

Thank you very much for giving the women a chance to express themselves, and only wish I had a little of Sir Wilfrid's oratory and persuasiveness, and this question would be a foregone conclusion. At any rate it is only justice if woman is man's equal. I was reading not long ago, of a titled lady in the Old Country, speaking of the injustice, she said:—

'If I were to say to my groom the morning of election, 'Are you going to exercise the franchise, John?' He would probably say, 'Which hoss be that mum.' I firmly believe this would be a different world if women had votes. There are a number of the male persuasion here who think so to. Mrs. A. M. FAILANE.

Keewater.

Had I time I could secure a great number who would have signed. In our own W. C. T. U here we have nearly 70 members, all of whom would have signed, and there are two other unions here, besides a good many who are not members of a union who believe in votes for women.

MRS. J. A. LATCHFORD.

Brandon, Man.

We are glad to have the opportunity to record our names on coupon or anything else in favor of votes for women. I fully believe they should have the same rights as men. We realize that had it not have been for the women who voted at our polls we could never have carried Local Option in our town.

MRS. M. J. B. B.

Winchester, Ont.

If Queen Victoria reigned acceptably for such a long period of time, fulfilling her private duties as daughter, wife, and mother, why should we humbler women be considered as unsexing ourselves if we study political questions, and help select the men who make the laws that affect our homes and children? The few women who have entered the professions or the political arena were exceptionally intelligent, and men helped to elect them to Parliament. May we soon see them in the Canadian House of Commons to present the woman's point of view, of business, law and morality.

CENTURY CRESCENT.

Montreal.

I would like to qualify my affirmative by saying I think women's votes would not accomplish much more for progress, than men's votes now do, unless women keep aloof from active participation in 'politics'—until, at least, our political conditions are vastly improved. The reformers who gained the vote for men never dreamed of the corruption possible under their desired system. Can women be sure of avoiding the condition into which the men voters have fallen if they become part of any 'political machine'? From a standpoint outside, they could register their votes as conscience dictated. As the British Premier says this might indeed 'cut athwart the parties,' it might lead to some of the confusion he predicts as consequent to the disturbance of 'party' arrangements—but if the really earnest women vote first and vote well might it not lead to the two parties aiming at such policies and such political methods as would attract the biggest number of women's votes? But for women to enter politics, in the state which they now are, (as conceded by men) and to gradually learn to tolerate what the men voters have learned to tolerate, would, I think, be a loss to women and thus to our country.

M. J.

Ottawa.

I believe strongly in woman's suffrage for numerous reasons. Among the principal of these is the fact of its great success in countries where it has been tried. In illustration of this let me give the words of ex-Premier Seddon, of New Zealand, the country where it has been in force between fifteen and twenty years. He says woman suffrage was carried in New Zealand by a majority of only three votes. Now you could hardly find three votes against it. I could quote further from Mr. Seddon and praise of the system, and from Judge Ben Lindsey and governors of several of the states where it has been tried if space permitted. I believe in woman suffrage for Canada, because the large majority of our high school graduates and three-fifths of our church members are women, and surely the addition of this large body of intelligent and Christian women to our voting lists would tend to purify our politics.

MARY ALBEE CHESLEY, B.A.

Bridgewater, N.S.

This questioning as to whether women are ready for the vote makes me indignant, when I think of the fact that there are twenty thousand men in this city alone who value the vote so little that they will not pay their water tax so as to have the privilege of voting on the important matters relating to the country's welfare, a state of affairs which redounds wonderfully to the credit of the 'superior sex,' the majority of whom need educating in the essentials of good statesmanship much more than women do. Give the women the privilege of voting, call for a referendum on, say, temperance, and you will see what women will do for Montreal with its revenue from saloons and brothels. It is nothing short of an insult this talk of educating women for the vote, after all the years that the franchise system has been in vogue. I have never heard that the country was campaigned to educate men up to the value of the vote when the franchise was given them. An election was proclaimed, and they went and voted, just as women can, and will do.

C. B.

Montreal.

I have read with much interest Mrs. Pankhurst's speech at Windsor Hall, on the 11th instant, and must say if the woman's suffrage movement cannot bring something with more weight in it than the illustration she uses in one case to explain the nicety of the law. I have reference to the story of the woman taking her child to the magistrate to secure exemption from vaccination, and when told by the magistrate she was not the person concerned and who had charge of the child, it was her husband, and she could not secure the desired certificate without him, she then goes on to say the magistrate told her she was not a person. Now, sir, if the woman suffrage movement cannot bring something with more weight in it than that kind of talk, it had better cease. I would also like to refer to the stone throwing political argument referred to by Mrs. Pankhurst. To conclude, I would say, if such conduct is a means to raise the standard of womanhood, then I fail to see the point, and I would blush to think our Canadian women would so far forget themselves as to stoop to anything so disgraceful as what happened on Nov. 21.

H. A. CREIGHTON.

Haileybury, Ont.

In sending my vote on the 'Votes for women' question, I would like to say that I heartily believe in this reform for the following reasons:—

1. Because I have considerable faith in women's intelligence and capability. I consider the average woman quite as competent to exercise the right of self-government as the average man, and can see no reason why women, as a class, should be kept in a condition of perpetual political subordination.

2. Because I am interested in various reforms which, I believe, would be realized much sooner if women occupied their proper place in the social order. I regard the political enfranchisement of women—or to use a more correct word—the emancipation of women, fundamental. If Christianity, of which all these reforms are but a part, is to prevail, men will have to learn, sooner or later, the truth that 'In Christ Jesus there is neither male nor female,' and the sooner the better. The social problems of the day will not be solved by one half of humanity. The other half—that half in which the fruits of the Spirit, 'Love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance,' are the most conspicuous, should be placed in a position to render the most efficient help. They should be furnished with 'That weapon that comes down as still

As snowflakes fall upon the sod,
But executes a freeman's will
As lightnings do the will of God.'

3. There is only room for another reason, and I give it. I want 'Votes for women' soon, because I have a young daughter, and I resent for her—more deeply than I ever resented for myself—the insult implied in classing her politically with criminals, imbeciles and idiots. She belongs to none of these classes, and would make as good use of a vote, if she had one, as any lad of her age.

M. R. C.

Lunenburg, N.S.

Many persons are inclined to think that women want to vote because it is mannish, but this is ridiculous. We do not want to vote for that reason, far from it. We are proud of our sex, and don't want to be masculine. We want to vote for the interests of our country and better laws for women. We don't want to be told to 'stick in the kitchen.' We hold ourselves as quite equal to men. Women have been too much abused and insulted by man, who has called himself 'master,' and women are gradually awakening to the fact. Hurrah for Mrs. Pankhurst. Long may she live, to see women win the vote. As I will be a woman some day, this question concerns me as well as all girls, and I would advise all girls to pay more attention to this, especially those who know nothing but the art of flirting.

A YOUNG GIRL.

Since you invite short letters on the subject, and those published have all been from women, I am setting forth herewith from a different viewpoint.

Looking at the question of 'Votes for women' from the viewpoint of 'mere man,' it seems to be now at the starting point of a movement that will soon become an important factor in the politics of the Anglo-Saxon nations. The suffragist leaders should adopt the socialist slogan, educate, agitate, organize, and having thoroughly applied these principles, the 'militant tactics' of the London suffragettes will not be necessary to secure the attention and consideration they deserve.

E. E. EASTMAN.

Glen Sutton, Que.

There is one reason which overthrows all others why women should have the vote: it is justice. We are governed and taxed without representation. We are not idiots, convicts, nor slaves; therefore, we resent this injustice, and so in the name of justice demand equal suffrage for men and women. G. L. Aime Martin once said: 'If you would know the political and moral status of a people, demand what place the woman occupies.' In Iceland, where men and women are equal, the education is in the hands of the women, and not one illiterate person is to be found there. These voting women have produced a nation in which there are no prisons, no police, no thieves, and no army. In New Zealand, when women entered parliament, they banished intoxicating drinks from the bar of the house. The adult female population at that time was 139,965; of these, 109,461 qualified, being 78.23 percent of the whole; of these 85.18 percent voted. Do men ever turn out better anywhere? A feature of the election was the orderliness and sobriety of the people. It takes much to convince the average man, and perhaps nothing can make him realize that he is the average woman's inferior in several important details, but evidence shows that is what he is.

ALICE LANG.

3 McGill College Avenue, Montreal.

I am only too glad to get the chance to cast my vote in favor of the franchise. I don't believe we will ever have prohibition in the province of Quebec till woman is allowed to vote, for women alone know the ruin and sin and desolation that drink causes.

MRS. JAS. E. ROBINSON.

Inverness, Que.

I am certain the majority of the women in Brandon wish for the vote.

S. M. THORNTON.

Brandon, Man.

Though I have always believed in 'votes for women,' as a matter of abstract justice, and though we have many women of high principle and good judgment whose votes would benefit the community, I am not in favo. of 'votes for women on equal terms with men,' because these terms now include a large number of men unfit for the responsibility; and if extended to women would include a still larger number without training or fitness for such responsibilities, who would naturally become the pliant tools of party politicians or industrial 'bosses.' Let our public schools make it their business to train both boys and girls in good citizenship, and then we may extend the franchise with some confidence and hope.

A KINGSTON WOMAN.

Women do not need the franchise. They will never exercise any noble and worthy influence except through the God-appointed medium of the home. This seems to be a rebellious age, among women, and the homes and the children are already showing the effects of it. Return to your homes, my sisters, take up the work you were created for, and rule in the way you are by nature fitted to rule. In the home you will find ample scope for all your abilities. Let each rule her own home well; then she will not need to vote.

A MOTHER OF VOTERS.

Bishop's Crossing, Que.

I am not in favor of woman's suffrage. It seems to me women's highest duty and privilege is to know how to rule their own households well, to bring up their children to love righteousness, and to teach them to govern themselves. Then there will be good men to rule the country and good women to train up their children. Those who have no children perhaps could mother some poor homeless children who are thrust upon the world to grow up on the streets, making homes for them and better men and women. I do not think it fair to draw women away from their proper sphere of work, which I believe lies in the home.

L. W.

By all means let the women vote. Our councils of women exercise a great influence in doing good. If all our educated women had the courage that Mrs. Pankhurst has, why, they could run the whole business. There cannot be anything too good for our enlightened women who work for the welfare of the community.

A MONTREAL WOMAN.

As the 'cause' has had no support whatever from the press, I am glad to see that the 'Witness' has at last given the women this opportunity for expressing themselves. For my part, I have yet to hear one single just reason why women should not vote. What a lot there are of narrow-minded, selfish men, and, alas, so many unthinking, self-conired women that are perfectly satisfied that women should be taxed and do all manner of work that men do (at less than half the pay), but think it unbefitting the fair sex to vote!

P. M. A.

Montreal.

I am in favor of votes for women on equal terms with men. This decided me in favor of women voting: I am a widow. I hired a man to carry on my farm; he could neither read nor write, and all the worldly goods he had was what he got off my little farm. He had a vote and voted for a whiskey man. I had no vote to go against his.

(MRS.) WILLIAM MARSHALL.

Abbotsford, Que.

I am certainly against women wanting to vote. Are they not satisfied with their brothers, sons, fathers or husbands? I think it a great pity the women cannot find better employment, when there is so much misery in the world, and poor and sick people needing help and sympathy. If they put their time, strength and money in force on that line, there would be something worth being a suffragette about, and some good accomplished. No doubt some of them would be wanted as leaders, but who would want such to be if they let themselves down so low as to start smashing windows and let themselves be dragged about the streets. Surely the policemen have enough to do with those who have had no bringing up, no example, no chance, and I am surprised to think so many educated women do not know better. What an opportunity they are missing, especially if they are Christians, their time, strength and money all going in adding misery. There is so much in this world to do to help and time is short at the longest.

'WEEKLY WITNESS' READER.

I have been very much interested in the way you are giving us women a chance to express our opinions. And I sincerely hope that the movement meets with the greatest success. For if men continue to ignore women's rights as regards suffrage, they will probably regret it when on some future day they find all the glassware around the Parliament Buildings at Ottawa smashed, and also a woman chained to every immovable object around the hill. I admit that such procedure is not ladylike, but we must have votes, and we will have votes!

(MRS.) G. M. G.

Toronto.

I would have sent my name in sooner, but was waiting to gather a few others. At a meeting of the Women's Institute in our home a week ago, a paper was read on woman's franchise, after which the vote was taken, and every one of the sixteen present voted in favor of woman's franchise on equal terms with men. If this had not been such a busy season I could have got a great many signatures, but I have not time at present to go out to see them.

MRS. A. M. STACEY,
President W.C.T.U.

Creemore, Ont.

I am a firm believer in woman's suffrage. It is only just and right that women should be legally recognized as men's equals. They have proved themselves such in many lines of business, though seldom receiving equal pay for their services, and have no voice to determine conditions under which they labor. Times are rapidly changing, however, and to treat the subject of 'votes for women' as a joke, to-day, displays the ignorance of the one who laughs. Petitions are less influential than votes. Votes we need, and will have, ere long. All honor to those in our legislatures who dare advocate this and similar reforms.

(MRS.) NETTIE NEWTON.

Salford, Oxford Co., Ont.

The question of Woman Suffrage is being agitated, and there is certainty of final victory. A large and intelligent body of women will never cease their demand for equal rights until it is accomplished. When this is done, then war and crime will disappear, and the march of civilization, embodying education, temperance, morality and all the elevating arts and sciences move with greater dignity. Some argue that woman's sphere is in the kitchen, washing dishes and getting nine children ready for school each morning, and building fires in the winter. Others maintain that as man was created first he is superior to woman.

The birds, beasts and fishes were created before man, and would man like to be counted inferior to them? Women! be brave, the time is not far distant when Woman Suffrage will be ours.

MRS JAMES EAYLEY,
(President W. C. T. U.).

Merrickville, Ont.

I certainly favor votes for women; not that she should go into public life; the family should be her most sacred place. But her vote should go to the best man, for we should have the noblest type of mind in our politics.

M. W. F.

New Brunswick.

Why I favor the franchise for women: 1st. Placing woman beside man we find that God has implanted in them the same power to discern between good and evil. Like desire to choose under what conditions they shall pass their lives. Equal tendency to trace forces which deal with cause and effect. Since God has given these faculties necessary in the use of the franchise equally to men and women there should not be 'rights reserved for men only.' 2nd. The desire to protect our children compels us to seek the ballot. 3rd. A belief that man would be benefited by the partnership of women in political life.

(MRS.) B. J. McLEAN.

I am in favor of Votes for Women on equal terms with men. Married women should have the ballot. They share equally with their husbands the responsibilities of the family, the church and society, they should also share the responsibilities of the nation. Is woman's influence in the home, the church and society beneficial or otherwise? From the answer we may argue concerning the effect of her entrance into politics. Unmarried women should have the ballot. Wedded to country, consecrated to its highest good, they would accomplish much in furthering good government and securing better laws. We thank you for opening the 'Witness' for this discussion.

ELLEN C. RUGG.

Sherbrooke, Que.

I am proud to have my name registered among the noble women of this Province, and of the world, for the purity of the home and of politics. If the Bible is true, women stand equal with men on any subject of our home and nation.

JANET CQBLEIGH.

Eaton, Que.

Why should women vote? They make up the church the world over. The majority of the Sunday School teachers are women. Seven-eighths of the day school teachers are women. In every well-regulated home the woman has a voice. All that is good, women stand for; on the other hand, the saloons, the gambling joints and the race tracks are supported by men, who have a vote. Does anyone think that the country is better governed by withholding from woman her right of the franchise?

MRS. FISH.

Ayer's Cliff, Que.

A correspondent in Kemptville, Ont., sends the following quotations with her coupon:

'For the cause that lacks assistance,
'Gainst the wrongs that need resistance,
For the future in the distance,
And the good that I can do.'

'Therefore, why should Man, the Ingrate, when he chooses to confer,
Welcome every fool and coward, only close the door to her?
Room, Sirs, room within your Councils, bare your foreheads if you can,
For behold, without your portal, stands the Mother of the Man.'

I think it is just and right that women should have the privilege of voting. I should want to be sure before I went ahead in that direction that I was right. Women are just as apt to make mistakes as men. Let us feel the responsibility if we ever have the privilege, and use it for the good and uplift of humanity. God made woman a helper for man, in the right direction of course. Let us yield ourselves to God that we may teach us through the Holy Spirit that He would have us to be and to do.

J. V. P.

Westmount.

As you were kind enough to invite your lady readers to state their opinions on the subject of woman's franchise, I gladly take the opportunity of expressing mine, as enclosed. I found that 'the sonnet's narrow plot of ground' suggested an agreeable way of keeping to the desired hundred words. Of course many other reasons might be given beside those hinted at in the lines I send. We thank you for the chance you are giving for women who care to speak their mind on voting and drink.

(MRS.) SARA A. RANDALSON.

Pres. Huntsville W. C. T. U.

P.S.—I believe Canadian women are mostly so happy and well situated that they are rather independent as to voting. The need of woman's vote is much greater in my native country, England.

Brothers, we women look around to view,
The net results of masculine decree,
A mingled reign of good and ill we see,
Where man-made law seems still to favor you.
We think, the time has come to start anew,—
That men and women jointly should agree,
Tuning earth's music to a nobler key,
That both might purity and peace pursue.
How oft, within us, our sad hearts have burned,
Noting the flag of war and greed unfurled;
And helpless sufferers to ruin hurled.
We long to bring our aid, since we're concerned,
To have the tide of evil backward turned.
Our vote shall help to make a better world.'

SARA A. RANDLESON.

Huntsville, Ont.

URGES HYGIENE IN DWELLINGS

Interesting Paper by Dr. J. E. Laberge.

The following interesting paper on 'Hygiene and town planning,' was read by Dr. J. E. Laberge, before the Congress of the Canadian Public Health Association last week:—

'Hygiene, whose end is to check the dangers inherent to a grouping of individuals, must also take a great interest in the habitation, and especially dwellings in large centres in the cities.

'The subject of hygiene in dwellings in a city is one of the most serious that should preoccupy all those who have to deal with public hygiene, and, especially, the municipal authorities. However, we must confess that, until of late years, this important matter received little consideration from the public authorities. It is, gentlemen, because the knowledge of the public in point of hygiene, is almost void. Even among our own colleagues of the medical profession this knowledge is very rudimental. Many physicians rest satisfied with treating patients; their studies, their works do not extend beyond the realm of pathology, very few take an interest in matters of hygiene. However, the duty of the hygienist is to be the guide and sanitary adviser of the families. The wholesomeness, salubriousness of the habitation must be to our colleagues of the medical profession, as well as for municipal administrations, the object of a constant preoccupation, and these two great factors, "sanitation" and "salubrity" naturally lead to seek for pure air and solar light. It is not because one is refractory or indifferent to the sanitary legislation, it is ignorance in every one of the principles public hygiene should lay upon, and as a sanitary law can only have a practical effect when it is in accordance with modern conceptions, it follows that hygiene in dwellings is a thing almost unknown in our country.

'This problem of a sanitary habitation for all classes of the population is, it is true, of a rather complex solution; therefore, we must have recourse to all scientific, philanthropic associations, to the working classes as well as to liberal professions of great financiers; in a word, it is necessary to rely upon every person of good will, in order to secure for our population pure air and solar light in abundance. How many families live in narrow and dark hovels, where the sun's rays never penetrate. What restoring sleep will the tired workman find coming back home after his day's labor, breathing a mephitic air, introducing into his organism these germs called microbes, which will find in a weakened body the soil favorable to their development. Very often this poor workman will leave his sad dwelling to go to a blind tavern, where alcohol will hasten the fatal solution.

'This subject of the habitation is on the path of all social reform works, that is to say, each and every one should co-operate to the impulse in favor of a salubrious habitation. Persons of duty and devotedness who will have espoused this noble cause will not be sufficiently armed for the struggle if governments, no matter if municipal or provincial, do not come to the rescue. It is not simply a legislative intervention that is necessary in this case, it must also be an economic intervention, it certainly is socialism, but good socialism. In such a matter(it is not enough to legislate; it is necessary, to a certain extent, transform the state of the dwelling.

'The habits and morals of the people must be changed, and in order to obtain this end they must be made to see better than the actual state of affairs: they must be inculcated the taste for loftiness, taught cleanliness, made to understand the need of sunlight, pure air, to preserve one's health; and, instead of leaving to the initiative of individuals, of speculators the care of laying out streets more or less wide, rather the latter than the former, whoever the authorities be, they should take in hand this transformation, and in buying, to sell later on, all vacant lots in a given radius, and, after having made the wanted and needed improvements, sell these lots in making certain conditions which would prevent, to the detriment of the aesthetics, certain persons to erect structures which would depreciate the surroundings buildings.

'When a public administration resolves the undertaking of a sanitary measure, the problem to decide upon requires intervention on the part of the hygienist, this is a matter of public sanitation; also on the part of the financier, because these workings call for expenses exceeding the ordinary receipts; the intervention of an engineer, who will sketch out new streets to give the maximum yield, as far as means of communication are concerned. But, all hygienists, financiers and engineers are not all equally qualified to fulfil this task, they must must be learned, of great conceptions, persons who foresee the future, persons of duty, whose activity redoubles according to the difficulties to be encountered, people for whom difficulties only exist to be overcome; in fine, people for whom difficulties have the allurements of a stimulant and not of a sedative.

'One generally considers as a business man a gentleman who has been able to make a certain trade successful. No, gentlemen, this man may be a clever tradesman, but he is not necessarily a business man in the strictest acceptation of the word. As financier, here, must be understood, the man who conceives the needs, not only of the present, but who foresees for twenty, thirty years hence, the man who can say, in ten, in twenty years we will have a population of so much an' an income of so much, and we will have such and such sources of income to pay for these improvements, either required by hygiene or by the increase in population. The real business man will be the one who will find the necessary money to make successful all great public enterprises. The engineer, the learned economist, will foreknow the need of a great boulevard, of a park, of a sewer system, of such or such dimensions, to meet the requirements of the future, a man who will secure a water supply free from all contamination, etc.

'It is not opportunists we need to administer our big city, it must be people continually in quest of progress and who are able to secure it.

'In our American cities the ways of rendering a city wholesome quite differ from those being employed in European cities. All around our cities there is cultivated land, which a municipality could acquire to divide into building lots, according to a uniform design well studied. These new wards, having all desirable modern arrangements, large parks, wide avenues, securing an abundant aeration and lighting of the facades, supply of water free from all contamination, underground wires, etc. This hygienic arrangement of the new wards is only possible if municipal authorities take it in hand, left to private initiative, these new wards will be worse than the old ones.

Now-a-days, the facilities and cheapness of communications by tramcars almost cancel distances. Workmen may transport themselves from one end of a city to the other for five cents, and the distance to the works, foundries or factories is no longer an obstacle to the convergence towards the periphery of great agglomerations. Under such conditions, an administration of progress can, with expenses relatively low, make great ameliorations, whose results would be the rendering wholesome of a whole ward and a greater facility of circulation, always becoming more and more confined with the quick increase in population, requiring new ways of communications, opening of long and wide boulevards and the rendering healthy of these old wards, in making parks which will be wells of air and light in those overcrowded centers, where the houses are insalubrious habitations where light and pure air never or seldom penetrate. Also cause those lodgings to disappear, where nothing but ruins and misery are to be seen, where ignorant routine, the evil glare of cities, inveterate habits, too often unhealthy and costly, confine the population in those centres where physical degradation awaits them; and take these families to those eccentric spots, where light, air and space are not spared; this is what I call making headway.

These displacements cannot be effected without exciting much criticism and promoting protestations prompted by the narrow mind of some people. But the general interest must always prevail for the one whose mission is to govern, to administer a big city.

In most big cities, there exist clusters where sordid, unhealthy houses are in great proportion, and even in majority and inside of which throngs of people are gathered, whose mode of living, the limited means, ignorance of the most elementary principles of hygiene and cleanliness, predispose to diseases and physical loss. These clusters of insalubrious houses are as many sources of contamination in which death, especially infantile death, reaches surprising proportions.

'The necessity of causing these clusters to disappear is uncontested by all those who have to deal with public hygiene. But, it is necessary to know those unhealthy spots, and one can only get a clear idea of them by establishing sanitary records of all the houses in a municipality. This will be the guide which will lead us in so important a work, the finding out of the spots which must disappear. The main obstacles to these ameliorations, said in the name of hygiene, is the expense these expropriations would cause. But a good administration, helped by just and equitable laws can reduce these expenses to a minimum cost. In fact, the point in view is to suppress speculators who are always upon the watch for these great improvements and are an obstacle to their realization.

'It seems to me that the expropriation would be made more easy, and just if the legislature enacted that, for expropriation purposes of public interest, the municipality could in a few years, let us say, three or four years, buy the land to be expropriated at the municipal estimate price of the last four years, plus twenty percent. By this process, the municipality would know what the cost of an expropriation would be, and the owners should see that their real estate be reasonably taxed. Now-a-days, the law rather seems, in matters of expropriation, to protect the private individual to the prejudice of the community; it is the reverse which should exist.

RAILWAY MERGER.

New York Central Lines Plan Amalgamation and Have Through Line.

New York, Dec. 23.— What is regarded in Wall Street as the first step in the long rumored plan to consolidate the subsidiaries of the New York Central system with the parent company was taken yesterday, when the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company addressed letters to the holders of its $110,000,000 3 1-2 percent, collateral trust bonds, which were given in exchange for stock of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern and Michigan Central roads, asking their consent to merge either or both roads with the parent company.

It is proposed at the present time to consolidate only the Lake Shore, but owing to a provision of the mortgage the consent of the holders of the Michigan Central proportion of the issue must be obtained to make the consolidation effective. The way is thus left open, however, for a consolidation of the Michigan Central with the New York Central, and the bondholders are in fact asked to give their consent to such consolidation.

Control of the Michigan Central and the Lake Shore was secured by the New York Central in 1898, when it issued its 3 1-2 percent bonds for $50,000,000 of the Lake Shore, and Michigan Southern stock at 200, and $18,738,000 Michigan Central stock at 115.

It was denied by the company yesterday that any further plans for a comprehensive unification of the system were contemplated, but it has been from time to time reported that such is the ultimate goal which the directors have in mind.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR 'WITNESS' READERS TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES.

I am in favor of votes for women on equal terms with men.

Name .....
State whether Mrs. or Miss.

Address .....

Name not for Publication

All that the present plebiscite can prove is whether there are many or few sufficiently interested in the movement to fill out the ballot and mail it, under cover, bearing a one-cent stamp, if in Montreal, or a two-cent stamp, if beyond Montreal, addressed

'VOTES FOR WOMEN,'
'Daily Witness,'
Montreal.

Letters on either side of the question — not exceeding one hundred words each—would increase the interest in the discussion.

While this coupon will appear in several issues, it is important that as many as possible should be sent in by return mail. More than one signature may be attached to the coupon if desired.

NEWS OF THE PROVINCES.

NOVA SCOTIA

STEVEDORE KILLED.

Halifax, Dec. 21.—While loading deals on the Furness liner 'Almeriana' this morning, Stevedore Edward Checkley was killed instantly by a falling plank, which broke his neck.

$6,000 FIRE.

Halifax, Dec. 19.— Fire at the Carriette Patterson Tar Paper works early this morning destroyed the boiler house. The damage is about $6,000, covered by insurance.

HON. B. F. PEARSON ILL.

Halifax, N.S., December 20.—The Hon. B. F. Pearson, who has been seriously ill at his residence in this city for ten days, has been reported to be holding his own during the past week. Last night a bulletin from the house at the north-west arm says that the improvement in his condition was not as well maintained yesterday. The Hon. Mr. Pearson is suffering from an affection of the kidneys.

NEW BRUNSWICK

FIRE FIEND AT MONCTON.

Moncton, N.B., Dec. 21.—Fire here stroyed four buildings, and put six concerns out of business. The loss is about $30,000. Those burned out were Elliot's hardware store, Boston Five and Ten Cent Store, H. L. Bass's shoe store, M. J. Steeves, confectionery; the Moncton Fuel, Ice & Cartage Company, and Foster Keith, barber. All were partially insured.

EPIDEMIC FEARED.

St. John, N.B., Dec. 21.—A special despatch from Chatham says an epidemic of spinal meningitis is feared in that section. In one of the lumber camps in the vicinity there were three deaths, and two other cases have have been reported. The nature of the disease has not yet been definitely determined, but spinal meningitis is suspected. The Provincial Board of Health are taking action.

ACCIDENTALLY KILLED.

Perth, N.B., Dec. 20.—Word reached here yesterday of the tragic death on Sunday of Miss Martha McLaughlin, aged twenty years, of Ortonville, at a lumber camp on Green River, about thirty miles from Edmundston. The young woman was watching her brother-in-law, Frank Crane, clean his rifle. He threw out several shells, when one struck and was accidentally discharged, the bullet going through the young woman's body. She lived only three hours, no physician being available.

QUEBEC

SMALLPOX AT THREE RIVERS.

Three Rivers, Que., Dec. 21.—A smallpox hospital has been opened in the upper end of the city, one patient being taken in this morning. There are several cases of the disease here, though the disease is of a mild type.

CHIEF OF POLICE IN TROUBLE.

Sherbrooke, Que., Dec. 19. — On a charge of having illegally filled in a remand by which Adelard Asselin was kept in jail three days, Chief of Police Davidson was bound over by Judge Mulvena yesterday afternoon to stand trial at next term of the Court of King's Bench. Bail was fixed at a personal bond of $1,000.

'GREATER' SHERBROOKE.

Sherbrooke, Que., Dec. 19.—The campaign for 'Greater Sherbrooke' being carried on by the City Council and Board of Trade is bearing fruit. At last night's session of the City Council a deal was closed for the location in this city of a large iron industry and also a clothing factory. Both will employ a large number of hands.

A FINE CHRISTMAS NUMBER.

Credit is due to the Granby Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd., for the splendid Christmas number of Granby 'Leader-Mail' and Farnham 'Leader,' which has been turned out by their own machines. In previous years it has been their custom to get part of the printing for their Christmas number done outside, but this year they have executed the whole of the work themselves.

SENTENCED TO DIE.

Quebec, Dec. 2.—Jules Plourde and his brother, Ovide, were sentenced at Riviere du Loup this morning for the murder of Louis Dion, who was shot by the former while mixed up in a quarrel at St. Honore, Temiscouata, last July. The death sentence was passed on Jules, while his brother, who gave him the cartridges with which the deed was done, got ten years. Both men had nothing to say before sentence was passed. They are both young fellows, between twenty and twenty-five years of age, and both unmarried.

MR. AMYOT'S APPOINTMENT.

Quebec, Dec. 19.— At a banquet at the Chateau Frontenac yesterday evening given by George E. Amyot, the big Quebec manufacturer, who was celebrating the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the house as well as the reopening of his new and modern factory after its destruction by fire, Premier Gouin announced that the appointment of Mr. Amyot to succeed the late Hon. T. B. Garneau, had been practically decided upon.

The new legislative councillor is one of the most progressive and enterprising manufacturers of the Ancient Capital.

BIG PRICE FOR FARM.

Another one of the old farms situated on the outskirts of the city, has been sold. The old McNaughton farm—so well-known to the older residents of Montreal—is the last to go under the hammer. The property is situated near Lachine, opposite the Simplex Car Company, and is admirably located for factory sites. Although no definite announcement has been made as to the disposal of the farm, it is said by those who claim to know the plans of the purchasers, that it will be subdivided into factory sites. The sale price is a record one — $3,500 per arpent, and there are 185 arpents in the farm, so the price paid for the whole property amounts to $647,500. The Montreal, Lachine Canal Land Company, an English syndicate, was the purchaser; others associated with the negotiations were Mr. W. F. Tye, Toronto; Mr. J. R. Converse, Mr. R. L. Blackburn, Ottawa, and Mr. D. Morrow, Montreal.

ONTARIO

OVERALL FACTORY ROBBED.

Windsor, Dec. 22.— Thieves broke into the Peabody Overall factory at Walkerville on Wednesday night, and stole goods amounting to between $500 and $600.

C. N. R. WORK BEGUN.

North Bay, December 20.—Work on the Canadian Northern Railway transcontinental line has been started east and west of North Bay, and the subcontractors are busy erecting the necessary camps.

KINGSTON CALLS MINISTER.

Kingston, Ont., Dec. 21.— The Rev. S. J. Compton, M.A., B.D., of Ballymorey, Ireland, has been called to St. Andrew's Church, Kingston. He is 32 years of age, a scholar and an eloquent preacher.

WANTS $50,000 GRANT.

Ottawa, Dec. 20.—A deputation representing the Central Canada Fair Association of Ottawa waited upon the Hon. Martin Burrell, Minister of Agriculture, this morning, and asked that the annual grant of $50,000 for the Dominion Fair be given this year to the Ottawa fair.

FOUND ON TRACK.

Windsor, Dec. 21.—John Cross, a carpenter, aged 39 years, was found unconscious on the river front near the Grand Trunk tracks early yesterday. Cross was removed to the hospital, where he died three hours later. Coroner Labelle is investigating the circumstances and may order an inquest.

COW ATTACKS GIRL.

Kingston, Dec. 21.—Attacked by a cow in the stable on her father's farm, Mary Sills, aged fourteen, daughter of Mr. George Sills, McLean Postoffice, Hinchinbrooke, was brought to the General Hospital yesterday suffering from internal injuries. She may not recover.

BOYS' TERRIBLE DEATH.

Hamilton, Dec. 19.—Wilbert Lloyd, the three-year-old son of John Bellington, Main street, while playing in the house yesterday, backed into a tub of boiling hot water and was so terribly scalded that he died early this morning from his injuries, after a night of frightful agony.

ACCIDENTS IN TORONTO.

Toronto, Dec. 20.—Robert Johnston, 35 years old, was struck by a street car last night. He was removed to his home, where he died this morning. Jos. Murphy, 24 years old, was struck by a southbound Bloor car at Spadina and Wilcox street, at 6.15 last night. He was removed to Grace Hospital, where it is feared he cannot recover.

MURDERER INSANE.

Chatham, Dec. 22.— Medical examiners Brad and Charteris, appointed to inquire into the insanity of George Senior, a farm hand convicted of a murderous assault upon his employer, J. W. Robertson, at Northwood recently, report that Senior is undoubtedly insane. He will be committed to the asylum to-day.

BROCKVILLE'S SURPLUS.

Brockville, Dec. 22.— The Town Council is closing the year with a surplus of $5,024.79. In addition, a deficit of $7,255.06 from 1910 was wiped out. To accomplish this the taxes this year were raised on from 26 to 29 mills, with the understanding that they would be reduced next year. Heavy civic improvements were the cause of last year's deficit.

TURKEYS PLENTIFUL.

Hamilton, Dec. 22.—Though there was a large supply of turkeys and other fowl on the central market yesterday, the demand was quite equal to it, and in consequence prices were high. Turkeys were quoted at from 20c to 25c per pound, the price varying according to quality. Ducks, chickens and geese were also firm in price.

MAN CUT IN TWO.

Pontypool, Ont., Dec. 20. —The body of a man was found lying beside the track of the C. P. R. just east of Pontypool station. Sectionmen found the body cut in two. They gathered it together and took it to the baggage room of the station waiting the coroner and identification. It is supposed he had been riding the trucks of a freight car, and becoming cold and exhausted, fell off and was run over.

DARING ONTARIO ROBBERY.

Welland, Ont., Dec. 19. — A daring robbery was committed here during the night, when Harry C. Lane's jewellery store was broken into and over $3,000 worth of valuables, consisting of forty gold-filled watches, a hundred rings, seventy-five lockets, and other valuables were taken. Entrance was gained through a rear window. Detectives are at work on the case.

KINGSTON SCHOOLS.

Kingston, Dec. 19.—The teachers of the public schools are up in arms because the board of education has decided to adopt a bonus system, instead of fixed salary increase. They have written the board, stating they will not accept this plan, and asking that question be reconsidered. If the board decides to press the scheme, many resignations will follow at the end of the year.

PRIVILEGED PERSONS.

Galt, Ont., Dec. 21.—Magistrate Blake to-day ruled that a conductor on a G. P. & H. car was justified in slapping a passenger's face who used profane language. The complainant used bad language, and although warned, continued, and the conductor punched his face. The complainant was a local man, while the conductor was a Preston man.

EXPRESS ROBBERY.

Hamilton, Dec. 21.—Before James Chilman and Joseph Acheson, the men who were committed yesterday on a charge of stealing $8,575 from the Canadian Express Company, are placed in trial, the police, it is understood, will make a third arrest. They refuse to give any hint as to who the man will be, but are satisfied the next move will do much to clear up the case.

MERCHANT MISSING.

Kingsville, Ont., December 20.—John Passman, aged 28, a merchant of this town, left last Wednesday to visit relatives in Detroit, and has not been seen or heard from since. His relatives fear that he may have been injured on the road or met with foul play, as he had quite a sum of money on his person. Mr. Passman was married only two months ago, and his bride is alarmed over his absence.

MINER'S TERRIBLE FALL.

Cobalt, Ont., Dec. 21.—J. W. Graham, a deck hand employed by the Crown Reserve mine, fell 500 feet to the bottom of the north shaft of the Silver Leaf mine early this morning and was instantly killed. He wheeled his car into the shaft at the surface, and the car pulled him down to his death. He leaves a wife and family at Apple Hill, Ont. This is the third fatality in the Cobalt mines during December.

SLANDER ACTION DROPPED.

Hamilton, Dec. 19.—H. C. Beckett, head of the W. H. Gillard Company, and an official of the Ontario Grocers Guild, has received from T. J. Stewart, M.P., a retraction of statements made by the latter during the power fight here, and announced to-day that in view of this he would drop his action for slander against Stewart. Beckett championed the Cataract, in the power war and Stewart made a savage attack on him in connection with the grocers combine prosecution.

BERLIN AND BEER.

Berlin, Ont., Dec. 20.—Residents of Berlin will not be able to purchase more than one-eighth of a keg of beer at one time, according to a measure passed by the Board of License Commissioners, because of recent disturbances in the Polish ward in which liquor figured prominently. The Board has decided to curtail the supply. The by-law restricts liquor dealers from delivering more than this amount to private places.

BEGGING APPEAL DISMISSED.

Toronto, Dec. 22.—The Court of Appeal has dismissed the appeal of L. C. Murroe from the refusal of Chancellor Boyd to release him under habeas corpus proceedings. He maintained that as he had $28 in his pocket he was not a vagrant, though he had no employment. He was arrested in Kenora on a charge of begging, and was sentenced to six months in Central Prison on a charge of vagrancy.

THE LONDON FIRE.

London, Ont., Dec. 19.—As a result of the fire engine going out of commission on Friday night at the $200,000 fire at Perrin's factory, the City Council last night decided to ask the makers of the engine why the tubes blew out. It was also decided to increase the equipment to the extent of three delug sets, a ladder set, and a monitor nozzle. The underwriters asked some time ago for ten extra firemen, and Chief Aitgen recommended seven. This was referred to the next council.

MAY PROTEST ELECTION.

Cobalt, Dec. 21.—The Liberals of Temiskaming are considering the advisability of protesting the election of Mr. Shillington, M.P.P. At a large and enthusiastic meeting yesterday afternoon the matter was discussed, and the feeling was favorable to a protest. The final decision was left to Mr. Roebuck, the defeated candidate, and his official agent, Mr. J. W. Mahon. Meanwhile the association was placed on a permanent organization basis, with a salaried assistant secretary.

BACK TAXES SUIT.

North Bay, December 20.—The town of Sturgeon Falls is suing the Imperial Land Company, Limited, of that town, for back taxes, amounting to nearly ten thousand dollars. The company contests the claim, alleging that the law was not complied with in reference to assessment and collection, and that consequently no taxes are due, and that the municipality lost the priority of its lien to the bondholders by accepting promissory notes for taxes, and asking judgment on the same.

NOTED AVIATOR ARRIVES.

Ottawa, Dec. 21.—Count Wolynski, wealthy Russian, residing in Paris, and noted in the aviation world, arrived in Ottawa to-day on a pleasure tour, and will probably remain in the Canadian capital for the greater part of the winter—or rather make his Canadian headquarters here. The Count is reputed to be the wealthiest land owner in Volna, Russia, though he does not resige in that country. He says he is here for instruction in skiing and skating, and will visit other Canadian cities.

FOR FOREIGN FIELD.

Toronto, Dec. 21.—Six missionaries of the Anglican church are leaving shortly for the foreign field. This is the largest party yet sent out at once by the H. S. C. C. Miss Alice Hague, of Kingston, and Miss Clara Thomas, Toronto, go to Kangra, India. The Rev. W. H. Gale, of Aylwin, Que., is going to Japan. The Rev. W. H. Trivett, of French Village, N.S.; the Rev. N. L. Ward, of Brantford, and the Rev. A. J. Williams, a graduate of St. Johns College, Winnipeg, at present in England will go to Honan.

SPENDS CHRISTMAS IN JAIL.

Ottawa, Dec. 21.—After serving a year of his sentence, B. E. Cughan, former manager of the Farmer's Bank branch at Athens, has been released from the penitentiary on parole. Cughan was sentenced to three years for forgery. W. R. Travers, general manager of the bank, on the eve of his own downfall, took an active part in the proceedings against the Athens branch manager. Travers will spend his Christmas in the penitentiary, but Cughan goes home.

TURKEYS CHEAP IN ONTARIO.

St. Catharines, Ont., Dec. 21.—Turkeys, geese, ducks and chickens never were so plentiful here at Christmas as now, and for once the public scores. Geese are selling at 16 to 17 cents a pound, and turkeys, while now 25 and 26 cents a pound is being asked, will be down to 20 cents and even lower, the butchers say.

Local meat dealers said this morning they have turned waggon loads of poultry away, where, as in previous years, there was always a scramble to get enough for Christmas trade.

STRANGE DOCUMENT CASE.

Toronto, December 20.—An application to permit G. G. S. Lindsey to examine the manuscript of the life of William Lyon Mackenzie, written by William Damson Le Sueur for the 'Makers of Canada series,' and rejected by the publishers thereof, was made before the Master-in-Chambers yesterday, and judgment was reserved. Lindsey is suing Lesueur to prevent the latter from publishing his book on the grounds that a misuse of certain documents which Lindsey permitted the writer to use was made in the story.

NAVIGATION RECORD.

Ottawa, Dec. 20.—A record for late navigation of freight traffic on the Ottawa River was made yesterday when the steamer 'Russell reached Ottawa from Rockland, Ont. In the history of navigation on the Ottawa this record has been exceeded only once, when on Christmas Day, 1877, a passenger excursion was run from the city to a point about twenty miles down the river. Some weeks ago the river was frozen over, but the recent mild weather cleared the ice away. To-day it is again frozen across in places, and navigation is once more tied up.

NEW RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT.

Toronto, Dec. 22.—'The men and religion forward movement' is about to be launched in Canada. Representatives from all parts of Canada are to meet at Ottawa on Jan. 4 and 5 for the purpose of Canadianizing the movement. American representatives will be there, including the chief executive, but their function is chiefly to set the idea in motion as it is thought best to keep the two movements distinct. From Toronto there will go Dr. S. Grant, the Rev. Mr. Halpenny, Messrs. G. A. Warburton, of the Y.M.-C.A.; R. W. Forgie, A. G. Robertson and others. The representatives from Hamilton will be in number including Mr. Fred Ford.

STOLE RUBBER TIRES.

Belleville, Dec. 21.—Edward Hubbard, Archibald Green and Vincent Asselline appeared before Judge Deroche yesterday to answer a charge of stealing rubber tiring from the St. Charles Omnibus Company, of which the two first named were employed. All pleaded guilty. A largely signed petition, asking leniency for Hubbard, who had previously borne an excellent character, was presented, and a strong plea was made by counsel for all the accused, who had made restitution to the company and paid all costs. Green and Asselstine were liberated on suspended sentence, and in the case of Hubbard, sentence was reserved until January 3, the prisoner being released on substantial bail.

MURDER INQUEST.

London, Ont., Dec. 21.—The council chamber at the county buildings here was thronged to its capacity last night when the inquest into the death of Fred. Culver, who was murdered at Graham's Hotel, on the Hamilton road, east of London, on Thursday night last by 'Gypsy' Dan Reynolds, commenced before Coroner McLaren's jury. The chief witness was Ben Graham, proprietor of the road house at which the tragedy occurred. He told of the arrival of Reynolds at the hotel, with his young son, and Paddy Morrison, the Stratford man, who boarded with him. The row started outside, after Graham had refused to give liquor to Reynolds's boy. Graham, upon hearing the fight, rushed out and saw Reynolds chasing Culver across the road, with an axe, raised to strike. Shortly after Culver staggered into the bar bleeding profusely from a wound in the back of his left leg above the knee. Deceased made no accusations, but witness believed this to be because the manner in which the wound was inflicted was so apparent.

PRAIRIE PROVINCES

LOCAL OPTION WINS.

Winnipeg, Dec. 20.—Returns received last night show that local option carried at two points and was defeated at one in Manitoba. The by-law was passed in Louise municipality by a majority of 151, and Rossburn by 31 majority. At Swan River town the local optionists lost by one vote.

C. N. R. EXTENSIONS.

Winnipeg, Dec. 20.—M. H. MacLeod, general manager of the C. N. R., stated to-day on his arrival from the east that the immediate objective of his company was the Peace River district of Alberta, and the eventual projection of the line into Northern British Columbia by way of the Pine River pass, a map of which has already been filed.

BIG LAND SALE.

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 20.—One million six hundred and seventy-two thousand dollars cash has been paid by the North Saskatchewan Land Co. to the Canadian Northern Railway's land department for 125,000 acres of land near Prince Albert, Sask. The deal was put through by Davidson & McRae, and the new owners will market the land among farmers of the American middle west and Great Britain.

ENGLISH-SPEAKING MAYOR.

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 20.—Polling yesterday in the city of St. Boniface resulted in the election of J. Berry by a majority of 121 over Dr. Lachance. A significant feature of this election is that Mr. Berry is the first chief magistrate of English-speaking parentage ever elected in St. Boniface. The contest was the most exciting one of recent years. Although enthusiasm ran high, no untoward incidents are reported.

SHOPS FOR CALGARY.

Calgary, Alta., Dec. 22.—The Dominion Bridge Company at a meeting of its directors, announced that they will build shops in this city, work to begin this spring, and the factory to employ about 500 hands to begin with. Eighty acres of land have been secured by the company for this site, and it is expected the plans will be a duplicate of the Dominion Bridge Company's plant in Winnipeg.

CATTLE EXPORT LESS.

Winnipeg, Dec. 19. — That Western Canada is falling noticeably in the production of cattle for export purposes is a matter of very vital interest to western live stock men. A detailed list of shipments issued by Peter Delorme, C.P.R. inspector of live stock, showing the decrease in six years, has aroused the interest in the necessity of supporting ranching in the west more than columns of reasons. In the last six years cattle exports from the west has been decreased two-thirds.

LAND SURVEYOR LOST.

Mistatim, Sask., Dec. 19.—On Thursday Mr. Kenneth J. Kingston, Dominion land surveyor, of Ottawa, who has been subdividing timber lands north of here, left his camp about noon presumably to inspect some work. Not returning on Friday a search party was sent out, and have been out ever since without success. Mr. Kingston knows the country well and could not get lost, but as he had no food or a gun of any kind with him, there is little hope of finding him alive, this being the fifth day since he left.

PROGRESSIVE ALBERTA.

Edmonton, Alta., Dec. 21. —Premier Sifton has introduced one of the most progressive pieces of legislation ever brought forward by a Liberal Government. The bill now before the Alberta Legislative stipulates that within seven years, the single tax principle shall be observed by all established municipalities, and that it shall be observed from the outset by municipalities hereafter established in Alberta. The bill, in its entirety, will provide a model constitution for municipalities now in existence, and that will be created in the future in this province. It contains three hundred and seventy-seven sections, and it is the aim of the Government to include in these, every consideration that enters into the administration of a municipality.

THE SASKATCHEWAN BRIDGE.

The Pass, Dec. 21.—Orders have been received from the headquarters of the Mackenzie-Mann Company to proceed immediately with the construction of the bridge over the Saskatchewan, on the Hudson Bay Railway. Men are now busy sweeping the snow from around the piers preparatory to moving the necessary machinery, which is expected to arrive by Christmas from Athabasca Landing. Part of the two piers remain to be erected, making only a few days' work before everything is ready for the superstructure.

MUCH GRAIN SAVED.

The crop situation in the west has benefited through warm weather which has recently prevailed in the west. The snow has disappeared in most places, according to advices received by Colonel Fred White, Comptroller of the North-West Mounted Police. As a result grain which it was thought would spoil in the shook in the fields is being gathered and threshed and is turning out well. A great deal of wheat has been gathered in this way and the flax is said to be receiving even more benefit.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. Andrew Gordon French, a Glasgow metallurgist, has discovered in the Nelson district of British Columbia a new chemical element. It is of the platinum group, and will probably fill the vacant space between ruthenium and molybdenum in the chemical classification of Metals. 'Canadian' is the name given to it.

CEMENT NEAR PRINCE RUPERT

Within a very short time Prince Rupert, the Pacific Coast terminus of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, will not have any occasion to import its supply of cement from England, Germany, China or even Victoria. During the past summer there was located near Shames a large deposit of limestone, that is considered perfect for the manufacture of cement. Accordingly the locators staked the property, awaiting an examination by an experienced mining engineer.

BRITISH COLUMBIA RIGHTS.

The Dominion Government, it is announced has made an important concession to the Province of British Columbia, in response to appeals from the McBride Government. The administration of the unalienated rights in that portion of the province known as the Kootenay Belt, along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, goes to the province, subject to any possible future action of the federal administration. The condition is that the administration by the province is to be paid for out of the revenue, and any surplus revenue after the administration charges have been met comes to the Dominion treasury. The necessary order-in-council has been passed. Valuable water rights exist in the Railway Belt, and the province has been anxious to have the administration of them. In the action now taken there is no provision for the ultimate transfer of the unalienated territory back to the province.

G. T. R. TRACKS EXTENDING.

The blast of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway contractors is echoing against the rocky walls of Tete Jaune Cache to make way for civilization, and the shrill echoes of the locomotive whistle later on. Going westward from Edmonton along the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway route the traveller sees the trail of the second comer, already strongly marked, and Tete Jaune Cache is the objective point at present for the end of steeel by the spring of 1912. At present the Grand Trunk Pacific steel is beyond the Great Divide, and over the summit of the Yellowhead Pass. Historically, Tete Jaune is a centre of interest in Western Canada, as this point was the site of one of the Hudson Bay posts one hundred years ago, when the route from the Pine, the Peace and the Fraser Rivers brought the furs and merchandise through this gateway. At the present time there is only a band of Shuswap Indians camped on the south side of the Fraser, and as soon as steel reaches this locality, and civilization with its kodaks and pocket books will effect the establishment of a permanent order of things.

YUKON

A GOLD STAMPEDE.

Dawson, Yukon, Dec 20.—A stampede to the head of sixty-mile River is in progress as the result of a rich gold strike there, news of which was brought by John Matson, who told of getting two and a half ounces of gold, worth nearly forty dollars, from a bed rock space five by eight feet. Many old prospectors have started over the 130-mile trail to the new diggings, which are twenty miles from the Alaskan boundary.

MONTREAL

REQUIEM FOR FRENCH SAILORS

The Governor General was represented at a Requiem Mass held in Bonsecours Church on Friday morning, for the repose of the souls of the four French sailors from the cruiser 'Friant,' who lost their lives in saving the Princess Royal, the Duke of Fife, and their two daughters, relatives of the Governor General, off the Moroccan coast.

SCAVENGERS WANT LARGER WAGES.

The city scavengers ask for an increase to $2.25 a day. They are now receiving from $1.75 to $2 a day, and say that in other cities the wage is $2.50. Controller Wanklyn said that there were no funds on hand, and that the city should not increase wages much beyond the rates paid by private enterprises.

ROYALTY TO VISIT STE. AGATHE.

It is supposed that Ste. Agathe des Monts will be honored this winter by a visit from Their Royal Highnesses, The Duke and Duchess of Connaught. This place has the necessary qualification to make it a great winter resort, and plans are being made to establish a run similar to the Cresta run in Switzerland. It is hoped that before long sufficient skill may be acquired by those who patronize the slide to enter a team for the Alpine Derby, which is the classic event of the sporting season in the Swiss Alps.

EARLY POSTING URGED.

The first Christmas mail from the Old Country arrived in Montreal on Thursday night by the C. N. R. liner 'Royal Edward.' The 'Philadelphia' is due on Friday, the 'Empress of Britain' on Saturday, while 'La Savoie' and the 'Campania' are still on the way. On account of the rush of mail early posting of local mail is urged by the postal authorities.

ST. JAMES CHURCH QUESTION

Every trustee resident in the city was present at the trustee meeting of the St. James Methodist Church held Thursday night in the church parlor to consider the proposed sale of the building. The trustees said that they had never given any option upon St. James Church. The whole question of the proposed sale will be reconsidered at a meeting about the 3rd or 4th of January.

PROVIDING GUARDIAN FOR CHILDREN.

The fiat of Chief of Police Campeau that all children under fifteen years of age, who attend moving picture shows, shall be accompanied by guardians, has caused some of the managers to do some thinking on the subject. One theatre issued cards to be signed by the parents, placing their children in charge of 'Our Mr. Laurie.' A 'Witness' reporter who went to this theatre saw that such children received no special attention whatever.

ALLOWED COMMISSION.

Chief Justice Tait awarded $387.50, with interest and costs, to the House of Browne, Ltd., on Tuesday, Dec. 19, and settled the point whether or not a real estate agent, who, acting in the interest of a client, brings a transaction to a point where a deed of promise of sale is passed, may collect commission. His Lordship decided that he could, and allowed a commission of two and a half percent on a $15,500 deal which nearly went through, but owing to some alleged defect in the title, did not. M. Hamilton was the defendant.

WAITER HAD COCAINE.

Nicolas Peter, 15 St. Charles Borromee street, a Greek waiter, was sentenced in the Recorder's Court on Friday to three months, a fine of $200 or three additional months, for having cocaine in his possession. Constables Marsolais and Forget arrested Peter at 11.15 last night, on St. Lawrence Main street. About a year ago he was arrested for the same offence. Ernest Garlepy, 102 St. Laurent street, pleaded not guilty to a charge of being drunk and having cocaine in his possession, and was remanded till Friday for trial.

LIBEL IN AN ADVERTISEMENT.

Ignoring rulings on the law of libel given by the courts of the State of New York, Mr. Justice Greenshields yesterday has ordered Carrick Limited, real estate agents, to pay to J. R. Gordon $500 damages for defamatory libel which consisted of the publication of Gordon's picture in an advertisement which His Lordship held was grotesque and ridiculous, and was inserted with the intention of exposing him to ridicule in the community. It was also done maliciously in view of the fact that another important lawsuit was at the time pending between the parties. Suit was originally entered for $1,999.

DISOBEYED RAILWAY ACT.

A jury in the Superior Court has ruled that engines running backwards over level crossings in populated districts should be headed by an employee. On this finding the jury gave $1,000 damages to a woman named Pelletier against the Great Northern Railway Company. Her husband was killed at a crossing, and the evidence at the trial proved that Pelletier was warned of the danger, yet he attempted to cross. The company claimed that he would have crossed even though there had been a man on the front of the engine. The jury thought the company had disobeyed the Railway Act, and after allowing for contributory negligence, assessed the damages at $1,000.

NOMINATIONS FOR ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE.

A report about the deliberation of the vestry meeting held on Wednesday night in the vestry of St. James the Apostle, has caused much misapprehension among the people. The meeting, which was called for the purpose of selecting a clergyman for the church, was conducted very strictly. It was decided that the rector's stipend be not less than three thousand dollars per annum. The candidates were then nominated. A committee was also appointed which will convey these names to the Bishop, who will make his selection, and two names will be taken back to the adjourned vestry meeting which will be held on Jan. 28.

ORGANIZATION TELLS.

The registration bureau of the Charity Organization Society is working well and giving excellent results. The more systematic arrangement of assistance has already revealed a number of instances, where three or four societies were helping the same families. The Nazareth Street Mission and the Laurier Ward Relief committees have accepted the good offices of the bureau recently. The gratitude of those to whom aid is given is indicated by a little incident that happened a few days ago. A young married woman entered the office of the society with a dollar. 'Will you put this dollar towards the 'Richard H. Lane' memorial Fund,' she said. She was the wife of a man who, suffering from tuberculosis of the spine, had been sent away for a couple of months. He was greatly benefited by the change and the dollar came from his first earnings.

OPPOSED TO TAX.

The Builder's Exchange at a meeting of its board of directors held on Wednesday, passed a resolution opposing the proposed tax of $25 on non-resident longshoremen. The Builder's Exchange says that while it is proposed at present to tax but one class of workers, there is no logical reason, if such a principle be adopted, why it should not apply to all classes of non-resident workmen; and if non-residents be not allowed to unload ships, why should they be permitted to lay brick, drive nails or shovel snow without paying for the privilege. The port of Montreal is a national institution, it declares, and is supported by the general taxes of all the provinces of Canada, and as such it ought not to be hampered by any such vexatious and petty impositions. It urges the City Council to reject the proposal of the legislative committee of that body.

SHOWMAN'S RESPONSIBILITY.

A woman, who, while passing the Nationoscope, a moving picture show on St. Catharine street last January, was knocked down by an intoxicated man who was being ejected from the theatre, is suing the proprietors of the theatre for $5,000 damages. The case was heard before Mr. Justice Greenshields yesterday in the Superior Court. The woman, Dame Chabal, is 70 years of age, and suffered a fracture of both legs as a result of the accident. The proprietors claim that the man fell from the entrance and staggered into Dame Chabal.

During the hearing His Lordship stated that a householder or proprietor assumed no liability on the consequences of such an act. A man finding an intoxicated person on his premises would be within his rights in using all reasonable force to eject the undesirable individual. He would not be called upon to make a minute scrutiny in order to find out whether anybody was passing.

BIG ACTION OVER WHEAT.

The complicated wheat case now being heard before Mr. Justice Fortin, of the Superior Court, in which the plaintiffs, James Caruthers & Co., are suing T. A. Schmidt for $25,000 alleged to be due them for purchases of oats made by them for the defendant, came to a temporary stop, Tuesday, Dec. 19, the question if verbal evidence would be admitted to substantiate the existence of transactions, being raised. Certain purchases by the Carruthers Company for Mr. Schmidt were made, the purchases comprising several cargoes. Plaintiff claims that owing to the failure of defendant to accept delivery of the purchases they were forced to dispose of them at a loss. Defendant denied the bulk of the alleged grain purchases but admits three, on which he says he advanced substantial margins, and which were resold at a profit. In the other cases, he says, no delivery was made. The outcome of this case will, it is said, affect the mode of transacting business on the Grain Exchange. Orders are now made verbally. Some other system of controlling exchange dealings may become necessary.

PLANNING TUNNELS FOR MONTREAL

The Canadian Northern Embarking on a Large Scheme.

It is regarded as a great probability that the Canadian Northern Railway interests are planning construction of an underground railway system in Montreal, and not merely a tunnel for terminals. The Canadian Northern Railway has announced that it will build a tunnel running north and south under the mountain, but the company has already a right-of-way along Back River, and some persons believe that it will not bring its terminals far down town.

When the consideration of the application of the Canadian Northern Railway to Parliament for a guarantee of the bonds of the Port Arthur-Montreal portion of the transcontinental system of the company, was before the House of Commons last spring, the Hon. Mr. Graham, Minister of Railways, announced that the Canadian Northern would expend about $100,000,000 in Montreal. When Sir Donald Mann, first vice-president of the Canadian Northern, was seen concerning this statement, he said that it would probably be about that but he said, 'five million dollars will represent about the sum we are to expend at the start on the Montreal terminals.'

Sir William Mackenzie, the partner of Sir Donald Mann, has already widespread investments in electrical railways in Canada, Mexico and Brazil, and it is believed, he is interested in constructing a subway system for Montreal.

SHEBEENS AT ST. AGATHE.

A Raid Made by Provincial Constables.

St. Agathe des Monts was yesterday the scene of unwonted disturbance and riot when a descent was made by the local police, with officers of a private detective agency from Montreal, upon a number of places where liquor was being illegally sold. This action, which was at the instigation of the provincial government, created a great deal of opposition, and the detectives, after making raids which resulted in gathering up 250 packages of liquor, worth $2,000, were followed down to the railway station by a crowd, and as they boarded the train one man menaced them with a revolver, for which act he was taken into custody and brought down to Montreal.

This famous Laurentian resort has been the centre of a great struggle between the 'wets' and the 'drys,' but two years ago, after a long-drawn out campaign in which the cure of the parish played a leading part, local option was exercised for the abolition of the sale of strong liquors.

The search for blind pigs and illicit stills in Ste. Agathe, authorized by the Provincial Government, and carried out by a number of detectives sent up from Montreal, resulted in some most remarkable discoveries being made, quantities of liquor being found concealed in the most inconceivable places. Sometimes a wine cellar was found beneath the floor in the parlor of a house, and again at other times it was the chimney which concealed the illicit liquor.

ACCIDENT AT GUELPH.

Explosion of Acetylene Gas Burns Two Persons.

Guelph, Ont., Dec. 23.—As a result of an explosion of acetylene gas the handsome new brick residence of Mr. David Morelock, Morriston, was partially wrecked on Thursday night and Mrs Morelock and Mr. Post, a representative of the manufacturers of the gas plant, were severely burned. The windows of the first floor of the house were completely shattered, and two bricks were blown out of the kitchen wall by the force of the explosion. Mr. Post had placed a new plant in Voght's Hotel at Morriston, and set the plant previously used in that hotel up for illumination of the residence of Mr. Morelock. About nine o'clock at night something went wrong with Mr. Morelock's plant, and he sent for Mr. Post to repair it. The latter had just entered the kitchen when the gas, which had evidently been escaping, was ignited, and an explosion, which shook the whole house, took place. Fortunately the building did not take fire, but Mr. Post and Mrs. Morelock were severely burned about the face and arms.

COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

London, Ont., Dec. 25.—Daniel Reynolds was yesterday afternoon committed for trial at the winter assizes by County Magistrate W. H. Chittick, charged with the murder of Fred. Culver at Graham's Duke and Hotel, a week ago. The assizes opens here on Jan. 9, with Chief Justice Meredith presiding, and owing to the fact that the defence will have such a short time to prepare its case it is possible that a postponement will be asked for.

AGRICULTURAL.

BREEDING OF DRAUGHT HORSE.

Dual Purpose Animal Passing—Experiences of Farmers in the Corn Belt.

During the 20 years just passed the farmers of the corn belt have gone through a process of evolution in their horse breeding, writes H. E. McCartney, in the 'National Stockman.' Twenty years ago they had a stock of serviceable little animals weighing 1,000 to 1,300 pounds, largely of the old Norman stock. Then large numbers of men bred to running horses. Finding that the quality of endurance was about all the progeny possessed, while lacking in size and docile character as well as meeting but small favor on the market, they again took to breeding draughters and mules. After a few years a fad for trotting blood got possession of many, and for some time speed in the progeny was all that was looked for.

The coach horse had his inning. The trotting bred colts were small and lacked style. It was thought that the coacher would give the desired size and action. It was hoped that the coach bred animal would be something of a dual purpose animal also, large and strong enough for farm work and active enough for the road.

After thus being several times superseded by other classes of horses, the draughter has returned more in favor than ever before. Now draught horse breeding is believed throughout the entire region to be on a permanent basis. Furthermore farmers and breeders everywhere believe in draught horse breeding as one of the most profitable lines of live stock production.

Through several years of strictly draught horse, breeding the average size of the native stock has been considerably raised. It is now very seldom that a farm team is seen that weighs less than 1,200 pounds each on the average. It is not uncommon to see pairs in the field that will weigh 1,400 or above in working condition. Probably the most highly prized animal on the farm is a big, breedy draught mare. There is nothing so popular at farm sales. Nor is there any other animal upon which bidding is so persistent as upon a good draught mare in foal.

The raising of draught horses fits nicely in with the work of the general farm. There the draught mare really is a dual purpose animal, doing a double work. She works regularly in the field and she raises a colt that will become one of the most profitable outputs of the farm. Where care is exercised in handling the mare, giving her the lighter and slower work, apparently just as good colts are raised as where the mare is kept in idleness.

Thed raught colt is very easily handled and broken. He is quiet and docile about the farm. When the youngster has reached a sufficient age and size to be started to work he requires only a lesson or two until he is ready to be put to regular use. This is another big point in the farmer's mind in favor of draught horses. With drivers it takes months of steady training to fit one of them for market or even for regular use. The farmer has neither time nor desire to fret and fuss with an animal in the way that is necessary in breaking a driver. That is a work for a man of special ability who will make a business of producing and training driving horses. The practical farmer knows that it will be best and more profitable for him to stick to the steady draughter.

Of course men are meeting with varying degrees of success in the raising of draught horses. Some produce horses that are mere nondescripts, while others are producing big, useful ones that would be popular on any market. A study of their methods and practices to determine the reason for the difference is suggestive. In the first place the more successful ones are in nearly all cases the men who have taken up the work as a business, men who have made a study of it in every phase from breeding to marketing. They are men who have made themselves good judges of horses. Then, having an ideal of a good horse in mind, they have bred to produce such an animal. In so doing they have ever stuck to one breed. Not only that, but more, they have always stuck to some certain type within that one breed. They have kept their best mares and sold the inferior ones. They have fed and cared for their animals to bring out the best there is in them.

A man in our home locality a few years ago bred a high-grade Percheron mare to the best pure bred Percheron stallion in the county. The offspring of that mating sold for $500. The next year the same mare was bred to a trotter. The big, lank, ungainly, unbalanced produce sold for $175. The men who are not meeting with much success are usually entirely to blame themselves. They breed one time to a Percheron, the next to a Shire, then to a trotter, and perhaps to a coacher. Then they follow the same loose, slipshod methods in rearing and marketing.

The business of raising pure breds is growing rapidly. Men operating small farms are buying pairs of pure bred mares of some of the popular draught breeds. They are working these mares and are succeeding admirably with them. Men who own and operate large areas are going into the business on an extensive scale, and there is no line of live stock that is more profitable.

The climate, soil and feeds of the corn belt are admirably suited to the production of draught horses. By far the larger number of days in the year are bright and clear. The weather is seldom so intensely hot or so cold that the horses cannot run in the open. The soil for the most part is hard and resisting, producing a hard, tough foot. The feeds are as good as can be found anywhere. Pasture grasses are as rich in nutriment as anywhere. The pasture season may be made extremely long by using a variety of grasses. Alfalfa in its luxurious abundance is a boon to horse breeders. It is an ideal feed for producing growth. As a pasture some men in the central West claim that their horses make gains at the rate of two cents a pound while running on it. As a hay there is nothing superior to good, bright alfalfa for mares and growing colts. Corn and oats are raised in their greatest abundance. The past and present situation seems to indicate that the raising of draught horses will be one of the leading lines of live stock production in the central West for some time yet to come.

WINTER CARE OF HORSES.

'I am aware of the fact that many horses are permitted to run down in flesh during the winter season and be in poor condition to do early spring work, a thing that can be wholly avoided by good feed and care, states W. H. Underwood in a letter to the agricultural press. Some are frequently left in the barn for days at a time without exercise, given water not more than once a day, and fed at irregular intervals on full feeds of grain without hay. Grain is the principal feed for horses, but if they are fed exclusively on it without the addition of some kind of roughage, and are not allowed to take sufficient exercise, they are very apt to burn out on the grain ration in a comparatively short time. Their digestion is likely to become impaired, and if such is the case they will become emaciated and their entire system weakened.

The farm horse is entitled to care and consideration in the supply and preparation of his ration; he certainly earns it. Hay, of course, is one of the essential elements of food for horses, and I find it is much better to give it in sufficient amounts so that the animals will eat it up clean each time they are fed than to keep the manger constantly filled. This is especially true when they are confined to the stall, sometimes for 10 or 12 weeks at a stretch. They fall into the habit of gorging themselves with the hay when it is constantly kept before them, continuing to eat as long as there is any left, not only causing a waste, but doing themselves great injury, weakening the entire digestive system.

I always allow my horses the run of a pasture field on bright days in winter when they are not at work, thus giving them a chance to take exercise. I feed a limited amount of good, bright clover hay in connection with a fair maintenance ration of grain. When they are at work I give them three meals regularly each day, the evening meal being a full feed, as they are then at rest and able to digest their food at leisure. I allow an hour to elapse after they are put in the stable before giving the evening meal. There is one most essential factor which I keep in mind, namely, the regulation to their appearance. The best tool of a good groom I have ever found is an old broom with the handle cut off to a convenient length, say, two feet or less. With this the coat of the horse can be kept sleek and shiny and every particle of dirt and dust removed. It is the duty of every farmer to keep his horses in good condition not only during the winter season, but all the year round.

SWEENEY IN HORSES.

Sweeny is a very common derangement, especially in young horses when first put to work in the soft ground in the fields, or deep snow in winter. In such conditions the horse has to lift his legs high, and if he is drawing a load the muscles of the shoulders are liable to be strained. The question is frequently asked: 'Why do the muscles waste after they have been strained? Muscles do not always waste after being strained, it is only when the nerves supplying the muscle or muscles have been injured by the strain that wasting takes place. In some cases the nerves may be so injured as not to be able to perform their function for a time at least, causing complete paralysis of the muscles. In such a case the derangement is incurable, therefore, when we know what sweeny is we also know what can be done to cure it.

In the early stages of the derangement there is sometimes swelling and heat in the muscles, and lameness. In such a case the animal should not be moved out of the stable and the swollen part should be bathed well three times a day with the following until the swelling and lameness disappear: Mix one ounce acetate of lead with one quart of water and shake up well. Very often there will not be any swelling or lameness and the first thing noticed will be wasting of the muscles and the treatment of this form of sweeny should be of a stimulating nature for the purpose of stimulating the nerves that have been injured, into a healthy condition. The stimulating treatment will also increase the flow of blood to the part and this combined action will cause the wasted muscle or muscles to develop. The best treatment for this purpose is to mix four drams of cantharides with three ounces of lard and rub a little to the wasted part once a week and continue it until the wasted part is filled up.

THE PROFITABLE HORSE.

The profitable horse for the farmer is the draft horse. This class of horse invariably commands the most ready sale, at the best prices. In selecting the stallion to breed to the heavy mares next season, make the best drafter in your district the choice.

CO-OPERATION.

The November issue (No. 10) of the Canadian bulletin 'Publications of the International Agricultural Institute' devotes its attention particularly to the work of agricultural co-operation.

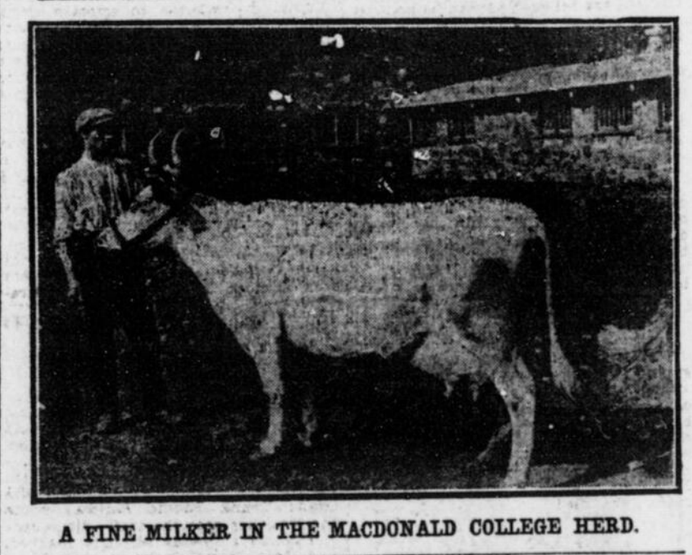
With reference to the latest data furnished by the Institute concerning the world's crop production, it may be noted that the production of wheat in Russia is 623,306,00 bushels, compared with 629,300,000 reported last month and 775,691,000 last year, and the production of rye in the same country is 761,764,000 compared with 804,192,000 reported last month, and 868,626,000 last year. For the countries in the northern and central zones, from which the Institute has so far received reports, the total production of wheat is 3,093,066,000 bushels, compared with 3,086,892,000 for the same countries last year. When the reports of the harvest of the southern hemisphere are in, it is expected they will show a decrease in the Australian crop and a large increase in that of Argentina. Recent reports concerning the sowing of winter cereals in Europe are generally favorable. A table giving the world's corn production in 1909, 1910 and 1911 shows the 1911 crop to be 300,000,000 bushels less than in 1910. This is explained by the falling off of the crop in the United States, where three-fourths of the world's corn is produced.

GERMAN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

Concerning co-operation it is pointed out that in Germany there were at the beginning of the present year 2,265 co-operative purchase societies and 15616 rural co-operative credit societies. To effect the utmost economy and uniformity of method, central purchase societies have been organized of which there are twenty in Germany. These are constantly in contact with each other and always act in common accord in their business relations with supply syndicates. The total value of goods purchased by these societies in 1908 was $24,166,181. The co-operative purchase societies have at their disposal large sums of money as working capital. Working expenses are low, amounting in 1908 to 2.7 percent of the amount of goods purchased. It is not the mission of these societies to realize large net profits, their essential duty being to supply their members with good merchandise at small cost. Bonuses are returned to members in proportion to their individual purchases.

STEAM PLOUGHS.

In Germany it is pointed out, there were in operation, in 1910, 3,300 steam ploughs. It is admitted in that country that a steam plough cannot be owned and operated profitably when less than 2,500 acres are to be ploughed. For those ploughing land of less extent, the use of a steam plough is only profitable by hiring, or else through the medium of a co-operative society. Such societies are as a rule, based on the principal of unlimited liability and the shares of members are from $120 to $600. It is established that for a certain number of acres to be ploughed a share must be bought, and it is stipulated that the members' liability should be for ten times the amount of their shares, in order that the society may obtain the necessary credit.



A FINE MILKER IN THE MACDONALD COLLEGE HERD.

CARE OF MANURE IN WINTER.

(A. D. Wilson, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.)

One of the important problems on the farm is to conserve as much of the fertility as possible, and still produce good crops. It is well recognized that one of the best ways of doing this is to feed to live stock a large proportion of the crops grown, and to return the by-product, manure, to the land. This brings up the important question of how best to handle this manure so that it will be best conserved.

It is quite generally considered, now, that the most economical way, both as to the economy of labor and elements of fertility, is to haul the manure direct from the barn to the field. Of course, there are some days in the winter when it is difficult to get manure onto the field. However, every day that it is possible, manure should be hauled directly to the field and spread.

LOSSES FROM MANURE.

There are two ways by which the fertilizing value is lost; the first is by heating, and the second is by leaching. If manure is left in piles about the barn, it soon begins to heat, even in winter, especially if it contains any large proportion of horse manure. When it heats, the manure is decomposed and the element of most value, nitrogen, is lost in the form of gas. In the spring and early summer, if manure is lying about the yards where rain can fall on it, much of the fertility is leached out and carried away. If manure is spread on the field directly from the barn, heating is prevented until the manure is 'covered up in the soil. Then any elements that are liberated by decomposition are taken up by the soil and saved. When manure is spread out on the field, it dries out; and, as the larger part of the manure is in insoluble form, even if it does rain on the fields, very little fertility is washed out, because it is not soluble. It does not become soluble until covered up in the ground, where it is kept moist and where decomposition can take place. Then the leaching leaves the fertility in the soil, where it is used.

Considering these facts and the fact that manure is handled fewer times when hauled direct from the barn to the field, makes it quite evident that, from the standpoint of economy, this is the practical way of handling manure.

JERKING HORSES AN EVILL.

Watch the hired man a bit and see that he is not continually jerking the horses and making their mouths sore. Such cruelties are unnecessary and a friendly word now and then suggesting better treatment may be of great benefit to your teams.

MILK PRODUCTION INCREASED 128 PERCENT.

(D. Robertson, Halton Co., Ont.)

When we started to keep milk records we found in our herd a yearly average of less than 4,000 lbs. of milk a cow. We got rid of the poorest and began weighing the milk daily, morning and evening, and to test for fat content once a month with the Babcock tester.

We had scales hanging in a convenient place in the stables on the way to our separator room. The milkers weigh each milking, and enter the weight on a sheet fastened beside the scales. Very little time is taken in doing this, and the results are very surprising.

MILKERS DO BETTER WORK.

Our milkers do far better work. They do their best to keep up the flow each milking.

Our feeders take an increased interest in their work and do it more intelligently. They can at a glance see the bad effect of irregularity in feeding and watering, of exposure to drafts and of carelessness or roughness in handling, while regular feeding and watering, good care and kindness are seen to at once increase the flow of milk. They also are able to determine what feeds are best to use.

GOOD LOOKS NOT ALL.

We were soon able to discover the good and the poor cows. We found that more than good looks in a cow are necessary where a profit is desired. Very often the best looking cow was not by any means the most profitable one.

In 1907 we joined a Cow-Testing Association, but we have continued our own daily records as well. In this way we had a check on our own records, and were able to compare the results in either case.

DAILY RECORDS MOST VALUABLE

It is a good thing to belong to such an association, and we strongly advise every dairyman to join one, thus weighing his milk three times a month. We do not, however, think three weighings a month sufficient, nor is this method nearly as valuable as the regular daily records. We find every feeder and every milker in our dairy intensely interested in the daily records. —'Farm and Dairy.'

CALF REARING.

('The Farmer and Stockbreeder.')

Ranging from the practice of allowing the calf to run with its dam entirely, which is practically confined to the purely beef breeds in this country, to that of removing the calf at birth, and feeding the blestings to the young animal by hand, we have various methods of getting as much as we can from the cow without too much trouble.

Seeing that the development of the art of stock-keeping has taken many centuries, and there are few methods that have not been tried, each perhaps good in its turn, and then dropped as the times moved on, and newer ways proved to be more profitable, we do not often gain much by raking up old local methods in general. From abroad, however, we occasionally hear of practices that savour of the farback olden days, and that still are peculiarly suitable to conditions in a new country, where perhaps the want of rapid communication depreciates in value that highly-prized commodity, milk.

Some few years ago a controversy arose as to whether the institution of a thrice daily milking would not result in a greater yield of milk. The advocate of this new suggestion proved that the argument of a greater yield of milk from such a practice was sound, but the practical man found that it was not profitable. The labor involved in an extra milking at midday exceeded in value the worth of the additional milk, chiefly because the interference with the regular work of the farm and the special attention to work demanded in treating such a perishable commodity as milk told enormously in favor of letting things be as they were, and being content with two milkings daily.

Especially would the man who made calf-rearing on the farm a regular source of profit be inconvenienced by such an increase work, when under the modern system of cream separation he might have a good supply of sweet saparated milk for the purpose of running the separator twice daily, or only once if provided with the means for thoroughly cooling the new milk, though in most cases it would be more economical of plant and labor to separate the new milk at once.'

MARQUIS VS. RED FIFE.

Mr. A. Cooper, Treesbank, Man., has done considerable work of recent years in the growing of high-class seed grain under the direction of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, and, at the same time, has made some valuable investigations in connection with grain growing and seed selection. Incidentally, this season he sowed a twelve-acre patch of Marquis wheat in the same field and under conditions identically the same as where he sowed some Red Fife wheat. Both samples of seed were good and got the same treatment between seeding and harvest.

When threshed, the Marquis yielded twenty-two bushels per acre and the Red Fife fourteen; the Marquis graded No. 1 Northern and the Fife No. 3 Northern; the Marquis was earlier and consequently little affected by rust, while the Fife was quite seriously damaged by the rust.

Some of our correspondents have had different results from the above, but we believe Mr. Cooper's statement to be perfectly correct, and probably soil or other conditions in his locality this season were more favorable for Marquis than for Red Fife wheat production.—'Nor'-West Farmer.'

INTERESTING EXPERIENCE WITH ALFALFA.

(By T. F. Spafford, Bethel, Ont.)

I grew two acres of alfalfa the past season and I cut the crop once. It stood the dry weather much better than red clover. In addition to the two acres I seeded five acres on rye, which stood the severe drouth and became a good catch, while the red clover failed. I used it partly as greeen food to supplement pasture for cows, and for horses; some for hogs. The two acres is on clay loam; the five acres seeded this spring are on limestone gravel. I sowed 20 pounds per acre.

The two-acre piece of alfalfa had a peculiar experience. In the spring I thought it was nearly killed. I ran the spring-tooth cultivator through it and found that it did not destroy the stools of alfalfa. I then seeded it to barley, 11-2 bushels to the acre. These remaining stools came on so vigorously that it really smothered the barley. I hardly knew what to do with it—to cut it green for hay or allow the barley to ripen. Finally I decided to allow the barley to ripen. I have threshed the crop, and have got from it about 80 bushels of barley, and I think I will have at least three bushels of alfalfa seed cleaned up.

From this experience I intend to run a harow or a cultivator over my alfalfa next spring.

I would most decidedly recommend farmers to grow alfalfa. I have grown it more or less for fifteen years. —'Canadian Farmer.'

WHICH PAYS BEST?

As a patron of a creamery both summer and winter for the past eighteen years, who has thoroughly tried both systems, I thought I would give our experience in this province with both the whole milk nad cream gathering system.

Just why this much abused cream gathering system is always so bitterly opposed is hard for me to understand, as it is inestimately superior to the old system from every standpoint, and the only excuse that can be offered for its retention in some quarters is that the people cannot realize how very much better it is in every way, and the foolish prejudice raised against the hand separator by some dairy authorities, who denounce it for its abuses, instead of trying to correct them.

Now creameries do not need anything for the manufacture of butter but cream and good, rich cream at that, so it is not any more reasonable to haul 100 lbs. of milk for miles to and from a factory for the sake of leaving 10 lbs. of cream than it would be for a man to haul his grain to the elevator in the sheaf to have it threshed and haul the straw and chaff back again, only in the latter case he would not have the by-product destroyed for feeding, as is often the case with skim milk.

Milk is never in as good condition to separate as just after it comes from the cow, and anything that may have gotten into it is removed before it can cause much contamination. We have much less of it to get cooled off and take care of, and, most important of all, the calf gets the full benefit of its dam's milk. Now, I do not profess to be a scientist, and I cannot say whether it is the milk sugar dissolving, evaporating or turning to acid, as other learned men can. All I go by is my own experience in calf raising, but there is a wonderful difference in the feeding qualities of skim milk right from the separator and that turned from the creamery, and while we follow the latter practice we continually lose calves or have them ruined in the early months of their existence through this foul milk.

Butter in the nineties sold low—around 16 and 20 cents—and the cost of manufacturing and hauling under the old system was so high, the excessive cost strangled the industry financially, while the stale milk stunted the future cows.

As winter butter invariably sold higher, and for the reason that it divided our work better in the year, we gradually turned to winter dairying. We could then deliver our milk and save considerable in this way, but what of the result?

The creameries operated only twice a week, and, instead of separating the milk when warm from the cow, where it was handy to be fed, we stored it in a fairly warm room or carried it around from one building to another as the temperature changed, until we had a load often more or less frozen when we broke the roads to the creamery. There we bought fuel to again warm it up to separating heat, then before it was fed carried it into the house and used more fuel to again warm it up, by which time it usually curdled, and was a most unappetizing dish to offer the poor calf.

How can any man justify the whole milk system? It has many more evils not yet touched on, as all the milk in a district is mixed, and tuberculosis has a most favorable means to spread.

There is a lot of unnecessary work for the butter makers, and another lot of heavy labor for the dairyman as well, and we found with the separator convenient to the milking stable we could separate, feed the calves at the same time, clean the machine, and do all much quicker than to gather the night and morning's milk daily in summer, take it to the road, hitch a horse at noon to go after it again, as there was a hill to mount, and then go and feed the poor calves. This also was a daily task.

Now, after four years with the cream gathering system, summer and winter without a break, and taking some $1,000 in a year for cream from 13 cows, besides raising almost all the calves and making prize winning calves of them, too, thoroughly testing our cows from year to year, as well as many separators, handling different conditions of milk and cream, I will give what I consider the chief objections to the general use of hand separators on the farm.

I noticed some time ago a writer who was criticizing this system make this statement: 'Theoretically this is the correct method; practically it is a failure.' In some instances he may be correct. And why? Because of the abuses of the system, which might easily be corrected, chief of which is neglecting to thoroughly wash the separator, failing to keep the cream at a sufficiently low temperature, skimming too thin cream, and not delivering often enough.

Now, none of these are serious difficulties, and any butter maker with the right backbone can correct every one of them in his factories, as someone has rightly said in this regard, 'If we should all do as well as we know,' it would be all right, as about all the directions necessary in the care of cream is summed up in 'keep it clean' and 'keep it cold.'

In the vicinity in which I am dairying four creameries four years ago—yes, and three years ago—were altogether whole milk gathering. Last summer only one took a little milk, one has sold out to the others, and the others are doing a much better paying business.

This will give an idea how farmers who may be bitterly opposed to this system can so quickly change. Well, experience was the teacher; first one started, and the others had to. Now we make a better grade of butter, particularly in winter, than we ever did. Our maker keeps advocating the heavy cream doctrines. We deliver four times a week in hot weather, three times in moderately cold, and twice in cold weather. Our cream from the first averaged 30 percent fat (our own seldom gets below 35 percent.) And here is where many patrons make a better quality of cream, as pure fat is hard to spoil, and that much more skim the patron at home. So many farmers milk for the patron at home. So many farmers have the mistaken idea that when the cream is heavy and the stream is small the machine is not separating clean. Perhaps some are not, but you can get them that can.

While the factory receives both whole milk and cream, the cream patrons receive about 11 cents per 100 lbs. more out of their milk, estimating that their milk tested as former years. The price of manufacturing the butter was cut from 3 1-2 cents to 3 cents per pound the first year, and will be further reduced this year to 2 3-4 or 2 1-2 cents.

I have taken many samples of skim milk for testing at different speeds, different temperatures of milk and speed, etc., and can say that the chief trouble with the separators not skimming clean is 'not enough speed.' If the milk is taken directly from the cow to the machine, and it is a good one, one can get perfect skims up to 40 percent fat, and any good machine will skim down to that reading with cream at 35 percent fat, providing a proper speed is maintained throughout the separation, the separator properly cleaned, and the milk is warm and fresh. And to the buyer I would say, above all things, get a good large separating machine. It is not how much per hour should influence you, but how much in ten minutes. A few dollars extra in this will save many hours, save more an hour machine and on your muscles and patience.

See that you get a machine 'right down to date.' Manufacturers of those have made great improvements in the last few years, and in new districts often try to unload the out-of-date make. A good machine, well housed, cleaned, and oiled has many years of life, but get your butter maker to test your skim milk from time to time to keep track of how it is working, as butter fat is a valuable product, and slight losses throughout the year will soon pay for any repairs needed.

WALTER M. LEA.

Victoria, P.E.I.

The Standard Cream Separator.

Just about two years ago The Renfrew Machinery Company Limited, Renfrew, Ont., placed on the market their new Cream Separator, "The Standard." It is interesting to know that this company since that time has made rapid progress. They are to be commended especially in view of the fact that they are meeting the competition of foreign concerns with an established business, and are steadily gaining ground. It appears the "Standard" has several improvements over other separators, and that the sale of one in a neighborhood invariably creates a market for more.

The new addition to their factory and general offices are just being completed, and will be moved into during the month of December.

This company now has a branch in Sussex, N.B., for the sale of their machines in the Maritime Provinces. They opened up in the province of Quebec January 1st, 1911, and are opening a branch in Winnipeg with warehouses at various centres in the West for distribution and sale of their machines there.—Advt.



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POULTRY

CONDUCTED BY

MR. F. C. ELFORD.

INTERNATIONAL EGG-LAYING CONTEST.

Eggs Laid in the Sixth Week.

While all the rest of the world is excited over the holiday season, the entries in The North American's International Egg-Laying Competition are attending strictly to business, and the total of eggs laid is growing steadily.

During the sixth week, which ended last Tuesday, the 100 pens produced 514 eggs. This is the largest total of any week; in fact, each week since the beginning has shown a substantial increase. The total for the six weeks is 1915.

Once more the English pen of S. C. White Leghorns captured the week's record, with 22 eggs. Every fowl in this pen is laying, the individual scores being 4, 5, 3, 5 and 5. The pens' total for the six weeks is 107, the second being the White Rose entry in the same breed, with a score of 82.

SIXTY-EIGHT PENS LAYING.

Second place in the week's yield is held by Bunker Hill Poultry Farms' Rhode Island Reds, with 21 eggs, with Marwood Farms' White Leghorns a close third, at 20. Sixty-eight of the 100 pens are now laying.

Third place in grand total is held by the Bunker Hill entry, but pens of White and Buff Orpingtons are pressing close. Rhode Island Reds are leading the Emerican classes.

Of the pens that haven't started to lay, many are considered to be somewhat immature, and others have begun to moult, due to too early hatching, and will not, therefore, lay until the moult is completed.

One pen has moulted almost every feather, much to the surprise of its owner. This fact does not indicate that the particular strain is an indifferent one as layers. It does, however, indicate the extreme anxiety of the breeder to get an early start—in this case an error in egg production.

Several poultrymen entered birds much too young to lay before January 1 in the competition, hoping to overcome an early moult in the fall or prior to the close of the competition. These entries are yet to be reckoned with, as it is anticipated the early layers will either moult or appreciably decrease in production in the midsummer and fall months.

It was fully expected that more pens would show productiveness the past week, due to the open warm weather, but an increase of eleven pens only was made. Every pen will doubtless be in full action not later than the first week in January.

Canadian pens are headed by McLeod Bros, Hamilton, with 52 eggs, followed by A. P. Hillham, Bondville, 22 eggs; Bro. Wilfrid, La Trappe, 7 eggs.

THE VALUE OF EDUCATION.

A few years ago the Dominion Government instituted at a number of places throughout the Dominion what were called poultry stations. The idea was to educate the farming community to produce more and better poultry products. One of these stations was established at Holmesville, Ont.; and was operated for several years.

The value of the educational work done there has been apparent ever since. For the past two years Gunns Limited have operated the old poultry station, and have purchased all the poultry produce they could get hold of. They claim there is no section in Canada where better stuff can be produced, which speaks well for the early educational work in the section.

They are, however, further developing this work by this year distributing to the farmers in this vicinity a number of pure bred Plymouth Rock cockerels from a good winter egg laying strain. One of these is given to a farmer with pure bred stock, and the only request made is that this cockerel be mated with his ten best hens, all other hens to be unmated. The breeding cockeral is taken back after the breeding season is over. The aim for this is threefold, to produce better and more uniform table poultry, to increase the egg laying capacity of the average flock, and to emphasize the importance of non-fertilized eggs in the new laid egg trade. Any company that will take up educational work along these lines deserves encouragement.

The poultry industry is usually looked upon as a side line, and a very small one at that, but the poultry shipped from this one little point this fall brought the farmers in that vicinity more than $20,000.00.

POULTRY CIRCLES.

(By H. C. Duff, Norwood.)

The question for discussion at present is, I believe, the first of the kind ever held at a farmers' club convention. But we do not think it will be the last.

Poultry circles in Peterborough are paying the farmers three to eight cents more per dozen than the market prices, and next week I think they will pay even more per dozen. They are receiving better prices than has ever been paid for fowl; and the start has been made in a movement that, we believe, will revolutionize the present haphazard manner of handling poultry products. Having studied the proposition as a money-maker for the farmer, I will briefly outline the work of this movement. The object of the poultry circle is to place poultry products on the market in the best possible condition for commanding fancy prices. The demand for new-laid eggs and well fattened poultry is enormous and the problem of securing high prices is very small compared with the problem of securing quality.

In order to place guaranteed new-laid eggs on the market, the members of the circle agreed to stamp their eggs and deliver them twice weekly in the summer and once weekly in the winter. They have a convenient gathering station in each locality and the waggon goes around and gathers the eggs from these stations. Where seven or eight farmers take their eggs to one farmhouse, the cost of hauling is greatly lessened and more money is obtained for the eggs, because they get to the centre more quickly.

In the County of Peterborough the eggs are taken to the city of Peterborough, and there they are candled by the superintendent of the circles for the county, and the candling test decides the price to be obtained. Immediately after candling they are sent to Montreal, and in the summer time no egg reaches there that is over five days old, and in the winter no egg reaches there that is over eight days old. You would think there would be no rejected eggs. On the first delivery of eggs made in the month of June every member of the circle believed their eggs would be selected; but the results were astonishing. We found that from 6 -8 to 7 1-2 percent of the first eggs delivered at the candling centre were rejected, and, that being the case, what must be the condition of eggs that reach the great city centres under common methods of handling. These rejected eggs consisted very largely of stale eggs, and they are used for cooking purposes, but are not good for boiling. Quite a large number of them showed chick development and were absolutely worthless, and there were a few that were absolutely rotten. In my estimation the superintendent was too lenient in candling them. During the first few shipments there was considerable improvement, and the second shipment showed a percentage of from 2 1-2 to 4 1-2 percent rejected, and that gradually dwindled to one-half percent.

We received complaints from buyers that the eggs were dirty and badly stamped. Apparently some of the members were stamping their eggs badly, so that when they were sent to the candling station the superintendent would not be able to make out the stamp, and in order to get out of the difficulty we sent out letters to every member saying that a bonus of one cent per dozen would be allowed for all eggs containing no dirty, stale, unattractive, or badly marked eggs. One rejected egg meant no bonus would be given, and it was astonishing the results we obtained, and the next report that came from Montreal showed that the best eggs received by that firm were eggs from the County of Peterborough.

The benefits derived from handling the poultry were quite as good. They were all killed at the candling station, and discrimination in price per pound was made. The result has been that a death-blow has been dealt in indiscriminate breeding, and a good many farmers this fall secured male birds from the Macdonald College in order to improve their flock. The wearisome work of dressing the fowl that fell to the lot of the farmer's wife has been done away with, and the members need no longer go to the local market and stay there for hours waiting for a customer.

The demand for information on the most improved method of handling poultry is very marked, and no reading matter goes into the homes of the members without being read. A good many of the produce dealers are attempting to have a law passed that will do away with the sale of rotten eggs; but in Peterborough County we do not care if the penalty for the sale of rotten eggs is hanging, we are not afraid of it.

The additional value of the poultry circles cannot be comprehended. The adoption of the most improved methods of handling poultry has become a business with the members of the circle, and the weekly pay envelope is a constant, never failing advantage. One cent or two cents deducted from the weekly pay envelope is revealed on the outside. It may mean carelessness, or it may mean something should be fed to the hens to thicken the egg shell. And the obtaining of the highest possible prices is an incentive to perfection. Considering all things, the enthusiasm of the Peterborough farmers is easily accounted for, and with similar incentive for producing the highest possible qualities in all their farm produce, the possibility of doubling, or even trebling, the value of the output of the Ontario farmer would soon become a reality.

BREEDS OF POULTRY.

General Characteristics of Some of the Most Popular Types.

It is not the purpose of the writer to discuss all breeds of poultry in this article, but simply to mention the general characteristics of some of the popular ones. The present high price of eggs and meat has done much to popularize poultry on the farm, and consequently we are frequently asked as to 'What is the best breed of poultry?' It is impossible for one to answer this question satisfactorily, as some breeds are special-purpose breeds, others general purpose breeds; and, moreover, there is probably more difference in strains of the same breed than there is between breeds.

We shall endeavor to classify these breeds, not according to the usual classification as adopted in various poultry publications, but more or less on utility lines. It may be taken as a general rule that all breeds that lay brown or tinted shelled eggs will set, hatch and rear their own young, and all breeds which lay white-shelled eggs, with the exception of Dorkings, are non-sitters and the eggs from these breeds have to be hatched artificially or by hens, of other varieties. It will, therefore, be seen that the general purpose breeds lay tinted eggs and are good sitters and mothers.

Plymouth Rocks — There are five varieties in this breed—three of which are common—barred, white and buff. The Partridges and Columbian are not so common. This breed is undoubtedly the most popular among farmers. The best strains are good winter layers, fair summer layers and make first-class roasters and fair to good broilers. It is one of the hardiest breeds. The standard weights are: Cock birds, 9½ bounds; cockerels 8 pounds; hens, 7½ pounds; and pullets, 6½ pounds.

Wyandottes.— There are several varieties in this breed among which might be mentioned: White, Buff, Silver Laced, Golden Laced, Black Columbian, Partridge and Silver Pencilled. The most popular variety from a commercial standpoint is the White. This breed has practically the same characteristics as the Plymouth Rock, but is more blocky in type and usually longer in the feather. They have rose combs, which to some is supposed to be an advantage in cold climates. Wyandottes make good broilers and roasters. They are also good mothers and good layers. The standard weights of these birds are one pound less than those of the Plymouth Rocks.

Rhode Island Reds.—There are two varieties of this breed, Single Comb and Rose Comb. As compared with the Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes they are longer in appearance and not so massive. They were originated by the farmers of the State or Rhode Island and are very popular in that state. They have also grown in popularity in America to such an extent that they now rival the Plymouth Rocks and the Wyandottes. They are hardy, good winter layers, and fair summer layers. In color they are a rich, bright red, with black tails and more or less black in the wings. During warm weather our experience has been that they are more given to incubating than the two breeds mentioned above. The standard weights of this breed are: Cock birds, 8½ lbs.; cockerels, 7½ lbs; hens, 6½ lbs., and pullets, 5 lbs.

Orpingtons.—This general purpose breed differs from those previously mentioned, in that they have white legs and skin, the other breeds having yellow legs and yellow skin. The common varieties of this breed are: Buff, white, black and jubilee. At the present time, there are probably more Buff Orpingtons bred than any other variety, but the white may outrival the Buff. The Blacks are being bred more by fanciers than by farmers, for the reason that their black plumage and dark-colored legs are somewhat against them for market purposes. This breed is among the best winter layers; makes good roasters and broilers, but is probably more given to incubating during warm weather than either the Rocks or the Wyandottes. The standard weights are about one pound per bird above the Plymouth Rocks. For general farm use they might be more profitably bred with less weight for the reason that the largest birds are usually somewhat leggy and rough in appearance when weighing four to five pounds. When one wants very large roasters, weighing from 7 to 8 lbs. each or better, the larger birds of course, would be better.

Dorkings—This is one of the oldest English breeds and is popular in some districts. They are a large breed, long in the body and short in the legs. By many they are considered to be weak in constitution, although our experience would not bear this out entirely. They lay large white eggs and are good setters and mothers. They are white fleshed and white legged. Their peculiarity being that they have five toes. This is, at times, a disadvantage, especially where the fowls have to scratch in straw where there is more or less binder twine, which is apt to get around the extra toe, and thereby occasionally fastening both feet together. This is not a very serious objection. Where there is high dry ground and plenty of range and a person fancies the Dorking color or type, they are worthy of consideration.

Brahmas. — The feathered-legged breeds are not very extensively bred. The most popular of these is the Brahma. This breed is very hardy, and lays very large brown eggs. They are rather slow to mature and the feathers on the legs are not altogether desirable from a farmer's standpoint, in that they are apt to get wet and freeze readily. Brahmas make the best roasters, but are somewhat slow to mature, and the females, in our experience, have not been very good layers, although there are some females that do well. This breed is yellow skinned.

Langshans—Langshans are also of the feathered leg breed, but have white skin. They are longer in the legs than the Brahmas and are not so heavy.

Games—By many the Game would not be considered a chicken suitable to farmers. The exhibition Games, as they are known in the standard, are altogether too long in the legs and head, and too weak in constitution for the ordinary farmer, but the Cornish games and what is known as the Old English Game are worthy of consideration. The Cornish Game is a very large, tight-feathered, full-breasted chicken, and probably carries more meat on its breast than any other breed. The objection to the Cornish Game is that it is a poor layer. The English Game, sometimes termed 'Pit Game,' is a hardy bird. They are fair layers and make fair roasters. The most serious objection to this breed from a farmer's standpoint is that there is a great tendency among the young cockerels to be very pugnacious. This is sometimes carried to such an extent that they kill one another. Other than this, they make a fairly good farm chicken, especially where the mothers are required to protect their young.

The high price of eggs during the last few years hase increased the popularity of this class of chickens very much. Of all breeds in this class the Leghorns are the most popular, and of the Leghorn breed the White variety is bred more extensively than any other. Leghorns probably mature a little earlier, and eat less food than the heavier breeds; they make fair broilers, but are comparatively useless as roasters. They lay a large number of good-sized eggs during the natural laying period. As winter layers they are fair, but in our experience more susceptible to changes in temperature than are the heavier breeds. This much must be said in their favor, that their eggs usually hatch better than those of the heavier breeds, and the chickens are very hardy. Of the other Leghorn varieties the most popular ones are the Brown, Buff and Black, these varieties not being so popular from a market poultryman's standpoint, owing to the color.

Minorcas—There are three varieties of Minorcas. The Rose Comb Black and the Single Comb Black are more commonly bred than is the White variety. This breed is larger than the Leghorn, and also lays a larger egg. They have very large combs and wattles.

Anconas—This breed might be termed a speckled or mottled Leghorn. They have all the characteristics of the Leghorn, and are black and white in color. This breed is gaining in popularity among the practical poultrymen.

Hamburgs—There are several varieties of this breed. The black is the most popular. They are inclined to lay an undersized egg. We have found the blacks to be good layers, and to lay a fair-sized egg. They have rose combs and are neat and active in appearance. — Prof. W. R. Graham, Guelph.

FEATHERED TRIBE OF HIGH DEGREE ARE SHOWN AT EXHIBITION IN NEW YORK CITY



JUBILEE ORPINGTON. LIGHT BRAHMA.

Some of the finest bred poultry in the country is now on exhibition in Madison Square Garden, it being the twenty-third annual show of the New York Poultry, Pigeon and Pet Stock Association. Two specimens which are attracting considerable attention at the show are presented herewith.

MOULTING OF HENS AND DUCKS

(By H. S. Babcock, East Providence, R.I., in the 'Canadian Poultry Review.')

If we were not so familiar with the process, we would realize that the annual moulting of the feathers of the fowl is an annual marvel. The old feathers grow dull in color, the quills become thoroughly desicated, and they drop out, to be replaced by new, fresh and bright plumage.

This process is not peculiar to the domestic fowl, but runs through all forms of life. Other birds moult their feathers, animals their hair, the snake and the toads their skins, crabs and other crustaceans their shells, and the trees their leaves. The universality of this process suggests the unity of all terrestrial life, and the kinship of all animate things.

There are two methods of moulting the feathers of the domestic fowl, the sudden and the gradual. Some hens appear to be fully clothed to-day and almost totally naked on the morrow. Other hens drop their feathers a few at a time and always seem to be fully clothed. In the sudden method the new coat will be uniform in color, but its growth will make a severe demand upon the fowl's vital forces, and, if the moulting occurs during the frosty weather, there is danger that the fowl will contract a cold and that severe sickness or even death may result. If the moulting is gradual, such risks are avoided, but the new covering may not be uniform in color. For practical purposes the gradual method is the better.

Moulting may either be early or late. Some hens begin the process in the late summer and become fully reclothed before chilly weather arrives. Others retain their old feathers until late in the fall, and the growth of new feathers takes place during inclement weather. Whether the moult shall be early or late seems to be largely a question of age. As a rule the older the hen is the later will she be in beginning to shed her feathers. There are doubtless many exceptions to this rule, and some old hens moult earlier than some young ones. It is also probably true that there is a difference not only in individuals of the same breed but also in different breeds.

During the period when the hens are casting their feathers, if they are properly fed and cared for, they will continue to lay. The moulting of the old feathers makes no special demand upon the strength and nourishment of the fowls. But when the new feathers are growing rapidly the nourishment, which had earlier gone to the production of eggs, is diverted to the growth of feathers. During this period, and for a few weeks thereafter, egg production is likely to cease, and the hens pass the time in regaining the strength and vigor which was spent in the growth of their feathers. So far as we know, there have been no exact observations, in sufficient numbers to be of value, of the time necessary for the moulting of the old and the growth of the new feathers, and, as many variations would be likely to be found, such observations could arrive at only a general average. In normal cases the average will probably be found to be from six to eight weeks.

When the hens are growing their new coverings they should have a diet rich in protein. 'Protein is the only ingredient of feeds which furnishes the nitrogen necessary for building up and replacing waste of muscle, tendon, hair, wool, horn, hoof, etc.' says Prof. Hartwell, and we may add, feathers. A trace of sulphur is found in feathers, we are informed, and we know from experience that the addition of a little sulphur to the food seems to be beneficial at this particular period. Proper diet will enable the hen to grow her feathers more quickly and will thus hasten the time when she will be profitable again.

Two peculiarities of moulting, which deserves special notice, are presented by the Game cock and Rouen drake. In a black-breasted red Game cock the neck hackles are narrow, pointed, and in appearance resemble spun gold. When the cock begins to moult, he loses these beautiful hackles, which are replaced by broader ones with blunt ends and are dull in color with a broad black stripe down the centre. In a short time these unprepossessing hackles drop out, and in their turn are replaced by the narrow, beautiful golden hackles. The Rouen drakes, in like manner, drops his beautiful feathers and assumed a garb similar to, but not identical with that of the duck. After a period of humiliation, he moults these gober garments and reassumes his gorgeous robes. In both instances there is a double moult, partial in the case of the Game cock, complete in the case of the Rouen drake.

There is a difference of opinion upon the question whether the time of moulting can be artificially controlled or not. The evidence upon this subject is conflicting. There are those who declare emphatically that it can be, and there are others who deny its possibility. The method of accomplishing this purpose, assuming that it can be accomplished, is to gradually reduce the amount of food until, after a few weeks, the fowls are on half rations; keep them on half rations for a week or so; then gradually increase the amount of food until they are on full rations once more. Some advise to make this increase from half to full rations suddenly, but such a change would have a tendency to produce digestive disorders that might be more disastrous than a late but natural moult. After the hens have been put on full ration, it is claimed that the moult will proceed rapidly. In a carefully conducted experiment at one of our experiment stations, to test this theory the results failed to confirm its claims. There appears to be no definite gain in the time of moult, and there was a considerable loss in the weight of the fowls, and an appreciable decline in the egg-production. Fowls kept at the station, which were allowed to moult naturally, began and completed the process in about the same time as did those used in the experiment. As the object of controlling the moult is to make a greater profit upon the fowls by shortening the natural period of the process and by having the moulting take place early enough to have the fowls in suitable condition for fall and winter laying, if an artificially caused moult will reduce the weight and diminish the egg production during the time consumed in producing it, even if it be a success, the value of the process is doubtful and its expediency questionable. Every poultry keeper can test this theory for himself, and if the results prove satisfactory he can continue to do the same from year to year. But many, probably, will trust to nature and her ways and if their hens moult as and when they will. One can be sure of a reasonably early moult for the majority of his flock, at least, if he will keep hens only during their most productive period, and dispose of all that have passed their second laying year; and this, perhaps, is the best way of at once securing profit and controlling the annual moult.

POULTRY NOTES.

If the hens eat the droppings, it is usually because they lack grit, or are short of animal food.

They may be searching for unused grit, or have a craving which the animal food will supply. Feed them plenty of brand and meat-scraps, and keep them supplied with good sharp grit.

It is claimed that soft-shelled eggs are some times caused by feeding too much stimulating food, or condiments such as pepper, ginger, etc. To correct or prevent the soft shells, feed the hens plenty of clover and keep thec well supplied with oyster shell and cut bone.

See to it that the posts of the chicken fence are not rotted off so that they fall over in the winter storms and twist the poultry fence all out of shape. Better reset such posts now and keep the fence from being ruined.

The time is nearly here when the hens will have to be kept in the house out of the cold and storm. Remember that you must not try to keep too many hens in one house. Better a small flock in good condition and laying will, then a large flock with fewer eggs and twice the expense.

If the hens are crowded they will not lay, and are more apt to get sick, so sell off the surplus stock until the flock will fit the house.

Leaves are good for the litter and now is the time to same some for the hens to scratch this winter. Rake them up while they are plentiful, and store them somewhere under cover so that they will be ready for use.

Save a barrel of dry earth for the hens' dust-bath this winter. Mixed with some wood ashes and dampened just a little, it will be a great help to the hens in keeping them free from lice. If a box of it is placed in the sunny part of the hen-house, the hens will enjoy bathing in it, and you will not need to use the insect-powder so often.

Before the ground freezes, or the snow comes, some sand and gravel should be stored for winter use, if it can be hauled from some place near by. The hens will use it to gring their feed, and it will save buying so much commercial grit.

If your hens are not doing to suit you look over the situation carefully, and find out where the trouble is. You may be sure the fault is yours, not theirs.

Hens will eat a great quantity of coal-cinders, and they are very good for them. Try putting a load in the chicken-yard, and watch the results.

Abundance, without variety, will wear the breeding stock out quickly.

Good feeding sometimes consists more in utilizing watte products and cheap feeds than in getting larger results.

Plan to have a fresh plot of green rye for the fowls to range on in the winter, when the weather is favorable, and a plot of green grass for the young chicks in the early spring.

Food cannot produce good results unless fowls have pure air. Impure air causes the digestive organs to become sluggish and much of the food passes through the fowls undigested.

Young chicks start more slowly on a diet of whole grain, but develop better digestive capacity, and later will stand heavier feeding and develop better than those kept too long on a diet of ground feed.

The condition of the hens during the winter is an important factor in determining the fertility of the eggs for hatching.

Healthy poultry, like healthy people, are not fussy about their eating, but eat with a relish all kinds of ordinary food.

By giving poultry a wide variety of food prepared in different ways, we tempt their appetities and avoid to a great extent the dangers of overheating any one kind of food.

The first matter of importance in getting winter eggs is to have the fowls in condition to begin laying before the extreme cold weather comes on.

In the spring a hen may produce eggs at the expense of her maintenance, but in the fall and early winter she will not; consequently conditions must be right to obtain a bountiful supply of winter eggs.

When we find that we cannot use a ration that has formerly given good results, we may feel sure there is something wrong with the fowls or in their management.

Fowls that are dependent upon an exact ration or a system of feeding, are either constitutionally weak, or require a ration adapted to their weakness, or there are wrong conditions which something in their ration counteracts.

There will be likely to be quite a bit of fine weather yet, but do not depend on it and put off making the poultry-house comfortable for winter. So much is apt to be crowded into these last fine days that something will have to be neglected. Fix the poultry-house now.

If you are raising late fall chickens, be very careful they do not get chilled. A chill will cause bowel-trouble, and a great many little chicks die of it, because they have been chilled.

PULPWOOD CONSUMPTION.

Nearly six hundred thousand cords of wood were ground into wood-pulp by fifty-one pulp mills operating throughout Canada during 1910. Statistics compiled by the Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior show that the total value of this wood was three million five hundred and eighty-five thousand dollars, and that it was converted into four hundred and seventy-five thousand tons of wood-pulp. Quebec is the premier pulpwood province of Canada because of its extensive spruce and balsam forests suitable for pulpwood. The twenty-five pulp mills in Quebec reported the consumption of fifty-seven percent of the total for Canada, or twenty-three thousand cords more than in 1909. Ontario likewise increased the amount consumed in its fifteen pulp mills by over twenty thousand cords and used over one-third of the total consumption, forming with Quebec, ninety-two percent of the total. The mills of Nova Scotia consumed nearly thirty thousand cords. New Brunswick used barely one-fifth as much as in 1909, contributing in that year fifteen percent of the total. In 1910 the amount used was only two percent of the total, due chiefly to the closing of one large plant. The average value of pulpwood in 1910 was six dollars per cord, and Quebec was the one province in which the price was less in 1910 than in 1909. The price in this province fell off thirty-five cents to five dollars and a half per cord. The highest price paid was in Ontario, where it averaged seven dollars, while pulpwood from Nova Scotia at four dollars and sixty cents per cord was the cheapest.

PROVINCES PRODUCING SHINGLES.

The production of shingles increases steadily in Canada, and in a bulletin to be published by the Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior this is shown together with the relative importance of the provinces for 1910. Compared with the Canadian lumber cut, the entire shingle industry amounted to less than the value of each of the five most important species-spruce, white pine, Douglas fir, hemlock and cedar, during 1910. Considered separately, the shingle production assumes considerable importance, especially in British Columbia. This province is far in advance of the eastern provinces as a shingle producer, and made up approximately half of the Canadian 1910 production of nearly two billion shingles, worth over three and a half million dollars. Over one quarter of the shingles were manufactured in Quebec, where the five hundred and thirty-nine million pieces reported were an increase of sixty percent over the 1909 amount. Ontario and New Brunswick produced nearly equal amounts in 1910, one-tenth of the Canadian production being from each of these provinces. Ninety-eight percent of the total production was in the above four provinces, although shingles are made in every province of the Dominion. Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, Prince Edward Island, Alberta and Manitoba, together, produced two percent of the total. The average price of shingles in 1910 was $1.80 per thousand, the values ranging from $1.51 for shingles in Nova Scotia to $2.27 in Saskatchewan.

THE WINTER FAIR AT GUELPH

The poultry exhibit at Guelph was the best that has ever been. All classes were well filled with good quality. The dressed exhibit was away ahead of all previous shows and is an evidence of how this department is growing. Thirty-three entries, all good enough for prizes, constituted a class of cases holding twelve birds each.

The lectures on Tuesday evening were given by W. R. Graham, 'Poultry House Construction;' W. A. Brown, 'Conservation of vigor,' and F. C. Elford, 'Selling poultry products.'

FARMERS' SALES AND WANTS

ADVERTISING RATES.—Under this heading advertisements will be inserted without display at a cash-with-the-order rate of one cent a word per insertion, twenty-five cents being the minimum amount of an order for a single insertion, and forty cents the minimum amount for orders of more than one insertion. SIX consecutive prepaid insertions will be given for the price of FOUR. a number or a single letter to be counted as one word. When replies are to be addressed in care of the 'Witness' Office, an additional charge of twenty-five cents is made.

Copy for insertion in these columns should be in the 'Witness' office not later than Friday morning, to secure proper classification in follow. Weekly Edition.

EGGS AND POULTRY.

EGGS FROM PRIZE WINNING Stock; $1.50 for 15 eggs, from select matings of Buff Rocks, Buff Wyandottes, Buff and White Leghorns, Blue Andalusian, Buff, Black and White Orpingtons. WM. MUNROE, Grafton, Ont.

A GOOD LAYING STRAIN OF S. C. W. Leghorns. Eggs, $1 per fifteen; $5 per hundred. MARTIN ROBERTSON, Kent Centre, Kent Co., Ont.

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COLLIES, PIGEONS AND FOWL. Registered Scotch Collies, young and old. Prize winning pigeons, hens and ducks. Twenty varieties. Apply to TRAPPIST FATHERS, La Trappe, Que.

'CANADIAN POULTRY REVIEW,' published first of each month. All the poultry news of the Dominion, 64 pages, 50c year. 'Poultry Advocate,' the utility poultry paper. The paper that 'tells you how,' 50c year. Both to one address, 75c one year. Poultry books on various subjects. Address, H. B. DONOVAN, 184 Adelaide St. West, Toronto, Ont.

BRONZE AND WHITE HOLLAND Gobblers, $3.00; Hens, $2.00; Toulouse and African Geese, pairs, not related, $4.00 All varieties Ducks and Guineas. Fowls, 80c each. WADE & SON, Sarnia, Ont.

AGENTS WANTED.

RELIABLE MEN TO CANVASS BOTH town and country districts; work part time or steadily. Should average $25 weekly. Send for free outfit. Our trees will grow;—there's a reason. THOS. W. ROWMAN & SON CO., Limited, Ridgeville, Ont.

DO YOU REALIZE THAT FARMERS are now keenly interested in fruit-growing; that you can make big money selling fruit and ornamental trees? There is money in the business if you represent a reliable firm; we want now a reliable agent in every unrepresented district. Write for terms to THE PELHAM NURSERY COMPANY, Toronto, Ont.

WANTED.

LADIES TO DO PLAIN AND LIGHT sewing at home, whole or spare time; good pay; work sent any distance; charges paid; send stamp for full particulars. NATIONAL MANUFACTURING CO., Montreal, Que.

MISCELLANEOUS.

TO TRADE, VALUABLE IMPROVED Fort William property for three good guaranteed teams about 2800 lbs. each, not more than 6 or 7 years old. Mares preferred. P. J. LAKE, 121 West Gore street West, Fort William, Ont.

FARMS AND OTHER LANDS.

FOR SALE, VALUABLE FARMS. — Eighty-three acres, two miles west of Cardinal; two hundred and fifteen acres one-half mile east of Town of Prescott; best possible locations, on St. Lawrence river, Grenville County, Ontario. Exceptional bargains. Write, J. A. CARMAN, 1154 Corona Street, Denver, Colo.

FOR SALE, QUARTER SECTION, near Morningside Station, Alberta. Write, Box 233, Truro, Nova Scotia.

CHOICE IMPROVED FARMS, IN MELITA District, of Southern Manitoba, for sale; close to towns, schools, etc.; correspondence invited. CAMERON & DUNCAN, Melita, Manitoba.

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BOOKS, POST CARDS, ETC.

25 POST CARDS, 25c; ALSO 100 Extra free, high grade, printed in gold and colors, sent postpaid. Money returned if not satisfied. EMPORIUM CONCERN, Beebe, Que.

ENLARGED PORTRAITS, $1.50.—TO introduce our superior grade of enlarged crayon portraits, will finish one from any small photo sent us, and return it, together with the small picture, to any address in Canada for one dollar and fifty cents, and guarantee the work. No better portraits made at any price. Size, sixteen x twenty inches. One dozen cabinet photos copied from any small photo, $1.50. Send now. THE PHOTO SPECIALTY CO., 590 Yonge street, Toronto.

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BOOKS ON POULTRY, PIGEONS, RABbits, Pheasants, Horses, Cattle, Farming, Fruit, Flowers, Vegetables, etc. Book catalogue free. MORGAN'S PET STOCK SUPPLY HOUSE, London.

"BRAID SCOTS."— THE NEW TESTAment in Braid Scots, by the Rev. W. Wye Smith. Nicely bound in cloth, complete, with glossary, good readable type, printed at Paisley. Price $1.60 postage paid. Address, A. P. NICHOLSON, 68 Beaver Hall Hill, Montreal, P.Q.

SHAFTESBURY HOTEL, LIVERPOOL
A First Class Temperance Hotel, Homelike and moderate. Adjoining Central Hall, and Roscoe Gardens, and near stations. Mount Pleasant Cars from Landing-Stage stop at the door. Cab fare 1/-. References: Rev D Briggs and Rev. Dr. Chown, of Toronto.

LEADING SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.
Free Short Courses
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MACDONALD COLLEGE, P. Q.
LIVE STOCK AND FARM CROPS,
JANUARY 9th-20th.
HORTICULTURE AND POULTRY KEEPING
JANUARY 23rd to FEBRUARY 3rd.
For full particulars address:
THE PRINCIPAL, Macdonald College, P.Q.

THE ONTARIO BUSINESS COLLEGE
BELLEVILLE, ONT.
(Affiliated with the Institute of Chartered Accountants.)
For catalogue (44th YEAR) containing full information, write to
PRINCIPAL, J.W.JOHNSON, F.C.A.
Belleville, Ont.
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ELLIOTT Business College
TORONTO, ONT.,
stands in a class by itself when strictly first class work is considered. Write for catalogue.
W. J. ELLIOTT, Principal.

LEGAL

QUEBEC.

MARRIAGE CONTRACTS.

Constant Reader.—A married man, with taree little ones, wife living, thinks now that it was neglect on his part not to have had a marriage contract, made between himself and wife before marriage for all good purposes. He would ask you (1) what process is required, and if this (2) could not be done now at slight expense, believing that from certain notices observed in advertisements, that 'separations as to property' are being issued by the authorities from time to time. (3) Is the matter not inaugurated by the wife, with the husband's consent, and for purely business reasons, without stain or friction, or disagreement, being attached thereto? Was married in the Province of Quebec. Ans.—All marriage contracts must be in notarial form and before the solemnizing of marriage upon which they are conditional. In the contract of marriage community of property, which the consorts are free to exclude by stipulation may be modified, if not so excluded. After the marriage, separation of property can only be obtained judicially when the interests of the wife are imperilled and the disordered state of the husband's affairs gives reason to fear that his property will not be sufficient to satisfy what the wife has a right to receive or to get back. All voluntary separations are null. The separation can be demanded only by the wife herself.

ONTARIO.

SUPPORT OF PARENT.

——, Ont.—A widow has been living with an unmarried son. He sends word to a brother-in-law asking if the widow can be boarded in house of brother-in-law so that the daughter can care for the aged mother. There is no written agreement as to payment. A year and six months pass, and no money is sent. Can the son be compelled, by law, to support or pay for support of his mother? Besides the unmarried son above referred to there are two other sons, who, though able, are unwilling to support their aged mother. Can the son-in-law claim payment, and what would be the best plan to pursue in order to obtain same? Ans.—We think that the maintenance of the mother by her sons can be arranged for; but it is a matter that calls for most judicious handling, and we would recommend that the son-in-law see a solicitor about it personally, and be advised by him as to the course prudent to be adopted.

WORLD'S WELFARE

TROPOLI AND ITS MISSIONS.

Tripoli is the name both of the city and of the country in North Africa. The country of Tripoli is situated on the North African coast, where the Mediterranean bends furthest to the south. On these shores there are the famous quicksands which the Greeks and Romans knew as the Greater and Lesser Syrtes, and which were an object of great fear to ancient navigators.

Tripoli has been since 1835 a province of the Turkish Empire, and extends eastward from Tunis to the tableland of Barca (Benghazi), which in 1869 was formed into a separate province. Politically Tripoli includes the pashalic of Fezzan, an inland country, which physically belongs to the Sahara. The area of the state of Tripoli is about four times that of Great Britain, but owing to the encroachment of the desert the area of cultivated land is not large.

The population of the country is very sparse—(estimated at about one million). The coast line extends for some seven hundred or eight hundred miles, but there is only one seaport of consequence, the city of Tripoli, which is the capital. This city, with a population of about 30,000, lies in a fertile plain with the sea in front and the desert behind.

The importance of Tripoli is that it is the centre of the trade which comes across the desert from the Sudan states. It is the point of arrival and departure of the camel caravans through the oases of Fezzan, southwestward to Timbuctu. Murzuk is the capital of Fezzan, and a caravan centre, and has a mixed population of about 11,000 souls. The town of Ghadamis has about 7,000 inhabitants.

In 1869 the maritime plateau of Barca and the deprest region inland from it, which contains the oases of Audila and Jalo, were formed into a separate government dependent directly on Constantinople. This country is the seat of the ancient Greek Pentapolis of Bernice, Arsinoe, Barca, Apollonia, and Cyrene.

At Tripoli there is an encampment of Haussas who live in zarebas or huts of bamboo and palm-leaf; hundreds of these zarebas fill a great enclosure, or kraal, as in Central Africa. These dark-skinned strangers with their pearly white teeth secure plenty of employment in Tripoli, and find themselves quite at home. They are nearly all Mohammedans, and in the centre of their village there is the hut of a black marabout, who exercises religious control over the encampment.

The slaves who are sold in Morocco and Tripoli are all brought from the Sudan and the regions extending from Lake Tchad to the Guinea coast have furnished an almost inexhaustible supply to the slave raider. The chief depots of this trade have been Timbuctu in the west, and Kuka in the east.

There are four different routes across the desert. That followed by Caille, when he entered Timbuctu; another avoiding Algeria, and coming out at Ghadamis; a third from Kuka, via Murzuk; and lastly, a secret route, known only to the Senusi (a large fraternity of Moslems located in Tripoli, and who make proselytizing wars and expeditions), from Wadai to their capital. The ports of embarkation for Turkey are both, in Tripoli, and slaves are still conveyed to Canea, Salonica, Constantinople and Smyrna. Never less than fifteen caravans, which bring about 10,000 captives alive to tell the tale, cross the desert every year. Mr. Spont estimates that about 40,000 victims fall en route, and it is said that you cannot lose your way, for the road is lined with human skulls.

Tripoli is of especial interest from a missionary point of view, as it is a possible stepping-stone to work in the Sudan. The city of Tripoli has been in past years the starting-point for travellers such as Denham and Clapperton, who visited Lake Tchad.

Twenty-five years ago the whole country of Tripoli was without any Protestant missionary or even a consular chaplain. It had been in Moslem hands since the conquest, 1,200 years before. The population was about 1,000,000, of whom all but a few were Mohammedans, but they were divided into two classes—the true natives, and their Turkish rulers and oppressors. There was as much, or as little, freedom for the preaching of the Gospel in Tripoli as in other parts of the Turkish Empire.

The city of Tripoli is practically built in an oasis on the edge of the Mediterranean Sea with the desert around it. The Turks object to Europeans going beyond this oasis, for they say that the country is not secure, and fear that travellers may be robbed or killed by the tribes, whom they cannot well control. This, of course, is an admission that their rule is not satisfactory, but it is a good excuse for stopping travellers or missionaries. Probably there is more danger from the Turkish soldiers than from the natives. While therefore the caravans going into the Sudan may be reached, the missionary himself has been unable to penetrate beyond a few miles from the coast. In 1889 the council of the North African Mission sent two missionaries, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. H. Harding, to begin work there. The latter was a qualified chemist who had had considerable experience with a doctor. On arriving they soon began visiting the cafes and giving medicines to the sick. Since then other workers have entered the field. Working under Turkish rule is in some respects more difficult than under the French, and in others less so. It is easier to do medical work, but more difficult for Moslems to profess faith in Christ. The visible results of the work are as yet small, but an abundance of the good seed has been sown, and a few grains have sprung up and are beginning to bear fruit.

Here, as in many other places, the Gospel work gathers largely round the medical mission. At least 60,000 visits have been paid to the dispensary, and these people have been faithfully dealt with about the great realities of the Word of God. Some of these patients have come from several days' journey, and some even from the Sudan itself. When they return they carry with them the report of what they have heard, and it is often remarkable to discover how correctly they have grasped the truth in their minds, though their hearts may be still sealed against it.

The work of visiting the cafes, stores, and workshops has been most diligently followed up, and the visiting of the homes, and conducting classes has been mainly the work of the ladies. Itinerating has had very little place in the work of this country on account of Turkish restrictions on travelling.

There is a bookshop which has done useful work, and there have been some lantern services and work among the Italians, but no to the extent that has been possible in Tunis and Susa. This is partly because the staff has been smaller, and also because the opportunities have not been so good.

The attitude of the people generally toward the missionaries has wonderfully changed for the better, and they recognize that the missionaries' lives are much superior to those of the best Moslems. The Arabic scriptures have been scattered far and wide, and are being read in places little thought of. In due season the reaping time will come. Already a few Moslems have given evidence of being truly converted.

Among the Italians a certain amount of work has been done, and there have been hopeful cases of conversion. Services have also been held for the few English people who reside in the city, and some of them have availed themselves of these opportunities. On the whole, however, results have been few, and we need to pray specially for God's blessing on his servants in this difficult field.

The North Africa Mission is now the only Protestant missionary society having workers in the country. The Roman Catholics have missionaries working among the Italians in Tripoli, and Barka, but Tripoli is, on the whole, a greatly neglected field.

PRESENT CONDITIONS IN INDIA

(By the Rev. M. B. Fuller, in the 'Alliance Weekly.')

Among the great changes that have been going on in India in the last few years which make what is practically a new India is the abolition of the practice of Suttee, the burning of widows. The widow at the death of her husband was burned alive with his dead body. It has been a wonder to many people how such a custom ever originated. The Brahmins have told us that the wife has no god; she was a woman. Her god was her husband. Her religion was to serve her husband and when her husband died it was her place to go with him. That sounded plausible.

But there was another reason—the state of society. The Brahmins to protect themselves from their own wives, fearing their wives would poison them if they fancied some one else, made this a religious custom. They put a religious significance into it. The wife's life depended upon her husband's life. If her husband died she would have to die with him.

It was Carey and others who attacked this awful system of evil and eighty-two years ago the British government passed a law abolishing this practice.

The next great reform was in connection with the marriage of girls to gods. Until three or four years ago there were all over India millions of women and girls that had been married to their gods, religiously set aside to a life of shame. The Hindoo temples were full of them and if they were not living in the temples they were living in the common market place as woman of bad character. But they were not considered fallen women, but honored because they were married to the gods. At Akola I found on our side of the river more than 5 percent of all the female population, from babies in the cradle to old women, had been married to the gods and were registered by the police as set apart to such a life of shame. That also has been put away. And three or four years ago, after many years of agitation, the government of Bombay enacted a law making it a criminal offence.

Then there was the subject of enforced widowhood with its unspeakable suffering, cruelty and shame that was the lot of millions of widows in India, and to-day there are 20,000 widows or more under five years of age. Come to the widows of ten and it might run up into hundreds of thousands, and I think 26,000,000 in all India. Of course that includes a great many of old women to whom widowhood is no hardship. But enforced widowhood for young girls and women meant an amount of crime and sin that is hard to conceive. Government has passed no law in this matter but the growing sentiment of the people is in favor of the marringe of women. All their arguments on the sacredness of the marriage tie has been shown to be false. If the marriage is so sacred it should be sacred for men as well as for women. The man could marry as often as he pleased.

Then there came the matter of female education. Fifty years ago it was difficult to find a respectable woman, or very few of them, who could read, except among the Christians. Two or three or four perhaps in ten thousand of the female population could read. To-day female education is rapidly increasing not only among Christians but among the Parsees, who have taken it up with a good deal of earnestness, the Hindoos and the Mohammedans. The Mohammedians are behind the Hindoos in general education. Female education is no longer an experiment. Not only so, the general education of the outcasts, those who used to be considered as out of all society and are still by Hindooism, so far as it is real Hindooism, yet among these outcasts there have been hundreds of thousands of converts to Christianity, many of whom have been educated by the Mission. They have been found equal to the high caste in their mental ability.

A native Prince, after visiting the United States, England, and the Continent, came back to India and passed a law making education free and compulsory, for all boys and girls of all castes. We are used to such things in America, but it surprised us there. And it was a native Prince who passed a law that the English Government would not have dared to undertake because they would have been accused of putting hardship upon the people.

All these things show that God is working. India is changing and it is Christianity that has brought about these changes. But we are just now at a great crisis. It has been truly said that it is possible to do in India in the next ten years, what if we failed to do in those ten years, we may not be able to do in the next forty years. It is our opportunity. All these things have been working in our favor. India could be evangelized in ten years as fully as in the next one hundred years. What we have to do is with the people that are now living in India. It is our privilege and our duty to evangelize them as soon as it can be done. It is only a question of having men and money enough to do the work. You don't have to preach to the same people for ten years to give them the Gospel so that they can intelligently accept or reject Christianity. If we had five times as many missionaries as are now on the field we should be able to cover India so that every misionary should have field small enough that she work would be thoroughly in hand.

If we do not do the work there are evil influences that will be working in the other direction. Not only Hindooism but Higher Criticism, General Materialism, Science, falsely so called—all these things will work on the educated men of India. There are hundreds of thousands of the educated people who are open at this time to Christianity on the one hand, or to these evil influences on the other. It is our hope to build up our Christian Church in the full Gospel to reach the unreached masses with a pure Gospel before these other influences get hold of them.

THE NEED OF GOOD PAPERS.

If the whole desire of a paper is to be the best possible newspaper that it may be a force for good throughout the Dominion, surely the readers of the World's Welfare Department will take enough interest in this, their paper, to further its development and ensure the continuance of the 'Witness' by the addition of at least one new subscriber each.

THE 'WITNESS' BIBLE QUESTION CLUB.

Every 'Witness' Reader Welcome.

Any new subscriber to the 'Witness,' or any casual reader who would like full particulars of the 'Witness' Bible Question Club, can have same by sending self addressesd and stamped envelope to this department.

We will be pleased to supply Readers who are interested in the Bible Question Club, with a number of leaflets explaining this course, so that they may have them to pass on to their friends, or to slip into their letters. Ask for leaflet No. 1.

Just say how many you think you can use, and send stamped envelope for reply. DO IT NOW.

Address, Witness Bible Question Club, 'Witness' Office, Montreal.

MEMBERS' PRIZE COUPON.

Cut out, fill in, keep safely and send to this office at the end of the course, along with your five answers.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS BIBLE QUESTION CLUB.

I have read the Suggestive Questions on the Sunday School lesson published in

THE MONTREAL 'WITNESS,'

also the lesson itself for

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 1912.

and intend to follow the rest of the course.

NAME .....
(Mr., Mrs. or Miss)

ADDRESS .....
(In full)

.....

No. 36. (W)

SUGGESTIVE QUESTIONS ON THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS BIBLE QUESTION CLUB.

(Copyright, 1910, by the Rev. T. S. Linscott, D.D.)

Jan. 7, 1912.

The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold. Luke 1:5-23.

Golden Text—Without faith it is impossible to please him. Heb. xi:6.

(1). Verse 1—What significance is there in the fact, with respect to their children, when a man and wife are both of distinguished parentage?

(2). When a man seeks a wife, or a woman is considering before she accepts a husband, how much consideration should be given, to the question of ancestry?

(3). Verse 2—It is stated that both Zacharias and Elizabeth were 'righteous' and 'blameless,' what does that mean, and are there people living to-day of whom the same may be truthfully said?

(4). How much of the goodness of these people did they probably owe to heredity?

(5). Does God expect all His people to be 'righteous' and 'blameless' and if so, how may the average man fulfil God's expectation?

(6). Verse 7.—Which is the greater blessing under present day conditions, a large or a small family, and why?

(7). Is it either folly, sin, or crime, for married people to arrange as to have a childless home, and why?

(8). Verses 8-10— What difference does it make in the spiritual or moral effect, when a minister conducts public worship, whether the people pray for him and the service or not?

(9). Verses 11-12 —Angelic appearances are clearly recorded in the scripture, what if any reason is there to believe that angels still appear?

(10). Seeing many, if not most people believe that we are surrounded by spirits, why is it that so few of us have any ocular demonstration of their presence?

(11). Would it be desirable or not, and why, for all Christians to be so conscious of the spiritual presence of their departed loved ones, as to communicate with them?

(12). Why was Zacharias afraid when he saw the angel, and why is it that most people are afraid of any appearance which looks like a 'Ghost'?

(13). Verses 13-14—If it is true that 'Heaven is all around us,' have the people on earth any reason to fear spirits or angels? Give your reasons.

(14). Is it right, or wise, or of any use for people who have no children to pray for them?

(15). It is God's intention that children in a home shall always bring 'joy and gladness,' and what is the way to make certain of this being realized?

(16). Verse 15. —What reasons are there, for training children in total abstinence principles?

(17). Given the right parentage and training, may children in these days be filled with the Holy Ghost from their birth?

(18). Why may, or may not, any devout mother so plan before and after the birth of her child, so he will be filled with the Holy Spirit from birth?

(19). Verse 16-23. —Why had Gabriel any right to blame and punish John for doubting such an extraordinary promise? (This is one of the questions that may be answered in writing by members of the club).

Lesson for Sunday, Jan. 14th, 1912. The Birth of John the Baptist. Luke 1:57-80.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON.

January 7, 1912.

BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST FORETOLD.
Luke 1: 5-23.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Without faith it is impossible to please Him.—Heb. xi., 6.

When God planned to send his Son to this world to redeem it, he planned first to send a forerunner or messenger who should tell the people beforehand that the long promised Messiah, the Saviour, was coming at last. This messenger was specially prepared to carry the message, even long before his birth an angel appeared to his father Zacharias and told him that the little child God was sending to him and his wife Elizabeth was to be 'great in the sight of the Lord.'

Zacharias was a priest who served in God's temple. He and his wife were very good people, 'righteous before God.' They were now getting to be quite old, and they felt grieved that they had no little children growing up to be a comfort to them, although they had often asked God for one. One day Zacharias was ministering in the temple, his duty was to burn incense at God's altar while all the people were praying outside. Suddenly beside the altar he saw an angel standing, he could not believe his own eyes he was so astonished and frightened. But the angel said, 'Fear not, Zacharias, for thy prayer is heard;' and told him how God would send him a little son who would bring joy and gladness not only to his parents, but also to many who should be brought back to God by him. Zacharias was told to call his son 'John,' which means 'the Lord is gracious.' The angel also told him how to bring up the child, training him from his birth in self-control and temperance, and in knowledge of God's laws.

'He shall be great in the sight of the Lord.' 'Man looketh on the outward appearance, but God looketh on the heart.' Greatness in God's sight consists of obedience, purity, truthfulness, kindness and unselfishness. How does your life look? It is the little things that count for greatness in God's sight.

Zacharias could not get over his astonishment at the vision and asked how he could know that this was so, how could he be sure that this message was really from God. So the angel replied, 'I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God, and am sent to speak unto thee, and show thee these glad tidings.' And to make Zacharias realize that he really had had a message from God, the angel told him he should be dumb until the things he had told him should come to pass. When Zacharias went out to the people who were waiting in the temple for him, he could not speak, but made signs to them that he had seen an angel, and he remained dumb until the birth of his little son, John, the forerunner of Christ.

(NOTES FROM DR. MACLAREN'S BIBLE EXPOSITIONS.)

How significant is the mention of 'Herod, king of Judea.' It is more than a date. So low had the nation fallen that an Idumean stranger sat in David's seat. The darkest hour is that before the dawn; and the presence of the usurper was to waiting souls the sign that the coming of the true King was not far off.

The peaceful, pious home of the old priest is beautifully outlined. It was somewhere in the hill country; perhaps, as has been suggested, at Juttah, perhaps in some unnamed town of Judah.

The scene changes from the quiet hill-town and the still seclusion of the childless home to the thronged courts of the temple. Zacharias had to go twice a year, with the other members of his 'course,' for their turn of duty. He drew the lot, which gave him the coveted honor of entering the holy place with his censer. So rarely did this fall to a priest that probably he had never done it before. It was the culminating moment of his official life; and, naturally, a man so devout would be deeply moved as he passed into the sanctuary and stood there before the altar, with the table of shewbread on one side and the great candlestick on the other, and offered up, as the representative of the whole nation, the symbolic incense which spoke, as it wreathed upwards, of the aspirations and prayers attending the sacrifice. As he stands, visible to the crowd in the outer court, and supported, in the solemn solitude of the sanctuary, by the sound of their many voices in prayer, we can easily suppose that he was exalted to a specially receptive openness of mind for communication with heaven. And he sees what the people in the court do not see—though they could see him—the suddenly appearing angel, whose very position is an omen for good; for he stands by the altar, as if witnessing the acceptance of the incense of prayer: and at its right, which was the auspicious side. Of course, this appearance of the angel is a stumbling block nowadays to the people who know so much that they can pronounce on what is possible and impossible; but unless we are overmastered by prejudice, we shall not put aside a historical document simply because it recounts a supernatural appearance of a superhuman being. After all, the grounds for disbelief in the existence of angels are little more than 'I never saw one,'—which does not become any stronger by being wrapped up in philosophical language. It was as fitting that many attendant angels should hover near the cradle of their King as that they should fall into the background after the communication between earth and heaven was opened for ever through him

Verse 15 describes in broad outline the character, and verses 16 and 17 the office, of John. He is to be 'great in the sight of the Lord.' How true that prediction was, Christ's eulogium witnesses, which declared that no greater had been born of woman. Greatness, prophesied by an angel and attested by Jesus, is greatness indeed. Greatness 'in the sight of the Lord' is measured by very different standards from the world's. It does not lie in the qualities that make the hero or the thinker, the artist or the poet, but such as make the prophet and the saint. There will be a wonderful reversal of judgments one day. The true ambition is to be great after this pattern: great in dauntless witness for God, in self-suppression, in yearning toward the Christ, in pointing to Him, and in lowly contentment to fade in His slight, and decrease that He may increase. The ascetic simplicity of his life is made prominent. He was a Nazarite, devoted to God by solemn vow, and with lips unsullied by wine or strong drink. Instead of their deceitful inspiration, he was filled with the Holy Spirit, the source of all truly courage, buoyancy, and strength. These, then, are the equipments of this great athlete, who girded up his loins to run before the king's chariot,—true greatness of soul, noble suppression of the animal nature, and scorn of mere soft and silken ways and delight, and a large bestowment of Divine influence from his childhood onward. If we have the second, we shall not seek the third in vain; and if we have these two, we shall have the first, whatever the world may think of us.

The work He had to do could not be done by any man less richly gifted. It was a giant's task. It is described in words largely colored by the closing words of the Old Testament. Malachi ends his prophecy, as it were, standing on tiptoe of expectation, and directing a pointing finger onward to a coming of Jehovah, to be preceded by the mission of 'Elijah the prophet.' In like manner the New Testament ends with a gaze onward to the second coming of the Lord, and bids us stand in the same attitude of expectation. The angel's promise by its direct quotation of Malachi announces that the hour so long waited for has struck, and thrills the old priest's heart with the thought that his child is to be the Elijah of whom he had so often read, and for whose coming he and all faithful souls had so long prayed.

Certainly never was historical parallel more singularly exact than in the likeness between the fiery Tishbite, who leaps into the history without warning, a full-armed warrior for God, and John. The same concentrated energy and sternness; the same work,—to arrest the decay of faith and restore nobler life; the same undaunted courage, so that of each might be said what was said of one not unlike them in his strong character, 'Here lies one who never feared the face of man'; the same relations to rulers, so that Elijah, Ahab, and Jezebel have doubles in John, Herod the younger, and Herodias; the same asceticism; the same solitary life,—these are the salient features of likeness. But John had the higher office in that he was to 'go before His face.' We can scarcely infer from the use of 'His' here that the Divine nature of the Messiah is implied. The word does not necessarily carry more than the thought that in some way the Lord came when Messiah came. It does involve that; and that was all that Zacharias was able to receive. Elijah ran before Ahab's chariot from Carmel to Jezreel. John is the herald of a mightier King; and we know that in Him dwelt all the fulness of the Godhead, and that He is God manifest in the flesh; nay, we may go farther, and say that the Jehovah of the Old Testament is the Eternal Son, who in all ages has been the medium of Divine manifestation.

HOME READINGS.

Monday, Jan. 1.—Its source.—Eph. vi., 10.

Tuesday, Jan. 2.—Its basis.—John xvi., 23.

Wednesday, Jan. 3.—Its extent—Phil. i., 28.

Thursday, Jan. 4.—Faith courageous.—Heb. xii., 1-4.

Friday, Jan. 5.—Peter's courage.—Acts iv., 13-20.

Sunday, Jan. 6.—Elijah's courage.—1. Kings, xxi., 21-29.

Sunday, Jan. 7.—Topic: The Christian virtues. 1. Courage Ps. xxvii., 1-14. (Consecration meeting.

THE PRESENT POSITION IN CHINA.

(Chungpa, Szechwan, in 'The Church Missionary Gleaner.)

China—a land of great distances, a land of mighty plains, broad rivers and high mountains, a land of many walled cities, with narrow, busy, crowded streets, a land full of wonders, and where the unexpected is always happening! With a territory larger than Europe (for the Chinese Empire, including Manchuria, Mongolia Tibet and Eastern Turkestan, as well as the eighteen provinces of China proper, covers 4,277,170 square miles, and is greater than the continent of Europe); with a history that is reliable from before the days of Abraham; with a population beyond any other nation on earth; with the knowledge that when western nations were wild and barbarous, long, long ago, their nation was civilized and cultured, learned and powerful — needing nothing from other kingdoms — why should not the Chinese be proud of their country?

As every one knows, China is at present in a state of civil war—revolution, or rebellion against their Manchu rulers—and we who love China are looking on, wondering what will take place, and looking up, 'praying always, with all prayer and supplication,' knowing that God cares more for China than even the most earnest and devoted missionary could care, and knowing He has blessing in store for that poor distracted land.

The Manchus number about sixteen millions, in Manchuria and throughout China. The Chinese number about four hundred millions. The Manchus have ruled China since about 1644, when they were invited by the then rulers to settle some internal troubles; having settled these they then settled themselves on the throne as rulers of the country, giving themselves the style of 'the great pure dynasty.' They at that time imposed the custom of having the head partially shaven and the hair done in a long queue, as a sign of subjection to the Manchu race. Then many Chinese chose rather to lose their heads than wear the sign of subjection, and all through the two hundred and seventy years some of the 400,000,000 have been rebelling against the rule of the 16,000,000. The Chinese and Manchus have remained more or less distinct through the two and a half centuries; they have not intermarried to any extent, and have maintained certain racial differences and peculiarities.

In every provincial capital there is a separate Tartar city, with its own walls and gates. This is the headquarters of the Manchu garrison, which is supposed to keep the Chinese in order. They are all supported by the Government and known as Kiren or Bannermen. The Tartar general (who is really above the viceroy, though not interfering in the latter's government) has his yamen or court there, and represents the reigning house.

The Manchu women do not bind their feet, and the lower class Manchu women may be seen any day in the streets of such a city as Chengtu with their long robes, peculiarly dressed hair, shoes flopping at the heels as they go along, and a pipe with a long bamboo stem and brass head either in their hands or in their mouths. The Chinese and Manchus have business dealings with each other, but do not much like or trust each other.

The Chinese have a saying that 'Every fifty years there is a great rebellion, and every ten years a small rebellion.' The last great rebellion was the 'T'aiping,' or 'Peace' rebellion, which began over fifty years, and dragged on its course for nearly twenty years. The leaders of that rebellion professed to be Christians, and had Christian service in camp and for twelve years, in front of the palace of the 'Shield King' at Nanking, there was a great stone tablet, with the character fuh, or 'blessing,' on it, and over that was graven the Beautitudes from St. Matthew v. This was destroyed when the T'aipings were finally defeated and the palace taken. This present rebellion has also a professed Christian at its head and originator. It is a strange coincidence.

The present trouble has been brewing for some years, and has been quickened by the 'Four Nations Loan' in connection with the Chinese Railway through Hupeh and Szechwan. Abou five years ago, in the Province of Szechwan, a compulsory loan was obtained from the wealthy of the province for the purpose of starting the Chuanhan Railway, from Hankow to Chengtu. They were promised sure and good interest, and they subscribed. This money has been largely used on the building of premises and the creation of 'offices' for out-of-post mandarins, and those who advanced the money have not seen much of it back. And now when the real railway operations are about to begin, a fresh loan has been effected from English, Americans, German and French financiers. Strange rumors were set afloat as to the securities on which the loan was granted, people generally saying that each of the nations represented were to have some part of China, and also control of the railway. England was to have Szechwan. The revolutionary party (Keh min Dang) have taken advantage of these rumors, and the result is civil war. Popular feeling seems mainly in favor of the revolutionaries, and some of the cities that have been taken have simply 'fallen away to' the rebels, rather than fight against men with whose aims they had sympathy.

Missionaries are not in any way involved in this trouble, and both sides are taking measures to protect all foreign life and property, not wishing to become embroiled in any quarrel with foreign nations at this time. The missionaries in our Western China district seem safe, and from several cities there come stories of the neighbors protecting the mission houses from attempted attack by rowdies, who wished to rob and plunder. We do not anticipate any outbreak against the missionaries. But this time is bound to be one of great strain and anxiety and uncertainty. There are so many idle people in China, people who live by their wits, and poor people to whom a day's idleness means a day's hunger. There are many who welcome any upset or riot or disturbance as a possible source of gain. There are many who have private grudges against individual Christians irrespective of their Christian profession, and who seek opportunities to 'pay them out.' These are the kind of people from whom we may expect danger, and the earnest prayers of God's people are needed for the Christians and missionaries in China at present.

These disturbances are always the forerunners of great opportunities; it has always proved so in China. We must not lose the opportunity as it is said the Church did at the time of the Taiping rebellion. We cannot pray for one side or the other, but we can pray for all who will suffer through this rebellion, and we can believe that the outcome of this struggle will 'fall out to the furtherance of the Gospel.'

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GARDEN CITY TO ECLIPSE WESTMOUNT PLANNED FOR BACK OF MOUNT ROYAL

Canadian Northern Will Lay Out a Model Town on Plans to be Drawn Up by Mr. Frederick G. Todd.

When the work planned by the Canadian Northern Railway is completed, a model town will have risen behind Mount Royal. Ever since the railway purchased so much property between the Back River and the mountain, Montreal has been speculating as to the ultimate use of it. But a definite announcement has been made that the Canadian Northern had retained Mr. Frederick G. Todd, landscape architect, to prepare plans for a new suburb to the city on a part of the railway property. The project is of particular interest to the city since it is the first time in Canada that a large suburban area has been designed on the thoroughly scientific



MR. FREDERICK G. TODD.

and aesthetic lines of modern city planning. In addition it is a most ambitious programme for the site, which will be prepared is over twice as large as Westmount, while the whole property of the C. N. R. is nearly four times the size of that city. The southern lines of the model suburb will adjoin Outremont and the Montreal Hunt Club.

When the work is completed the C. N. R. will enter the Island of Montreal a little to the west of the C. P. R. entrance. At this point the use of steam as a motive power for its engines will end and big electric motors of the most modern type will be provided, the third rail system being adopted. Shops for the repair and construction of cars and motors and a plant for the generation of electricity will be erected near the entrance.

The line into the city will run from the Back River to the rear of Mount Royal, then, through a tunnel beneath the mountain, to its down town terminal. A suburban service similar to that of New York will be provided, so that any one may reach the centre of the city from the centre of the new suburb in from six to eight minutes. The tracks will be elevated and stations established at frequent intervals.

The location of the tunnel beneath the mountain and the site of the terminal station are as much of a mystery as ever. When the 'Witness' reporter visited the offices of the C. N. R. this morning, everyone professed complete ignorance of the details of the scheme. They were acquainted with the general plan for the development of the property.

Business men regard the plan as a magnificent one, and believe it will be a decided success. 'It ought to do much to remedy the evil of overcrowding in the city.' He recalled the words of Mr. J. Allan Baker, M.P., of London, Eng., who visited Montreal last September, that cheap fares and well developed suburbs had wrought a marvellous change in the overcrowding in some parts of that great city. 'If the railway gives a cheap fare and a rapid transit, the new city will be a genuine boon to every class of citizens.' It was simply impossible to overestimate the value of a home away from the crowding and bustle of the city, and he was confident that the new suburb would be only a financial success for its owners, but would add greatly to the general health and happiness of the citizens.

Mr. Darling, local manager of the Land Department of the railway, and Mr. Todd, have studied the property carefully and are confident that the new suburb will be the model city of Canada. Mr. Todd has made a specialty of town planning and municipal parks. He designed an area of five square miles at Point Grey, B.C.; the park and boulevard system for Edmonton, Alta.; improvements for Victoria, B.C., for the British Columbia Government; the Quebec Battlefields park; Shaughnessy Heights; Port Mann, B. C., and the location and surrounding parks for the Parliament buildings at Regina, Sask.

CHURCH UNION DISCUSSED

Monstrous that Competition Between Churches Should Exist, Says Dr. Clark

Before a small audience of members of St. Paul's Church, the pros and cons of the proposed union between the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational bodies in Canada were expounded by the Rev. Dr. W. J. Clark, of St. Andrew's Church, and the Rev. Dr. E. Scott, respectively; each speaking for half an hour. The apparent lack of interest, as shown by the attendance, was explained by the Rev. J. Bruce Taylor, the pastor of the church, who presided, as being due to insufficient notice on his part.

The Rev. Dr. Clark, the first speaker, said: Forty or fifty years ago the three bodies were very far apart; almost a spirit of enmity existing; but to-day the Presbyterian church is in many things further apart from that of fifty years ago than from the Methodist church of the present time. Through non-denominational bodies the churches are gradually growing together and have forgotten to be at enmity with each other. 'What differences, after all,' he added, 'divide us from our fellow-citizens of other churches? They, so far as their work is successful, are turning out Christian men and women. A big thing to be accomplished by union is the elimination of competition and the unpleasant features of competition. Is it not a monstrous thing that such a competition should exist? Do you not think that a larger appeal would be made by this great Christian body, agreed to set aside the things that don't really matter very much? We have grown to a higher standard than antagonism.

'Don't be led away by thinking of it as a theoretical question. Here are three bodies, so close together, and faced by tremendous issues. No man can shut his eyes to the tremendous power exerted by the Roman Catholic church, a power disproportionate to its numerical strength in the country, great as that may be. Without any unkind feelings to our fellow-citizens, we must solidify to present what, we feel, is a higher aspect of the truth than they can present. What is it we are proud of? Is it a name or a uniform? If there is anything in the teachings of Christ, it is that 'the letter killeth but the spirit giveth life.' I do not know what the union would be called if it came about, but I could think with pride of the United Church of Christ in Canada.'

Among other arguments Dr. Scott then urged against this the following: 'What I say is not in any sectarian spirit but from the conviction that our Lord and Master is not honored by insisting that his church is a divided church, or by striving for a union that will never exist so long as tastes differ, but in insisting that the church is already one and striving to promote co-operation among its various branches, through federation.

'The work by denominations gives larger results for the different denominations represent different types, so that, together, they win more men than one could do.

The proposed new church is a creedless one; a creed is not a human statement, but belief of what is to be found in the Bible. Almost every heresy and error that has crept into the church has been supported by reference to the Bible, and if the church has any professed system of doctrine the minister should be a professed teacher of that doctrine.

'There is grave danger of officialism in its government while the legal struggle likely to ensue over the property of the churches would be a terrible setback to the cause of Christ. It is a tremendous responsibility to risk so much for the sake of having a little larger denomination, and every voter in favor of union assumes that responsibility.'

At the conclusion of these addresses the meeting was thrown open for discussion.

FEW CHANCES IN TRIPOLI

Not a Land of Possibility, as Italy Had Hoped.

London, Dec. 16.—The 'Geographical Journal' for November prints an article on Tripoli by Dr. Adolf Vischer, who, referring to the trans-Saharan trade, says:

In former days, when West Africa and its rivers were unknown to Europeans, Tripoli used to be the terminus of the traffic across the Sahara. The goods which arrived from Hausaland and the Niger countries were ostrich feathers, ivory, metals, and skins and slaves. In exchange the productions of European markets were taken south. Since the middle of the last century this trade has gradually declined. First, the slave traffic was stopped by the European representatives in Tripoli and by the Turks. It has been said that slave traffic is still going on in the Benghasi-Wadai route, but it is difficult to test the truth of such assertions, as, in any case, the traffic is carried on secretly. Slaves were the most remunerative of the articles dealt with in the Trans-Saharan trade.

Then came the advent of European administration in Hausaland and the Niger countries. This, and the occupation of Tunis and Egypt by France and Great Britain, drove all independent tribes to the eastern Sahara, where they began to molest and rob the caravans. Further, the shipping facilities were increased on the Rivers Niger and Benue. The goods from Bornu and Kano were sent down to the Gulf of Guinea, whence they reach Europe in two weeks time. The new route was safer, shorter in time and less expensive than the 2,000 mile journey across the Sahara. A few figures may illustrate the decline witnessed during the last few years. The trade in ostrich feathers, valued in 1893 at £250,000, had fallen by 1905 to £12,000, while the figures for ivory are: 1890, £25,000; 1905, £1,500. The value of the goods sent to the south was £400,000 in 1894, but in 1906 only £70,000. Today it is only the route from Benghazi to Wadai which is somewhat frequented, although it is a most difficult one. But, with the coming occupation of Wadai by the French, the trade of that country will probably take a western and southern direction.

Although the Sahara has lost its importance in the world's trade, it is, and will be, crossed by numbers of pious Moslems from the Mahommedan West African countries who undertake the pilgrimage to Mecca. The Trans-Saharan trade is practically at an end, but this spiritual or intellectual communication between Tripoli and Nigeria through these pilgrims remains.

The prospects of Tripoli in the future depend solely on agriculture. The hopes of mineral wealth in the soil are based on no solid ground, on the contrary, Prof. Gregory and Mr. Pervinquiere are definitely pessimistic about mining prospects in Cyrenaica and Tripoli respectively. No doubt something could be done by an enlightened administration to increase the fertility of the soil. But much capital would be required for construction of artesian wells and irrigation works, and there is great doubt whether the sanguine hopes entertained in some quarters are likely to be realized. When I was in Tripoli last year a Frenchman obtained a concession to construct an artesian well outside the Meshia, but he abandoned the work when he had bored to a depth of 240 feet without finding any trace of water.

Some of the Roman writers speak in terms of high praise regarding the fertility of Tripoli, and many at the present day hold the opinion that the country may yet revert to its old glories under European guidance. But the prospects are less favorable when we consider the results of the careful investigation of Prof. Gregory, which lead him to the conclusion that the accounts of the ancient authors were not a little exaggerated. Then again some scientists hold that the present miserable condition of the country is due to climatic changes; further, it is obvious to the most casual observer that the migrating dunes which have been allowed to invade the Jefara are a serious hindrance to any agricultural undertaking. Within a very few minutes' walk of the southern border of the Meshia dunes can be seen rising to a height of about fifty feet.

Tripoli is known only in its broader features, and we may still class some parts of Fezan and of Cyrenaica among the unknown lands of Africa. Since 1880 a special firman has been required for any excursion extending beyond the immediate surroundings of the city of Tripoli. Considering the insecurity of some parts of the country and fearing that any accident which might happen to a traveller would cause friction with a foreign power, the Turkish authorities thought it wisest to stop travel altogether. Apart from the coast the country has never been surveyed, and the existing maps are based mainly on the route sketches of different travellers.

The correspondent of the 'Papolo Romano,' a ministerial organ, writing from Tripoli, evidently recognizes the facts as stated in the 'Geographical Journal' by Dr. Vischer. He has the common sense to disillusion his fellow countrymen as to the immediate future of their new colony, which perfervid southern writers in the early days of the war described as a land flowing with milk and honey and inhabited by a pacific and hospitable Arab population. He writes:

'I left Rome with my heart full of the rosiest illusions, which were further increased during my journey across Sicily, where a legion of fortune seekers is anxiously awaiting the moment to land in Tripoli. Well, my advice is, "Do not move from where you are." At Tripoli now and for a long time to come there is nothing to attract or encourage initiative work or small private capital.'

He then points out that the aid of the Government and of large public companies will be required to make Trip li productive. Three small Italian capitalists who travelled with him full of hope are now only waiting for the first steamer to take them back to Italy thoroughly disheartened. Of the Arabs he says: 'They are lazy, wretched, ragged, sickly, living on alms or by the humblest services,' while all the retail trade is in the hands of the Jews and Maltese, whose aim is to spend as little as possible. He concludes with the prophecy that 'at least twenty years will be required before Tripoli becomes a city able to give remunerative employment to small private capital.'

EXPLAINING HORSE-POWER.

(From the 'Railway and Locomotive Engineer.')

In connection with steamship propulsion the average man is apt to speak very glibly of so many hundred or thousand horse-power. But it is extremely doubtful if one person in a hundred really has a due appreciation of what the phrase actually means. On this point some very interesting remarks were made by John Heck, the Glasgow engineer surveyor. He said that, calculating the strength of twelve men to be equal to one horse-power, it would require 840,000 men to produce as much energy as the 70,000 horse-power developed by the turbine machinery of the express Cunarder 'Lusitania.' Then if the men were to work on the eight-hour day system those figures would give a total of 2,520,000, that being the number of men whose strength would be necessary to drive the vessel across the Atlantic Ocean. So it would take all the men in Scotland to supply the energy produced all the day round by the wonderful turbine machinery of this great ship.

THE MYSTERY OF THE EEL

Its Life a Puzzle to Naturalists For Many Centuries.

(By W. E. Meehan, Commissioner of Fisheries of Pennsylvania.)

(New York 'Sun.')

Fishermen along the Susquehanna, Juniata and upper Delaware valleys are now busily engaged in catching eels—tons of them every night. People in those regions seem to have an abnormal appetite for the serpentiform fish. Many openly defy the fishery law of New York and Pennsylvania and some will not stop at violence, even to the point of committing bloodshed, in order that that appetite may be gratified.

With the convening of each session of the Pennsylvania Legislature there is sure to be a delegation of petitioners who pray that body to give heed to their needs and enact laws that will permit the use of devices in trout streams which are admittedly destructive to fish life but which will abundantly supply them with the eels their rapacious appetities demand.

Eels are esteemed by those who catch them not only as a dainty for their own table but equally, or more so, for the revenue which they produce. It is estimated that the value of the eel industry in the Susquehanna Valley alone is about $50,000 annually of which at least half is derived from the use of eel weirs, otherwise called eel racks or fish baskets.

A fondness for eels as a food seems to be hereditary. Our remote ancestors appear to have regarded eels and their double, the lampreys, as among the greatest of all delicacies. Lampreys and peacock tongues were favorite dishes of Lucullus, who holds in history a greater reputation as a cook possibly than as a soldier and the ruler of the mighty Roman Empire.

A deep mystery surrounds the lives and habits of many familiar fishes, and the deepest of all, with few exceptions, enveloped the life history of the eel for thousands of years. Theories, rank and fantastic, curious and impossible, environed the snakelike fish, and some are still believed, and much of the mystery has not to this day been entirely cleared away by scientific men.

Aristotle, who for centuries was venerated as the greatest of scientific men, declared that eels were sexless and were produced spontaneously from 'the entrails of the sea.' Pliny agreed that the fish was without sex, but advanced a different theory of generation. He declared that a mature eel rubbed its body against a submerged rock, and the slime which was detached separated into small particles and became imbued with life.

Now-a-days with a sense of superior knowledge people smile over the fantastic theories of Aristotle, Pliny and many other scholars of later date, but what they proclaimed was scarcely more grotesque or absurd than a belief widely current to-day, that eels are developed from hairs of horses.

Some 1,200 years after the death of Pliny scientific men began to assert that eels do possess sex, but they held that the young were born alive from the female. A careful search for verification followed which lasted for nearly a century before the sex theory was demonstrated. It was just a year after the Declaration of Independence that Mondini, a distinguished Italian naturalist, discovered a female eel, and demonstrated clearly that the eggs were deposited and the young hatched in the same way as those of other fishes.

The male eel was not identified until 1873. Before that time and after Mondini's discovery the lamprey, which, by the way, is not a true fish, was generally believed to be the male of the eel, and even at the present time there are many intelligent persons who still maintain this idea.

There remains much to be learned of the life history of the eel, but what is known is of deep interest. Some of the facts are almost as astonishing as the theories held by our forebears.

The common eel is a fresh water fish which for some undiscovered reason requires salt water in which to spawn. In this particular it is the reverse of the shad, for that delicious food fish belongs in salt water but must when spawning time comes make its way into fresh water. It is because of this spawning requirement that eels are rarely found in the Allegheny River. The headwaters of that stream are too far from the Gulf of Mexico for the fish to make a trip down and up within twelve months.

The great journey to the sea begins about the middle of August. From every pond and mountain lake, from every stream, brook or waterway, eels swam into the principal rivers and make their sinuous way southward by millions, all with one common purpose, to reach the mud banks in the shallows of the bay, there to spawn.

Some of the vast aggregation do not go and the question may well be asked, Why? The answer is apparently simple. The stay at homes are believed to be barren, or have not reached the spawning age and therefore are without the instinct and impulse to turn seaward. While this theory has not been definitely proved, it is plausible.

Only capture or death can prevent the eel, having once started seaward, from continuing its journey and fulfilling its mission. Nothing could more forcibly illustrate the truth of the great doctrine enunciated by the late Thomas Meehan before the American Association for the Advancement of Science, that 'self-sacrifice plays as great and important a part in nature as the "struggle for existence," for at the end of the journey death awaits the majority.

The eggs of the eel, which are very minute, do not develop until brackish water is reached; then ripening begins, and it is completed within a few weeks. It is because the ova are immature and also very minute while the fish are in fresh water that the secret of sex was so long concealed from scientific men as well as laymen. Not even the enormous number of eggs which every female possesses, and it runs into the millions, gave assistance to their detection.

Often fishermen are aware of habits unsuspected by scientific men who make a study of ichthyology, and one phase of eel life affords a good example of this. The general impression among scientific men is that all eels die after spawning. This statement was made before an association of the most eminent fish culturists and ichthyologists in the country only three years ago by a man who had made a special study of the eel, and he was amazed when his statement was controverted by a fish culturist from Pennsylvania.

While many river fishermen know nothing of the spawning habits of the eel and numbers of them believe absurd stories concerning it, all know from actual experience that every spring there is a run of mature eels up stream, a run of huge dimensions, and they catch them by setting their down instead of up stream. Thus while a large proportion of eels may and doubtless do die, a goodly number survive.

The progress of the fish from the sea to the haunts they left the summer before is as persistent as that on their way to salt water. If they come to a dam, a waterfall or anything in a river or stream which they cannot surmount they do not hesitate to leave the water on a dark rainy night and take to land, wriggle around the obstruction and continue their journey up stream.

It is declared that if when on land they meet with food they will seize and eat it. One careful investigator says that he has seen eels crawling across a plot of short wet grass stop, seize and swallow earthworms.

The eel is a carnivorous fish and to some extent a scavenger, and while classed among the slower moving fishes it has acquired much skill and exercises great ingenuity in pursuing and capturing its prey. Not even the lightninglike moving trout and pickerel can always be sure of escape.

The eel also shares with most other fishes a great fondness for fish spawn. Heartbreaking tales are related by men who want destructive devices permitted of the destruction eels wreak in this particular, and they invariably conclude by arguing that although the baskets and outlines and sundry other forbidden fishing devices may catch other fish also they should be permitted so as to exterminate the eel. But the eel, like other creatures that have a bad name, is less black than it is painted.

Two other characteristics of the eel are not generally known, and they are very interesting. One is that it, in common with other fishes, has scales. This statement is likely to be received with incredulity by the vast majority of those familiar with the slimy, serpentlike fish who have had frequent and abundant evidence of its superlative knowledge of intricate knot tying in fishing lines; but it is nevertheless a short statement of a scientific fact. The scales are microscopic and imbedded in a thick, mucous skin and invisible to the naked eye.

A second characteristic not universally known is the presence of an active poison in the blood of the eel, a poison sufficiently virulent, it is said, to prove mortal to a human being inoculated with it. Fortunately the poison is not serious harmful if taken into the stomach and it entirely disappears when subjected to heat; consequently the publication of this peculiar feature of an eel's makeup need not lead a person who enjoys its flesh to deny himself his favorite dish.

As a concluding note it might be stated of this fish, which has given so much trouble to scientific men, and also to unscientific men and boys who have had their lines helplessly tangled while fishing, that the stay at home eels do not disport themselves in the water throughout the winter, but with the coming of cold weather bury themselves in the mud, where they sleep comfortably until spring.

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EGYPT

(Abridged from the 'Round Table.' London.)

No country occupies a stranger position in international politics than Egypt. Its present system of government is the result of a long and complicated history. There is hardly one of its most familiar features which can be understood without some knowledge of the past. The Egyptian army, for example, is drilled by British officers in the Turkish language, a tongue spoken neither by officers nor men. The official language of the departments of government is French. Its native ruler bears a title, that of Khedive, unknown elsewhere, and so on through a hundred details. The history of modern Egypt begins with its conquest by Napoleon. He first, with his unrivalled eye for large strategic possibilities, recognized the importance of its geographical position, and made it the basis of his grandiose plan for taking Europe in flank by the conquest of Asia. When British arms had expelled the French, Egypt reverted to its position as a province of the Turkish Empire. But the man who succeeded in establishing himself as the Viceroy of the province was no ordinary Turkish official. Mehemet Ali, once a tobacco-seller in Albania, was determined to make himself a second Napoleon. It was his army that held Greece for Turkey, till his fleet was shattered at Navarino. Then he turned his attention to the establishment of an African Empire by the conquest of the Soudan. Next he wrested Syria from his over-lord, and, but for British interference, would have made himself master of Constantinople and the whole Turkish Empire. He established his dynasty in Egypt and changed the whole character of the country by introducing the new system of irrigation, and making possible the cultivation of sugar and cotton.

Twenty years after Mehemet Ali's death, his descendant and successor Ismail, who inherited his far-reaching imagination without his executive capacity, took up his schemes. In every direction he launched out into reckless extravagance. By heavy bribes he obtained firmans from the Sultan conferring on him the litle of Khedive, and making it hereditary according to the rule of primogeniture, a custom nearly unknown in the East. Province after province was added to the Egyptian possessions in the Soudan. The consequences of his recklessness and maladministration are well-known. They led to Mahdism in the Soudan, to bankruptcy and the revolt of Arabi in Egypt. Scarcely ever had the Egyptian peasant in all his thousands of years of slavery reached such a pitch of oppression as he endured during the reign of Ismail. To him, whatever may have been the feelings of the governing classes, the British occupation which followed the defeat of Arabi was the dawn of unhoped for happiness and prosperity. The British occupation of Egypt appears to the student of history an inevitable development. We had found it necessary to expel Napoleon at the beginning of the nineteenth century. In the thirties Kinglake had written that 'the Englishman, reaching far over to his loved India, will sit in the seats of the faithful,' and many travellers and writers had confidently foretold it. Yet when it came, it was, as it were, forced upon us, and it was only after the greatest possible efforts to avoid it that our government finally took up the task.

Egypt, whilst occupied and administered by Great Britain, remains nominally a province of Turkey. And this is not merely a theatrical distinction, as it might be, for instance in the case of Manchuria. In the Turkish Empire the high and mighty Mohammedans had thought it beneath their dignity to trouble about the Christian strangers within their gates and their paltry affairs, and had granted to the different European nations the right of managing their own affairs in questions of law and justice. The treaties by which these privileges were granted, known as the Capitulations, remain in force in all parts of Turkey, and, what was once little but the expression of contemptuous indifference for dogs foredoomed to destruction, has grown into the much prized privilege of exemption from the laws of the land. In Egypt the establishment of the mixed (or international) tribunals has solved to some extent the difficulties of the legal relations between subjects and non-subjects of Turkey so far as civil questions are concerned. But the code is, of course, somewhat antiquated now, and no alteration can be made without the consent of all the sixteen powers who contributed to set it up. While all foreigners accused of any criminal offence are tried by their own consular courts, it follows that no offence against the laws of Egypt is an offence when committed by a foreigner, unless it is recognized as such by the consular court of the country to which he belongs. As foreigners form, not the most numerous, but far the most active and enterprizing portion of the Egyptian community, the obstacles thus created in the way of administration may be imagined.

In theory the government of Egypt is in the hands of the Khedive, who is a limited despot. He chooses his ministers, and legislates by means of decree. The sovereign power of the Khedive is limited externally by the suzerainty of Turkey. In practice, however, the Khedive's authority belongs to the British Agent. Each of the principal departments of state, Finance, Public Works, Interior, Justice and Education has attached to it an adviser. These five are the fingers of the hand which the British Agent lays upon the administration of Egypt. There is no adviser in the War Office, but the Commander-in-Chief is, of course, an Englishman.

Just as in the army the majority of the principal officers are Englishmen, so in the Civil Service, many, but not all, of the pivot-posts are held by Englishmen, and among the more subordinate officials there is also a sprinkling of Englishmen training on for more responsible positions. Thus the whole fabric of administration is stiffened, but in many varying degrees in different departments, by the British element. But except in the case of the advisers, no rule is laid down in practice or theory, as to what the amount of stiffening shall be, or what particular posts shall be held by Englishmen.

The first stage in an experiment was the appointment of a new ministry under Boutros Pasha. Many of the new ministers were decidedly nationalist in politics. The Advisers were told that they must treat the opinions of their ministers with more respect, and not merely give them orders in the form of advice. A new Adviser to the Interior was appointed who had the reputation of being more Egyptian than the Egyptians. Some excellent schemes for the formation of municipalities, and provincial councils with some limited but direct powers of administration, which had been long in contemplation were pushed on. High posts in the Civil Service began to be given to natives in succession to Englishmen.

That the experiment was made in no half-hearted fashion is proved by two very salient examples. They are the affair of the Suez Canal Convention, and the affair of the Cotton worm.

The story of the Suez Canal Convention is not quite fully known in some of its details. Some three years ago, Mr. Harvey, the Financial Adviser, had his attention directed to the Suez Canal Company, whose concession comes to an end in about 1968. The year 1908 would seem to be full early to negotiate the renewal of a concession which had still so long to run. Mr. Harvey was fortunate enough to arrive at a settlement. In return for an extension of its privileges for another forty years beyond 1968, the company was to pay over to Egypt a sum of £4,000,000 during the next few years, and concede a certain share in the profits. The terms were certainly fully as favorable as Egypt could have expected to obtain. It is not easy to reckon the value of the canal sixty years hence, but to pay four millions down (which even at 5 percent interest is equal to thirty-two millions fifty-six years hence) for a problematical future must be a speculative venture. Even if the conditions of transportation remain the same, Egypt might not be in a position at that date to fulfil its pledges. But such considerations had no weight with the leaders of Nationalist opinion. As soon as the fact of the convention began to be known a terrific clamor arose in the Nationalist press; the English were selling the future of Egypt to their own profit; the destinies of the country were being mortgaged by the alien oppressor, and the Suez Canal Convention became a sort of Shibboleth about which argument was impossible. Meantime it had been announced that the convention would be submitted to the General Assembly; and that the government would be prepared to abide by its decision.

When the debate came on the arguments of those who opposed were ludicrous in the extreme, but they carried the day, and the convention was rejected with practical unanimity. All Egypt, with the exception, perhaps, of the Financial Adviser, laughed merrily.

They did not conceive in the possibility of its rejection. No harm has been done; the Financial Adviser need not even grieve over the loss of the few millions. Last year Egypt had a realized surplus of about £1,500,000, and she can never have any real difficulty in finding money for useful and remunerative public works. Meantime the authorities have been taught a lesson as to the character of the Egyptian and his capacity for intelligent self-government, which will stand them in good stead in the future.

The second notable experiment was the Affair of the Cotton worm. The cotton worm is the caterpillar of a moth which at certain times in the summer lays its eggs in great numbers on the leaves of the young cotton plant. If these eggs are allowed to hatch the worms do the greatest possible damage to the plant. Experience has shown that the best way to combat the pest is to pick off the leaves on which the eggs have been laid and destroy them. This picking is done by children, and it had been usual for the business to be organized in the provinces by British inspectors under the Ministry of the Interior. Under the new regime it seems to have been thought that the campaign against the worm might properly be left in Egyptian hands. It was argued that surely in a matter so nearly touching their own pockets the natives could be trusted to repeat a lesson already rehearsed. So the English inspectors were withdrawn, but the Egyptians left to themselves failed to cope with his simple problem of organization. The cotton worm flourished and multiplied exceedingly. Great was the damage, and loud was the outcry of the afflicted land owner. Politics were all very well in their place, but that the sacred cotton crop should be sacrificed to political ideals was really too bad, and quite outside the calculations of the intelligent patriot.

It was, of course, expected (and indeed openly acknowledged) that the new policy, of which the two experiments mentioned were not isolated instances, would lead to some sacrifice of efficiency. It is exceedingly difficult in Egypt to lay hands on efficient native administrators; if you run through the names of efficient ministers in the past, they are practically certain to be of Turkish, Syrian or Armenian origin. It is one thing to educate the Egyptian, it is another to endow him with the character demanded of the successful administrator. Still a temporary loss of efficiency would have been a small price to pay for the discovery of even a dawning capacity for self-government. The existence of the Nationalist party, so far as it was genuine, was in itself a sign of progress. No foreign power can permanently and successfully administer a people's affairs, if that people are not only willing but also able to do so themselves. Unfortunately, instead of being grateful for the concessions made, the average Egyptian chose to interpret them as signs that the British Protectorate was to be withdrawn. In the country districts crimes and outrages increased; brigands began to reappear. Finally these disorders culminated in the assassination of Boutros, the Coptic Prime Minister, by a fanatical Nationalist.

Even before the assassination of Boutros it had become perfectly clear that the new policy was a failure. The signs of the weather began to point to a veering of the political wind, and the Egyptian, always eager to be on the winning side, was quick to shape his conduct accordingly. The final execution of the assassin Wardani, and the prosecution of the new Nationalist leader Farid for a seditious publication, followed by his conviction and sentence to a term of imprisonment (confirmed on appeal), have further cooled the blood of the more ardent. Above all, in 1910-11 Egypt had a bumper cotton crop.

Beyond a doubt these years have been a severe test of quality for the British officials in Egypt.

It must not be forgotten that for half the year Egypt is a tropical country. The fierce continual sunshine saps the nerve and the energy even of the native born. Without the strong stimulus of pride and joy in their work it is hard for even the best and hardest of workers to continue at pressure during the cruel summer months. But the necessities of government take no heed of climate. The mill must grind continuously, or there will be waste of power. If the European driving-wheels lose their energy, the whole country will suffer. There is no other source of strength. The Egyptian native has a talent for business-like procrastination founded on the most reasonable arguments, and a genius for the avoidance of any decisive action and responsibility. Further, the administration of Egypt is no longer in the pioneer stage. It was the glory of the pioneers that they successfully attempted the impossible on a great scale. To-day the glory is less, but the difficulties are the same in principle, if less romantic in appearance. Now, as ever, the task of raising a sound building with bad material and worse tools demands a full measure of ability and patriotism.

It needs more than a casual knowledge of Egypt to realize how creditably the fibre of our fellow-countrymen has stood the strain.

First, Egypt cannot be independent. Leaving out every other consideration, Egypt depends upon the Nile literally for her very existence; she must, therefore, hold the Soudan securely. Whoever holds the Soudan holds Egypt, for the simple reason that a single dam thrown across the Nile at the right time and in the right place would be the ruin of all the country north of Assouan. But not even the greatest enthusiast for Egypt can maintain for a moment that she is able by herself to hold the Soudan. The attempt would mean relapse to barbarism in the one country and ruin for the other. Therefore Egypt for the Egyptians is impossible. Either we continue to hold the Soudan ourselves and therefore Egypt too, or else some other great power must do so, which we could not permit.

Secondly, no other great Power can be permitted to hold Egypt as long as we are to have any position in the Mediterranean at all. We cannot allow any possible enemy to seat themselves astride of our communications to the East and Australia.

The third and only other possible solution is that Egypt should revert to her position as a province of Turkey, and no doubt to many Turks this would seem a very natural and desirable development; the possession of this rich and docile province might well appear an agreeable contrast to the constant effort to control the hardy mountaineers of Albania, or the undisciplined Arabs of the Yemen, who even when subdued can bring no profit to the victor. But, whatever may be the future developments of Turkey as a civilized power and however great the rate of her progress, she has too many problems on her hands to make it possible for her to contemplate the administration of a vast African empire within twenty, thirty, or even forty years.

Once we were secure from alarms of evacuation for at least a term of years, it would be possible to pursue a continuous policy, the Egyptians would settle down content to be relieved from the difficulty of discerning who their master was to be.

Experience has shown that for the present at least it is hopeless for the Egyptian to try and stand alone. In any case the plant of self-government is a slow-growing tree. No greater cruelty could be inflicted upon the mass of the people, and no greater blow to their interests, than the withdrawal of the strong guiding hand.

ONE-SEVENTH OF THE WORLD GOES TO MECCA.

('Harper's Magazine.')

Although one of the most inaccessible cities on earth Mecca each year has visitors in such number that it must be ranked in this particular with London and New York. Even the world's metropolis on the Thames can boast no such cosmopolitan character as is imparted to this mysterious city in the wilderness of Arabia by the myriads of pilgrims, who at the cost of incredible pains annually crowd into its confines.

This city is the oldest place of resort in existence, yet of all the millions who have visited it not a score of Christians are known to have come out alive. No flag of citizenship would save a man's life were he known to be a Christian within the sacred precincts of the city, where the Prophet himself decreed that no unbeliever should set foot.

Of the two-hundred and twenty-five million Moslems in the world only fifteen million five hundred thousand live under the Turkish flag, yet most of them acknowledge the Sultan of Turkey as their caliph, the successor of the Prophet. As Mohammed shrewdly foresaw, the Mecca pilgrimage binds together his disciples into a unity which could be effected in no other way.

'Mecca,' says Dr. Samuel M. Zwemer, of Arabia, 'has become the religious capital and the centre of universal pilgrimage for one-seventh of the human race.'

A RESOURCEFUL PEELER.

A New York paper says.—Chicago has a policeman whose knowledge of human nature ought to make him the envy of the shrewdest politician. Upon being assigned the duty of getting the audience out of a crowded theatre, in the rear of which a fire was raging, he climbed upon the stage, raised his hand for silence, and delivered the following address:—'Ladies and gentlemen, if you want to see one of the greatest fires in years go outside and look to the south, half a mile away. Take it easy as you go out. Don't break up the furniture, because the management says you can come back when you've seen enough of the fire, and you'll want to use your seats again.' Moving pictures lost their attractivenss, and as rapidly as it could well manage it, the throng worked its way to the street. But the officer's task was not completed. Some two dozen individuals, for whom a conflagration had little interest, remained in the theatre. To them, as soon as the rest were out of hearing he gave, not an invitation, but a command and a warning: 'Say, you fellows, beat it. There's a big fire in the barn back of this place, and you'll all be burned to death if you stay a minute longer.' Rhetoric-makers will look long for a better set of examples of the adaptation of style to varying kinds of audiences.

PUBLIC NOTICE

is hereby given that PAUL ANTONIO DECARY, law student, of the City and District of Montreal, will apply to the Legislature of the Province of Quebec, at its next session for the granting of a bill authorizing the Bar of the said Province to admit the said PAUL ANTONIO DECARY as a member of said Bar after examination.

Montreal, November 18th, 1911.

ALPHONSE DECARY,
Solicitor for Applicant.

NOTICE

is hereby given that an application will be made by the Laprairie Brick Company, Limited, a body politic and corporate, having its principal office in the City of Montreal, to the Legislature of the Province of Quebec, at its next session, to obtain a law permitting it to construct, operate and maintain a railroad operated by steam, electricity or other as advantageous power, from a point situated on the bank of the River St. Lawrence, on or near the Common of Laprairie de la Magdeleine, and thence running in a south-westerly direction on the Common of Laprairie de la Magdeleine, and attaining the main line of the Grand Trunk Railroad of Canada, known under the name of the "line running to St. John, P.Q." in the County of Laprairie, with the right to construct, operate and maintain branches for the purpose of uniting the principal line of the company with the railroads passing through the county of Laprairie; to obtain the confirmation of a deed of sale passed on March 14th, 1911, by the Syndics of the Common of Laprairie de la Magdeleine to the Company, before F. C. Larose, notary public, bearing the number 5537 of the minutes of the said Notary; to obtain the confirmation of an option granted by the Syndics of the Common of Laprairie de la Magdeleine, on February 20th, 1911, for a certain strip of land situated in the Common of Laprairie de la Magdeleine, being four arpents wide and twenty-five arpents deep, and bounded as follows: stretching at one end towards the northwest to the little St. James river, and at the other end, on one side towards the south-west to an unsubdivided part of the Common of Laprairie de la Magdeleine, and on the other side, towards the north-east, to a piece of land sold on the 20th of February, 1911, by the President and the Syndics of the Common of Laprairie de la Magdeleine to the Laprairie Brick Company, Limited; and to authorize the said Company to exercise all the powers incident to these said objects and otherwise.

Montreal, November 22nd, 1911.

The Laprairie Brick Company, Limited,
Per FRED. WESTBROOK,
Secretary.

NOTICE

is hereby given that Dame Beatrice Mae Stinson, of the City of Montreal, in the District of Montreal, in the Province of Quebec, married woman, will apply to the Parliament of Canada, at the next session thereof, for a Bill of Divorce, from her husband, Frederick Henry Fotheringham, Commercial Traveller, residing in the City of Montreal, Province of Quebec, on the ground of adultery.

Dated at the City of Montreal, in the Province of Quebec, the sixteenth day of November, 1911.

McLennan, Howard & Aylmer,
Attorneys for the Applicant.

NOTICE

is hereby given that the Association of Opticians of the Province of Quebec will apply to the Legislature of the Province of Quebec at its next session for the purpose of having a law passed amending its charter so as to obtain additional and more ample powers, enabling the Association to accomplish more effectively the object of its incorporation, namely the power of suing before Judges of Peace; of imposing imprisonment in default of payment; of regulating advertisements regarding optometrics, and to render optical courses compulsory, etc.

Montreal, November 22nd, 1911.

BESSETTE & DUTAUD,
Attorneys for Applicant.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

is hereby given that the Ladies of The Protestant Orphan Asylum of the City of Montreal will apply at the next Session of the Legislature of the Province of Quebec for an Act to amend or repeal its' existing Charter, in whole or in part, and, if deemed requisite, to re-incorporate the said Corporation, with power in any case, amongst other things, to maintain and carry on one or more Asylums, with all needed dependencies, for the care of orphans and convalescent children of the Protestant persuasion; and for such purposes, to acquire and hold, by all legal means, property, movable and immovable, personal and real, and any other assets, and the same to alienate in lawful manner, and to acquire other in replacement thereof; and any and all such property to pledge and hypothecate; To borrow all needful funds, and to issue Bonds or Debentures from time to time as occasion may require; To make all by-laws and regulations for the management and government of the Asylum, and the same to amend or repeal; To fix and determine what shall be the governing body of the Asylum, and any rights or privileges of such person or persons as shall contribute to the funds or property of the Asylum, and any rights or privileges of such persons as may have heretofore contributed thereto; And, generally, for the granting of all such powers as may be necessary to maintain and carry on such Asylum or Asylums and dependencies.

Montreal, 9th December, 1911.

JOHN H. DUNLOP,
Solicitor for Applicants.

PUBLIC NOTICE

is hereby given that the Town of Dorval will apply to the Legislature of this province, at its next session, to obtain amendments to its charter of incorporation, to have it governed in future by the Cities and Towns' Act; to annex to it the territory of the Town of Summerlea; to obtain the authorization to borrow the sums necessary for the installation of waterworks, sewer, electric light and other amelioration; to determine the qualification of the members of its Council, and for other purposes.

Montreal, December 11th, 1911.

ALPHONSE DECARY,
Attorney for the Town of Dorval.

Province of Quebec,
District of Montreal.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT.

No. 2429.

DAME JOSEPHINE LeFEBVRE, of the Town of Pointe-Claire, District of Montreal, wife common as to property of Joseph Zephirin Mitchell, Contractor, of the same place, duly authorized a ester en justice, Plaintiff,

VS.

The said JOSEPH ZEPHIRIN MITCHELL, Defendant.

An action in separation as to property has been taken in this case on the 23th day of November, 1911.

Montreal, November 29th, 1911.

PELLETIER & PELLETIER,
Attorneys for Plaintiff.

NOTICE

is hereby given that the City of Lachine will apply to the Legislature of the Province of Quebec, at its next session, for an Act amending its Charter for the following purposes: To annex to its territory the [illegible] of Saintes Anges de Lachine, situate on the north side of Lachine Canal; to be authorized: to take charge of roads under the control of the Montreal Turnpike Trust, situate in the city limits; to extend its water-works in the Parish of Saintes Anges de Lachine, for the purpose of supplying inhabitants therein with water; to appropriate any immovable property required for the construction of a town hall, and to spend $60,000.00 on the building and land required for that purpose; to grant an indemnity to the members of the council for their services as such; to raise the amount of the deposit required from candidates at municipal elections; to change polling-hours; to define taxable property more clearly, and for other purposes.

Lachine, 9th December, 1911.

A. S. PELLETIER,
Attorney for the City of Lachine.

NOTICE

is hereby given that Messieurs Ovila Romuald Marsolais, physician of the City and District of Montreal, Philippe Henri Lesage, physician of the Town of Longueuil, and Jean Girouard, physician and Legislative Councillor, also of the Town of Longueuil, will present a bill at the next session of the Quebec Legislature for the purpose of obtaining from the Provincial Legislature a confirmation and ratification of a deed of sale made before J. S. U. Dupras, Notary of Longueuil, on the 25th of August, 1911, by M. Joseph Charron, fils George, farmer of the Parish of St. Antoine de Longueuil, District of Montreal, to the said Messrs. O. R. Marsolais, H. P. Lesage, and Jean Girouard.

The property sold by the deed of sale referred to is described as follows:—

(1c.) 'A lot of land situate in the Parish of St. Antoine de Longueuil, in St. Marguerite Isle or Ile Dufort, in the St. Lawrence River, and known under No. 279 upon the official plan and book of reference of the said Parish of St. Antoine de Longueuil, in the County of Chambly, bounded in front by the River St. Lawrence, in depth and on one side by the lot official No. 278, and on the other side by official Nos. 280, 281 and dependencies.

(2c.) A lot of land situate in the same locality, comprising the southwest half of lot known and described under No. 278 upon the official plan and book of reference above referred to.

(3c.) A lot of land situate in the same locality and known under No. 280 on the official plan and book of reference above referred to, bounded in front by the River St. Lawrence, in depth and on one side by lot official No. 281, and on the other side by lot official No. 279 and dependencies.

(4c.) A lot of land situate in the Parish of St. Antoine de Longueuil, in St. Marguerite Isle or Isle Dufort, in the St. Lawrence River and known and described under No. 281 upon the official plan and book of reference of the Parish of St. Antoine de Longueuil, in the County de Chambly, bounded on the southeast and on the northwest, by the St. Lawrence River, on the northeast by official Nos. 278, 279 and 280, with the buildings thereon erected.'

The said property and lots of land were donated to Ernest Charron by Dame Aurelie Quintin dit Dubois, widow of Damase Charron by notarial deed of the 27th of April, 1900, made before J. S. U. Dupras, N.P., with the restriction put upon him by the deed that he could not sell or hypothecate the said property but could donate it inter vivos or by will, but only to persons of his family. If the donee, the said Ernest Charron, did not dispose of the said immovables by donation or by will, in the manner mentioned in the said deed, said immovables at his death would go to his heirs.

The purchasers of said property, Messrs. O. R. Marsolais, P. H. Lesage, and Jean Girouard, will apply for power and the necessary authorization to take over said properties and purchase them free and clear of the prohibition to alienate so as to become absolute owners. Ernest Charron transferred the properties to Joseph Charron, fils George, his cousin, and the latter has sold to Messrs. Marsolais, Lesage and Girouard, above described.

Montreal, December 6th, 1911.

WALSH & WALSH,
Attorneys for the said A. R. Marsolais, P. H. Lesage, and Jean Girouard.

NOTICE

is hereby given that The Montreal Society for the Protection of Women and Children, an organization and a Society existing in Montreal for the Protection of Women and Children, incorporated under the Provisions of Chapter 71, of the Consolidated Statutes of Canada, entitled "An Act respecting Charitable, Philanthropic and Provident Association," as amended by the Act of the Legislature of Quebec, "45 Vic., Chap. 37," will apply to the Legislature of Quebec, at its next session to obtain further powers, the following powers, and others, namely:—The power to take children from parents or guardians who refuse to provide for them, or habitually neglect them, and to place such children in adoption so that they may be educated and be properly brought up, the said Society to have the legal tutorship over said children and over such children as are helpless and unprotected, and who have no proper guardianship. The undersigned applicant will apply for adoption laws for the protection of certain children under certain conditions, and for power, upon being authorized by the Judge, to collect wages from an employer due to an employee who squanders his money by drinking, or otherwise, thereby leaving his family in want, and to give the same to his wife, or apply the same for the benefit of his wife and family.

For powers to visit foster-homes, where children are kept so as to better their condition; for powers to open branches of the Society throughout the Province, and the applicant will also ask that its name be changed to that of "The Society for the Protection of Women and Children"; for power to collect and accept money to provide a home for abandoned children, and such children as the said Society deems it necessary to protect, and to acquire and possess immovable property to the extent of $50,000, and hypothecate and alienate the same, and to acquire movable property also.

The applicant, by its Bill, will ask that any action taken against the said Society shall be stayed until security for the costs to be incurred shall have been given, and that no member of the said Society will be held personally liable for any debt of the Society, and that such other powers be granted it, as may be required to carry on the objects of the said Society.

WALSH & WALSH,
Attorneys for the Montreal Society for the

PERSIAN SUPERSTITIONS.

The Unlucky Sneeze—Machines For Converting People to Christianity.

No nation and few individuals are entirely free from superstition of some kind, but in Persia this feeling extends to all classes of society and governs all the actions of daily life to an extent unknown in Western lands.

The well known superstition that to sneeze once is a bad omen seriously interferes wiith many of the duties and pleasures of the Persian. When he is so unfortunate as to sneeze once he quickly says: 'Sabr amad' (a time for waiting has come), and for at least two hours thereafter he cannot be persuaded to take medicine, start on a journey, or begin any new or important work. A missionary surgeon who has more than once had to postpone an operation because he or the patient sneezed once, says: 'I have now become an adept at producing double sneezes.'

A patient on consulting a doctor invariably asks if he shall eat hot or cold food. The words 'hot' and 'cold' as he uses them do not, however, refer to the temperature, but rather to kinds of food. The distinction between these, moreover, is sometimes so fine as to be quite incomprehensible to the Western mind, as, for instance, when they call a hen hot and a rooster cold, or vice versa, I'm not sure which.

The superstition of thirteen seems to be worldwide. In Persia it is so strong that in counting it is customary to say: 'Eleven, twelve, not thirteen,' etc.

Another of their superstitions relates to bread. They think it a bad omen to destroy a piece of bread, though they would not think it so to destroy anything else that they did not need or want. Again, it is unlucky to cut bread; they always tear it into pieces. When I have asked them why they have this feeling in regard to bread the answer has invariably been:—'Bread is the gift of God.'

On one day in early spring everybody must go outside the city gates 'to carry away the bad luck of the year.' A piece of white muslin to be used as a shroud must never be folded, but is carried from the bazaar crumpled up in the hands. The wearing of amulets and charms is universal. For this purpose nothing is thought quite so efficacious as the Koran. This is printed in very small type on circular paper about two inches in diameter and bound in leather cases, which is worn on the arm.

Written prayers are often sewed up in cases of leather or beads or silk and worn about the neck. The most approved way of using written prayers, however, is to put the paper in water, and after the ink has faded from the paper, to drink the water.

It is easy at this distance of time and space to write somewhat lightly on this subject, but I remember, writes Mary A. C. Colquhoun in the Los Angeles 'Times,' that my feelings were very different when some poor, disheartened woman asked me to write for her a prayer that her husband might love her, that he might not take another wife, that God would give her a son so that she might retain her husband's favor, or that her sick baby might be restored to health.

There are few rivers in Persia, and not many of these are bridged. Years ago a wealthy woman built a bridge over a stream near the capital city, and then, thinking that this should have been done by the Shah, she pronounced a curse upon any king who should ever cross the bridge. It is said that no Persian ruler has ever had the hardihood to venture upon it, and I do not suppose there is money enough in the kingdom to hire one to do so.

One is thought to be very lucky to be the bearer of good news and equally unlucky to be obliged to be the bearer of evil tidings. Indeed there is such a prejudice against telling bad news that it is always concealed as long as possible from those most interested.

In the early days of missions in Persia the people were naturally suspicious of the missionaries and were constantly on the lookout for something in their houses which would exert a baleful influence upon native visitors. A Persian lady calling one day on an American missionary lady wished to sit in a rocking chair, which was something she had never seen before. She got up into it with her feet and attempted to squat upon her heels, as she would have done upon the floor, with the result that she and the chair both took a tumble backward. Hence there went abroad a report that the missionaries kept in their houses a machine for converting people to Christianity.

The great superstition is what is known as the 'evil eye.' You must not say to some one whom you meet: 'How well you are looking!' For if you do, and that person is taken ill, it will be because you gave him the evil eye. You must not say to a mother: 'What a pretty baby!' 'What a bright child!' For if you do, and anything unfortunate happens to that child, you will be considered responsible. Many mothers le their children go dirty nd poorly clothed in order that they may not attract favorable attention.

The sign which is thought to have some power to avert the evil eye consists in holding the second and third fingers of both hands close to the palms with the thumbs, while the other fingers are extended straight out. Then, with the hands behind you, you make a downward movement three times.

Fortune tellers do a big business in Persia. Some read the palm; others read the stars; still others consult the Koran, for so firmly is superstition mixed even with their religion that 'suras' or passages from their sacred book are marked 'lucky' or 'unlucky.' Should a Persian be in doubt as to the advisability of starting on a journey or undertaking any enterprise he might visit a fortune teller and ask him to consult the Koran. Should he, opening the book at random, chance upon a sura marked 'unlucky' it would be a divine indication that the project must be abandoned.

Did not our ancestors consult the Bible in much the same way? For them the indications were not quite so certain, for the translators of our Scriptures failed to mark passages for the purpose of fortune telling, but the spirit was the same.

Charms and love potions are commonly resorted to. There is a story told of one man who did not believe in love potions. In order to prove to several friends that there was nothing in it he bribed the maid of a prominent, wealthy married woman to give her mistress a potion which was designed to make her fall in love gith him. A few hours afterward the servant of this lady appeared at his house, saying: 'My mistress wishes to see you.' Whereupon the man became frightened and fled.

AUSTRALIA, LAND OF PROMISE.

Prosperity. Lord Dudley Found There General

Lord Dudley, who has arrived at his Worcestershire seat, Witley Court, from Australia, where he has filled the office of Governor-General for three years, said that he thought very few people realize how extraordinarily prosperous Australia is. Its possibilities seemed to be boundless. Practically everything could be grown there.

Nothing was so remarkable to an Englishman as the general appearance of 'well-to-do-dom' of everything in Australia. Everybody seemed to be well dressed, and one never saw any signs of great poverty of people who found life a great struggle, as at home. The standard of comfort a material wealth of the people was much greater than in England. The two things that Australia wanted, to his mind, were people and development of the railways.

Lately the much abused rabbit had been largely exported. On some country districts in Australia there had been a very considerable shortage of labor owing to the amount of money that could be made trapping rabbits.

He had had a great deal to do with the military side of Australian life, which was very interesting. They had just adopted a scheme of universal training, but he did not believe that, even if they trained their cadets fairly well, sixteen days' training in a year ware sufficient to get very good results for a national army, even if it were a citizen army. He thought that in course of time they would have to increase their length of training, but that they were right to go slow.

It was a bold move to introduce a bill for compulsory training. Compulsion was a thing which many people shied at, but it had been accepted wonderfully well. The difficulty with regard to the Australian navy was, of course, the men. The Australian was not a sailor . Up to the present he had not shown any disposition to go to sea.

He expected that for some years the British Admiralty would have to help the Australians to man their ships. Australians were extraordinarily well-behaved people, and while he was in camp with the militia regiments he never saw any indication of misconduct, drunkenness, or anything of the kind. He confessed that he did not know why more people did not go there.

There seemed to be endless possibilities, and he did not think that any strong man who was willing to work need be out of employment in Australia at all.

He had heard various opinions with regard to the effect of women's suffrage in Australia. The complacent man seemed to think it had merely increased the vote that would have been given if women had not votes, as the women merely voted the same as their husbands. He should be very sorry to pledge his opinion to that effect.—London Correspondence Chicago 'Inter-Ocean.'

NUGGET IN DUCK'S CROP.

It Led to Discovery of Gold in Bed of San Carlos Creek.

(San Carlos correspondence San Francisco 'Chronicle.')

Pure, glittering gold, in nuggets as big as peas, lies in the beds of the streams of the San Mateo foothills. After man has tramped over these hills for years and their wooded slopes have become the estates of the wealthy, a poor, simple duck detected the presence of the yellow metal and had to die to give the secret to the world.

While preparing a duck which she had purchased from Alexander Dombrosky, a poultryman of San Carlos, Mrs. John Tibbet, of Redwood City, found several pieces of gravel and a nugget of pure gold as large as a pea in the crop. Dombrosky had recently covered his poultry yard, where the duck had been feeding with gravel from the bed of the San Carlos Creek.

The gravel was taken from where the creek passes through the country estate of Col. N. J. Brittan, the San Francisco capitalist. During the summer months the stream is dry and many loads of gravel are extracted, but the presence of gold was never suspected.

Following the sensational find of the duck, who now almost ranks with the goose that laid the golden eggs, the sluice will be applied to the sands of many San Mateo creeks which wind through the foothills on their way to the bay, and the lawns and gardens of the country homes on the peninsula may be laid out as placed claims.

BANKING IN ANCIENT BABYLON

How and By Whom the Business Was Carried On.

(From the 'Accountant.')

Recent discoveries of the wonders of Babylonian civilization, reinforced by the fruits of earlier explorations, show that 'Business is business,' as a rule of life is as old as history.

As far back as 2000 years before Christ the Babylonians had made such progress in commercial aptitude that special laws had to be framed to deal with those gentlemen who tried shortcuts to wealth. The young man with expectations realized in those days with less regard to the sacredness of the person and the right to live, borrowed, as his modern prototype not infrequently does to-day, from the professional money lender.

The Babylonian merchant banked regularly and issued his brick 'cheques' and bills of exchange, and the law stepped in, even as it does to-day, to preserve inviolate the rights of property. So keen were the business instincts of the people that even the priests were not above a deal in offerings and in real estate. Indeed a great part of the commerce of Babylonia was concentrated in the temples.

The vast quantities of metals, cereals and other commodities which either as gifts to the temples or offerings to the gods poured in daily were sold by the priests, who did not neglect to get their full margin of profit. Business ability indeed seems to have been an important qualification for admission to the priesthood.

Careful accounts of revenue and expenditure were kept, and these show that investments in loans and the purchase of land and other profitable dealings were a regular part of the fiscal activities of the priestly establishments.

Perhaps the most interesting of all the buried records which have come to light are the contract tablets kept by a firm of bankers and money lenders known as 'the sons of Egibi,' established at Babylon before the time og Sennacherib, probably as early as 1000 B.C., and which existed for several centuries. These 'brick books,' as they have been called, constitute the chief source of our knowledge of life in ancient Babylon.

The firm of Egibi possessed enormous wealth and influence and have been designated the 'Rothschilds of the ancient world.' They carried on every sort of financial transaction. They made loans to the State, a well as to private persons, and the finances of the court were entrusted to them for several generations. They collected the land taxes, tithes and dues for the use of the public roads, and paid them into the royal treasury.

They also undertook what we should now describe as 'agencies' for private individuals, and in addition to their vast money lending transactions must also have engaged in what we now term 'banker's' business, for we know that documents existed in those early days corresponding to modern cheques and bills of exchange. The various transactions of the firm were noted down on clay tablets, which were stored in great earthenware jars for safety, and there they remained until they were accidentally discovered some few years ago.

All bear the names of the contracting parties and witnesses, and most of them are dated. The Egibi firm were not the only great trading firm in ancient Babylonia, as durin~ the excavations at Niffer there were discovered the records of another firm known as Murasu, which rose to a position of great wealth and importance during the fifth century B. C.

A UNIQUE NEWSPAPER.

In British Columbia there is a little newspaper, the 'Kamloops Wawa,' circulating among several tribes of North American Indians. The unique feature of this journal is that it is printed in shorthand.

Some years ago the Rev. J. M. Le June, a Breton missionary, arrived in British Columbia to take charge of a territory some fifty miles square. According to the 'Strand' he found the great obstacle to his work to be the absence of any means of written communication, as the natives had no written language of their own.

His repeated efforts to teach them to read and write by ordinary methods failed entirely. The missionary was acquainted with the simple French Duployan shorthand, and then conceived the novel idea of teaching the Indians to write their own language phonetically by means of the shorthand characters.

He adapated the stenographic signs to the Chinook language, and the experiment proved a complete success. There are to-day three thousand Indians able to write and read their own language by no other means than shorthand. 'Wawa' means 'talk' in the Chinook, hence the title of the little newspaper, which has been the natural outcome of the missionary's undertaking.

BED OF THE DANUBE LEAKS.

Strange Annual Phenomenon is Worrying Governments Concerned.

(Special Correspondence of the New York 'Times.')

The shrinkage of the Danube in certain parts of its course is described in an article in the' Sphere.' The shrinkage has been gradual where the river crosses the frontier of Baden and Wurtemberg near Immendingen and Tuttlingen through the flowing of the Danube water into the Lake of Constance. The interesting connection between the Rivers Danube and Aach has been well known to geologists for more than thirty years, but now the shrinking has become of general interest, and lively discussions have taken place in the Parliaments of Wurtemberg and Baden.

If one visits the neighborhood of Immendingen in the dry season one sees the Danube flowing through the valley as a stately river with a body of water of at least 2,000 liters. But at a distance of only a few kilometers down the valley one notices a series of most remarkable appearances which prove that the course of the Upper Danube is ruled by the most extraordinary conditions. Such is the case in the so-called marshy ground.

Near the Valley of the Aue the Danube bends with its right bank close to the steep forest-covered mountain slopes. Afterward it has on the left side of the valley the broad Aue, and from there it keeps on for a stretch of about a mile in an east-north-easterly direction until it turns rather abruptly to the north.

The spectator notices at this point the striking fact that the bed of the Danube is leaky. What was once a deep-water level has shrunk to a shallow watercourse, and there has been a great swallowing up of water in the gravelly ground.

At some points one sees only a few damp places in which some fish are dead or at the last gasp. Further down the bed of the river is completely dry. For an entire kilometer it was possible recently to walk with dry feet on the bed of the Danube.

This complete cessation of the Danube has taken place every year for the last thirty years, and has continued, as a rule, for months, even up to half a year.

While the Danube completely fails for a considerable stretch between Immendingen and Tuttlingen it reigns as an important water power in the neighborhood of Aach.

HORSE SHOES AS RENT.

There was a quaint ceremony at the Law Courts when the very old custom of the annual rendering of quit rents to the Crown by the City Corporation was carried out.

The King's Remembrancer, Sir James Mellor, represented the Crown, and for the twenty-fifth year the City Solicitor, Sir Homewood Crawford, attended on behalf of the Corporation.

The rent for a former smithy in the Strand took the form, as it has done annually ever since the reign of Henry III., of six horse shoes and sixty-one nails, which the King's Remembrancer accepted as 'good number.' The horse shoes are known to be over five hundred years old.

In respect of some moorland in Shropshire, the City Solicitor did feudal service by chopping a fagot of twigs with a sharp hatchet and another fagot with a dull bill-hook.

'Has Mis Majesty any commands with regard to the hatchet and bill-hook?' asked the City Solicitor, and th King's Remembrancer replied: 'I take them subject to His Majesty's disposal.'—London 'Chronicle.'

ALCOHOL AS CAUSE OF CANCER.

It is suggested in a report from Bavaria, just published by the Foreign Office as a White Paper, from Mr. Buchanan, the British Consul, that there is a close connection between alcohol and cancer, for a high medical authority in Bavaria declares that most of his patients suffering from cancer are connected with the public house trade, and freely consume alcohol in some form or other. The consul points to the fact that endeavors made in high as well as even in Social Democratic quarters—both in Berlin and Munich—to propagate the principles of temperance, together with the higher cost of living, are not without results, as is shown by the steady decrease in the consumption of beer. In Munich and in Upper Bavaria the consumption of beer further decreased in 1910 from 15 to 20 percent, whilst that of cider, for instance, has gone up by leaps and bounds.—Dundee 'Advertiser.'

HOME OF THE PTARMIGAN.

('Country Life in America.')

In order to make the acquaintance of the ptarmigan it is necessary either to journey into the snows and ice of the far north or to climb up to the very highest glacier valleys among the frozen peaks of the Rockies or Cascades, where circumpolar conditions are reproduced. While this curious bird is essentially a su -arctic type, it is occasionally found among the isolated fields of eternal snow as far south as Colorado and Northern New Mexico.

The rock ptarmigan is a bird o' storms and ice and raw mists and bleak winds, in the summer gray as the rocks among which he lives, in wintar white as the whirling snows in the midst of which he survives after every other feathered living thing save only 'he fearless eagle has fled to the lower valleys.

His brother, the willow ptarmigan, lives lower down by 500 or 1,000 feet, among the dwarfed shrubs which mark the upper edges of tree life, and while similar in size and structure, is of a less sombre plumage and more friendly disposition than the ghostly gray spectre of the upper world, the rock ptarmigan. The males of the willow ptarmigan especially are beautiful birds, brownish gray upon the backs and wings, with rich, reddish brown throats almost chestnut in color and dazzling white breasts.

SOLAN GEESE AS COLLECTORS.

(From the 'Scotsman.')

A few days ago several patches of straw bedding were seen floating near the Bass Rock, and although this is always carefully garnered by the solan as a top dressing for their nests, we did not expect that they would trouble to collect it on the eve of their departure. Yet a few hours later many of the deserted nests were seen decorated with the sodden straw.

These birds appear unable to resist the temptation to collect all manner of flotsame and jetsam that comes within reach, and this in and out of season. At present they may be seen daily carrying great wisps of seaweed for hours around the rock without the slightest intention of making any use of it.

A TOWER OF SKULLS.

(From the 'Wide World Magazine.')

A strange monument of modern barbarism still survives at Nish in south-east Servia. During the war of independence in 1809 the Servian garrison here exploded a powder magazine and perished therein rather than fall into the hands of the Turks.

A battle had previously taken place and the Turks commemorated their victory by erecting a rude tower, ornamented with the heads of their enemies. Old people will tell you that there were once 1,200 heads, but as the tower was never more than twenty-five feet high, this is probably an exaggeration.

Lamartine and other travellers relate that they saw hair still clinging to the skulls, which must have formed a grewsome spectacle. During many years visitors were in the habit of carrying off skulls as souvenirs, but when Nish became Servian the remainder were taken away for decent burial, all save a few that were too deeply embedded. Recently the remains of the tower have been covered over with a roof to protect them against the elements and they are regarded as a pious object of patriotic pilgrimage.

ABOUT THE DINGO.

Mr. Will H. Ogilvie contributes to the 'Scotsman' an interesting account of the dingo or wild dog of Australia. The dingo is to Australia what the wolf is to Eastern Europe, and the coyote to America. Hunting in packs or alone, he is a constant menace to Australia's chief industry, the breeding of sheep. Many are the schemes evolved for the wild dog's destruction, but his capture or death is a comparatively rare occurrence when set against his constant depredations. There are dog-trappers who spend their whole lives in trying to catch dingos; men who have studied every aspect of their work, and who spare no pains and avoid no hardships in a constant warfare with the wile and cunning of the sheep-slayer. Though the dingo is met with from time to time in almost every part of the Australian bush, his principal habitat is the rough range country in the centre and north of New South Wales, and the deep, dark scrubs of Queensland.

The dog-trapper's life is of the loneliest kind. For weeks, perhaps months, he camps in the desolate ranges, setting his traps and watching with ready rifle in the moonlit nights for a chance shot at his enemy. In the Bush ther is a price on the head of every dingo. In some parts a dingo is worth £10 or even £15 to the man who delivers his scalp to the Pastoral Board or to the squatter. This is made up by sums contributed among the sheep-breeders, and allowed by the District Councils, so generally recognized an enemy is the wild dog. With such handsome emoluments to encourage him, the professional dog-trapper is not easily daunted, and his patience and perseverance are remarkable. Sometimes he may get as many as three or four dogs in a week, but, as a rule, if he get three in three months he is doing very well.

As a rule the dingo confines his murderous attacks to sheep and weakling calves, but in the far-out Queensland districts, where large packs travel together, hunger has been known to make them bold, and one hears of them attacking men in lonely camps, in the manner of wolves. The dingo neverd barks, but his weird howl is a familiar sound in the bush nights, and is blood-curdling in the extreme and trying to the nerves of the new-chum camped alone in the bush for the first time. Owing to his cunning and swiftness in changing quarters, the dingo holds his own in Central Australia, and, in Mr. Ogilvie's opinion, is likely to do so for many a day to come, even though the price upon his head—already a generous one—should be doubled or trebled.—'Westminster Gazette.'

AID WHEN CHOKING.

In a case of choking, remember that the bit of food or other obstacle is usually held at the root of the tongue by the top of the windpipe. It is not usually down in the windpipe, as people often suppose. Lay the patient at once back on a couch or on the floor, with his head on a pillow. Open the mouth, roll up a handkerchief, and put it between the teeth. Then pass your forefinger, or your forefinger and the next one, right to the back of the throat, and sweep the finger like a hook round the root of the tongue and upper part of the windpipe. In this way you will generally be able to hook forward the offending mass. If a little child swallows a coin, which will likely be loose in the mouth, hold him up by the heels for a second or two, and the coin will roll forwards and out of the mouth.



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The Mark of His Calling

By A. Allen Brockington

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SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS.

Gerald Fenton, aged 21, with more knowledge than manners, is engaged to Ray Maitland. He leaves his parents in their small home in a suburb of Manchester to take a place as tutor in the extremely aristocratic family of Captain Mohun, who lives in a fine old house. In finding his way to the house he stops to inquire it of a girl, leaning against a gate, with whose looks he is much impressed. He subsequently learns that she is Mary Tracy, and acts as private secretary to her father, who is a student. Mary Tracy goes out visiting a sick boy, Harry Cridge. Her father dismisses her as his secretary, for not being at work earlier. Gerald Fenton gets a fright from a motor car while riding a bicycle, falls off and hurts his knee. He goes to Mr. Tracy's home, Mary doctors him up, and is very kind, but Mr. Tracy is very gruff, and seems not pleased with his being there. Gerald's father died suddenly. Gerald goes home, feeling much distressed. Ray Maitland is at Mrs. Fenton's home, and is trying to cheer Gerald and his mother during their bereavement, but Gerald, being much oppressed, would not listen to her; she finds him much changed since his leaving home. Mrs. Fenton goes daily to the office to proceed with her husband's business. Gerold spends the afternoon at Mrs. Maitland's house, where he meets a Mr. Charterleigh, who seems to be a frequent caller. He informs Ray that he intends taking up his father's business. Ray refused to marry a working man, so throws Gerald over. His mother will not let him join her in the business. He refuses to tell Ray of his mistake, and goes back to the country and Mary Tracy. On the to country and Mary Tracy. On the train he meets Mary's father, who succeeds in being so disagreeable to him that he (Gerald) loses his temper and tells Mr. Tracy that he will never enter his house again. He becomes dissatisfied with his employment at Col. Mohun's and decides to leave for Canada to teach in a private school. Just before leaving he meets Mary and they again become friends. After he arrives in Canada, he writes to Mary, telling all about his voyage, and Trinity College, where he has accepted a position as teacher. Mr. Charterleigh accepts the living of Abbotswood offered him by his cousin, Sir Willoughby Machin, takes up his residence there,and is shortly followed by Mrs. Maitland and her daughter, Ray, who take a neighboring cottage. Mr. Tracy is suddenly stricken. Charterleigh helps Mary nurse him and plans to convert him and to find a vocation for Ronald Mohun. Gerald Fenton is not a success at first as a school teacher in Canada, but finds some pleasure in the necessity of turning carpenter to make a coffin for a friend.

CHAPTER XIII.

'THE BRIDGE BUILDERS.'

The entry list at Trinity was the shortest for many years. In addition to Simmonds minor two others from Bestwick's form did not return, owing to scarlet fever contracted in the holidays. Worse still, four promising small boys, three of whom belonged to Gerald, gave notice of withdrawal. One father made definite complaint that his son was making no progress under Mr. Fenton. Simmonds pere also wrote to the chairman of the governors asking in his formal way to be absolved from paying a term's fees for his dead boy, and suggesting that the 'younger scholars, when allowed to make expeditions beyond the school bounds, should be put in charge of a person of experience.

Le Fleming was in a state of rare irritation. He sought out Gerald in his private room. The junior master was finding refuge from trouble of mind in ancillary occupation. He had before him an incomplete design for a writing-desk. It was in the shape of a Doric temple. A flap in the centre, working on circular hinges, let down and disclosed a deep recess, flanked by narrow drawers. The flap served as a table. Underneath it were three capacious drawers capable, if necessary, of holding a man's whole wardrobe, so that the Doric temple could serve a double purpose. When closed, the flap locked into another drawer above, and a second turn of the same lock secured that drawer. The crown of the temple, which had the appearance of mere ornament, was, inreality, a secret partition only to be opened by an ingenious method of pressing the top 'slab.' Gerald had just devised this as Le Fleming entered. He looked up with a smile at the head master.

'Here's the very thing for you,' he said; 'a literary hold-all. It divides into three parts for travelling, and the base of it can be put to base use, shirts and linen and collars there, clothes and so on there, gimcracks and gewgaws there. The middle is exclusively literary. And here' (he pointed to the crown) 'is the place for dollar bills and cheque-books.'

'I've come to talk business,' said Le Fleming.

'Oh!' said Gerald with a sigh.

The sigh and the man's disregard of things essential ruffled Le Fleming.

'It won't do, Fenton,' he said sharply. 'You've gotten us into a hole—the worst i. my time.'

'I am very sorry,' said Gerald. The bitterness of life came back in full flood—the abortive resentment of his own impatient stupidity in the matter of Mary Tracy, the failure and folly of his profession, the irremediable depression about Simmonds. Tears of shame and disappointment welled up into his eyes. He walked to the window. Before him stretched the quadrangle, dry and dusty. On the left was the wooden building of the gymnasium, whence came the shouts of boys and the dull sound of their shoes as they dropped from the bars to the floor. In the distance was a knoll covered with brilliant maple trees, just attaining the full glory of their autumn foliage. Beneath the knoll rumbled a heavy freight train on the Canadian Pacific track. Just a year ago, on just such an afternoon as this, he had seen it all for the first time. He had been full of hope and courage. He had written a long, silly letter about it to Mary Tracy, which she had said she 'enjoyed.'

'Please give me your attention.' Le Fleming's voice cut into his miserable reflections.

Gerald turned round quickly and faced him.

'You know, I suppose, that complaints have been made about your teaching, that boys from your form are due to leave. Now, the governors have handed me a letter from Mr Simmonds, in which he suggests that you are not fit to be trusted. What am I to do with you for the rest of the time? If you can't teach, and you can't keep order, and you are not to be allowed out with a small boy, what good are you? We have no use for scholastic ornaments in Trinity College School.'

'I am sorry to be such a failure,' said Gerald, absently folding up the design of the Doric temple. 'Does Mr. Simmonds hold me responsible for his son's death?'

'He seems to imply that it was due to your negligence.'

'Were you responsible for any boys in the holidays?'

'No, I was not.'

'You would not undertake such a responsibility without a compensating fee?'

'No.'

'And Mr. Simmonds cannot reasonably be required to pay a term's fees in lieu of notice?'

'What do you mean?'

'I mean,' said Gerald, his hand clenched and the look in his eyes set and hard. 'I mean—that I may be an incapable teacher and a poor disciplinarian, but I would not run a school as if I were keeping ——' He stopped suddenly. He had it in his mind to add the words, 'a sweet-shop,' but some tick o' the blood admonished him, and he stopped suddenly.

'Well,' said Le Fleming, who always lost his anger at the sight of another's wrath, 'and how would you run a school? It's easy saying what you would not do. What would you do? Ignore the commercial side? And even then you must be efficient. Let us reason together.'

His calmness had a good effect upon Gerald. After all, it was inevitable that Le Fleming should think about numbers.

Gerald had an inspiration.

'Why not try to boom Doric temples? I could teach carpentering. I should like it.'

Le Fleming stood and pondered the matter.

'I don't fancy the plan much. But if you can get a class together you can take half the fees. Meanwhile no new-fangled methods; it's not good business. We must reassure these people somehow. It was an expensive bargain importing you. I have warned the governors never to do it again.'

He said this with an air of indifference, as if he were not sounding the death-knell of a young man's professional hopes.

After a fortnight of arrangement and persuasion, Gerald's class consisted of two members, 'Heifer,' and 'Dirty' Bird. There were three Birds in the school, not related to one another. The second was a slouching youth of fourteen, with a very muddy complexion. He was, accordingly, known as 'Dirty' Bird. He and every one else had quite forgotten that there was anything opprobrious in the epithet. Dirty Bird proved to be carpenter of parts. But to Gerald the chief satisfaction of the class was Heifer's conversation. Gerald was not experienced enough to regard Heifer as a prig. It seemed to him beautiful that a boy of seventeen should discuss the problems of life. Heifer had already made up his mind to take orders. He had already noticed that his father, ministering in an isolated station on the edge of the continent, was called to many other offices than those of a priest. Carpentering would come in useful; he was going to make himself an efficient carpenter. A knowledge of medicine would be even more useful; he was going to take a medical course in Montreal. Then he proposed to come back to that bit of the 'chopped-up' University that had its building alongside Trinity School—the Divinity Faculty—and there complete his training for his life's work. He was already intimate with the professor of Pastoral Theology, who acted as chaplain to the school. He was getting to be intimate with Gerald, for whom he had conceived a genuine admiration. He drew Gerald about his theories of education. It was, indeed, largely due to Heifer that the junior master compiled an article entitled 'The Bridge Builders.'

As was usual with Gerald, the article was remote, allusive, and much too subtle. Its title had reference to the 'Pons Asinorum,' but who were the asses was not clear. The subject was educational reform. The beginning was a parable which no one except the author could interpret, and even he found it difficult to say what the exact significance was. Yet this parable so charmed the editor of 'Mansell's Magazine' that he accepted the article at once. There were three or four paragraphs of definite attack upon current systems, illustrated from Trinity masters, visitors, and examinations (Gerald having, as yet, no sense of responsibility), and some definite suggestions, tersely put and easily intelligible, of a new method, already tried by Gerald and found wanting in satisfactory results by Le Fleming and the visitor from Oxford. This article was, in the drafting, a theme of talk between Gerald and Heifer in the hearing of Dirty Bird The latter said nothing, but casually learning that it was to appear in 'Mansell's Magazine' he wrote to his father, who happened to be the publisher of the magazine. Gerald was unused to thinking of his audience Even after the editor of 'Mansell's had sent him the proof—and how sweet it was to get it!—it never struck him that the Trinity people would read it and recognize themselves in the pillory. He was accordingly surprised to see Le Fleming enter his room one evening with 'Mansell's' in his hand. The article was signed. Anonymous authorship had no charms for Gerald. Le Fleming dropped into a chair. He had sent articles himself to 'Mansell's,' but they had been returned with many thanks. There was a trace of envious admiration mingled with Le Fleming's resentment.

'You are the father of this, Mr. Fenton?' he said.

'Yes, I wrote it,' said Gerald, hoping in his innocence that Le Fleming admired it.

'You supplied the information, you mean. Who's in it beside you?'

Gerald was puzzled. Did the man intend to rob him of the pride of authorship?

'I wrote it, sir,' he repeated.

'Do you know the editor of "Mansell's" ?'

'No.'

'You know Bird, the publisher?'

'No.'

'Dirty Bird's father is the publisher.'

'Is he, really?'

'Of course, you knew that. Be straight, man. You got it in through Bird.'

Gerald blushed furiously. Le Fleming took note of the blush and continued:

'Well, that's settled. I have no objection to that. But you must go at the end of the term. You have done us enough damage already.'

Gerald's indignation at the suggestion of underhand dealings with Bird was swallowed up in the fear of summary dismissal. He came of a generation of people who had always worked on the edge of poverty. The 'workhouse fear' was in his blood. He dreaded unemployment. In a flash he saw himself wandering about, a discredited man, sent away from his last place without a character. He felt a sudden sympathy with the 'corner' men, who wore bell-buttoned trousers in the city where he was born—men who were uncertain of bed and breakfast. He had none of the American optimism. He had once heard a man say in the summer hotel at Lake Memphremagog: 'Well, I guess that's finished. I haven't cent left. But the world's wide. I'll try west.' He had heard the man with wonder. It seemed to him incredible that one who had 'lost his job' without any sure prospect of another could be so cheerful.

'I shall not go,' he said in a trembling, guilty voice. 'I was engaged for two years. You cannot legally dismiss me.'

Le Fleming's eyes narrowed for a moment, and a gleam of satisfaction came into them. He recognized Gerald's fear.

'You must behave yourself, Mr. Fenton. You must write to Bird and get him to move the editor or I will not answer for the governors. Your talk of legality is nonsense. Meanwhile, you are under my orders.'

Gerald remembered his mother. She was doing well in the 'business.' The thought gave him courage.

'I do not know Mr. Bird,' he said. 'I have never written to him in my life. The article was fair criticism. I mentioned no names. And no one knows that I come from here.'

'No, that's true,' answered Le Fleming deliberately, pulling his beard. 'You are an insignificant under-master. Of course, you are lying about Bird. I pass that. No, don't answer, please, don't answer. If you make any more trouble you will pack now.'

Gerald's anger flamed up. He forgot everything else but this odious bully who had accused him of lying.

'I suppose,' he said in a quiet, restrained way, that deceived Le Fleming, 'that this room belongs to me until my packing is finished ?'

'Ye—es,' said Le Fleming doubtfully.

'Then will you kindly leave it at once.'

There are some men—and women—who are ready enough to browbeat the fair-spoken and courteous, but if they receive a straight blow they immediately conceive a respect for their assailant. Of these was Le Fleming. In his case the soft answer never turned away wrath. He was a man without any enthusiasms, who 'ran his sweet-shop' on business principles. He could not estimate the full effect of his words upon Gerald, because he himself had the spiritual hide of an old pachyderm, but he had an instinctive feeling that a man who could order him out of the room must be a gentleman.

'Oh, come, come, Mr. Fenton,' he said soothingly, 'we must look at this matter from a common-sense point of view. Here's the school—that's so, isn't it ? The three ingredients are boys, masters, and parents. They must mix. You are unknown to the general public, but every parent knows you by name. What becomes of their confidence when you ridicule our methods ? You see the point, don't you?'

'Sir,' said Gerald, 'you accused me of being a liar. Retract that accusation.'

'Please don't be melodramatic. Of course, you know whether you wrote to Bird or not.'

'Precisely—and you don't. Perhaps you would like to write and ask him?'

'That's not necessary. I accept your word. Give your mind to the main problem. How are we going to re-establish the confidence of the parents?'

'By educating their sons.'

Le Fleming fell silent. He was not debating within himself the general question of education. He was wondering whether there was any possibility of booming this gentleman. He had a vision of a pamphlet, sown broadcast over the Dominion and sundry estates of the Union, wherein was described a new and original system, invented by our brilliant English master, 'calculated to revolutionize the educational ideals of the day.'

The vision was realized without any intervention on his part. Dirty Bird worked in silence. The next month's 'Mansell's' contained an editorial note to the effect that the method described in 'The Bridge Builders' was in full swing at Trinity School. Also, that in response to a widely-expressed desire, 'The Bridge Builders' was reprinted in pamphlet form and could now be had at any book store or depot-stall for ten cents. A week later the school bursar received many preliminary inquiries from parents of prospective scholars. Gerald was enriched to the extent of a fifty-dollar bill, and Le Fleming walked to and fro in the flush of a gratified ambition. Though the headmaster talked as if the 'boom' had been engineered by him, the governors were not unmindful of the value of 'our brilliant English master.' They offered to renew his engagement at an additional salary of one hundred dollars a year, about a fifth of the annual fees of one boy. Gerald declined. The offer was augmented to an addition of two hundred dollars, and thereafter of three hundred. Still Gerald declined. Le Fleming came as a deputation.

'Look here, Fenton,' he said, without any skirmishing, 'what's your price?'

Gerald was thinking of the Doric temple. Dirty Bird was very keen on the Doric temple. He had a dream of a syndicate to turn out Doric temples by the thousand. But it was not an open vision. He had as yet said nothing to the inventor. Gerald was sketching an idea of Heifer's for a wrought-iron drawer-handle.

'It's not for sale,' he answered.

'What's not for sale? Oh, I'm not talking about your bit of joinery, I'm talking about you. What's your price?'

'I'm not for sale, either,' said Gerald, catching his meaning.

'You will not stay on under any conditions?'

'No.'

'Well, I think you are treating us badly. We paid your passage out. We have given you the chance of your life, and borne with—with many things. Now you propose to desert us. It's like an unexperienced help, who leaves so soon as she has been taught her duties by her first mistress. Where are you going, anyway ?'

'It's not in the bond to tell you that, is it?'

'Oh, do be friendly, Fenton. I have always befriended you. I sprung this offer out of unwilling governors. You are not going to Toronto?'

There was a note of alarm in Le Fleming's voice. The rival school at Toronto might make much capital out of Gerald.

'No,' answered Gerald, who was not in the least interested in rival schools at Toronto or anywhere else.

'That's all right. Perhaps you haven't decided, though?' The note of alarm was again audible.

'Yes, so far as one can decide anything.'

'Good ! If you get a chance of recommending us, you will.'

'I shall not get a chance.'

'You never know, Fenton. I leave no stone unturned. In the vacation I took a Quebec lady in to dinner. I began on Trinity at once. I told her what an ideal place it would be for her boys. She said she was not married. I was non-plussed for the moment. However, I got out of it adroitly. "But such a charming person as you," I remarked, "is sure to be engaged, if not now, then very soon, and of course——" You see the point, don't you, Fenton ? We look into the future, far as mortal eye can scan.'

Le Fleming laughed in his peculiar manner. Gerald experienced a cold chill of aversion. Le Fleming, crowing over his success, was worse than Le Fleming struggling with adversity. Gerald wished he would go. He remembered a disagreeable saying about a monkey climbing a tree.

'You will reap the rewards of a unique perseverance, sir,' he said. 'The other day I bought a worthless book from a drummer on the principle of paying an organ-grinder to go into the next street.' Gerald having had practice with John Tracy was not inclined to suffer gibes of 'the inexperienced help' order, especially when he had his discharge from war in his pocket.

The discharge was a letter from Ronald Mohun. He had written to that hero-worshipper to tell him that he was leaving Trinity at the end of the school year, and, almost by return, had come an invitation to take up work again at Downhead. 'You won't know me,' wrote Ronald. 'I have put on weight; I don't cough once in a blue moon. I can walk to Abbotswood without turning a hair. It's that brick, the Reverend Eustace, at the bottom of it all. That and something else, called the grace of God. Father says I may go to Oxford. Then your letter arrives. Some one is necessary to coach me for Responsions. The very man—Mr. Fenton, whom we know. Everything fitted in as everything always does fit in. Mr. Fenton, bored to death (isn't that so?) with teaching "unresponsions" (excuse me, it's the influence of the Rector of Abbotswood), will come to prepare me for gorgeous Oxford. In a year I shall be as fit as a fiddle, and to see you will be the finest of all tonics.'

There was much more in the letter, about Guy, back from his health-search having forgotten his 'heart'; about John Tracy, still lingering on; about Mary Tracy, 'the same as ever;' about Charterleigh; about Mrs. and Miss Maitland and the 'silly old squire.' Gerald read it, conjuring up pictures of Downhead House, and Frog street, and a cottage past Abbotswood Church, and Shepherd's Combe, and Beulah Villa, with the cosy corner. Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, were very well for the marauding Syrians, but the little captive maid no doubt longed for the little stream of Jordan. Gerald could not contemplate his homeland without many misgivings—he had made mistakes and been foolish—yet no exile ever hastened to be loosed so eagerly as Gerald grasped at Ronald's offer. The day he received it he had gone out, after school was over, and crossed the wooden bridge, and on and up over Kicking Stone Hill, and looked towards the East. Behind him was the dying light. But the sun that sank behind him was waking Mary Tracy in Abbotswood and Ronald Mohun in his bungalow. And surely, for all her silence and his own unworthiness, she would be glad to know that he was coming back, glad, perhaps, to see him once more in the old claw-and-ball chair, glad—oh, yes, surely she would be glad when she knew how glad he was. What weary months he had still to wait ! He would send her word that night. Why should he not ? Just a friendly little letter, condoling with her about her father, and casually mentioning—oh, the irony of 'casually mentioning'—the fact that he expected to be home next July.

Then when he had written, and waited, and seen the 'boom,' and settled the score with Le Fleming, there came a mild reaction. It was a Sunday in the middle of a late Indian summer. They were just singing the last evensong hymn. The west door of the chapel had been thrown open and a beautiful prospect was disclosed of the setting sun on the reach of the river. In the foreground on the school island was a fantastic withered tree, that seemed to be framed in the doorway. The varied lights, with purple predominating, threw the black tree into intense relief, and the distance was a vista of gleaming water. Why it attracted him so strangely Gerald could not have explained. There was something of vague symbolism in the picture—the black tree, the figure of immediate ruin, the necessary contrast to the glory, the illimitable glory, that opened out behind it. The spell that the great expansive country of Canada lays upon every man fell upon Gerald. He felt that he could not leave it. And as he looked away from the door his eyes fell upon Heifer, singing earnestly, an expression of exaltation on his face, and the remembrance of many intimate talks came vividly into Gerald's mind and held him fast. Trinity for the moment was Heifer and the chapel-prospect, irresistibly attractive, the whole beauty of pure friendship in the loveliest surroundings. Gerald had serious thoughts, that Sunday night, of applying to the governors to renew his engagement. But three or four small boys hurrying past him from the vestry with an air of thanking God that it was over, and the sight of Le Fleming still glowing with the knowledge that entrants were tumbling over one another in their anxiety to come to Trinity, these things brought a chastened view of what it meant to be a master there, and he repented of his impulse. Besides, Heifer was in his last year.

(To be Continued.)

STEAK.

(From the 'National Provisioner.')

According to the new edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, the word 'steak' is apparently derived from Icelanic 'steik,' used in the same sense as the English word, 'which meant properly roasted meat, from steikja, to roast; that is, placed on a stick or peg of wood before the fire (compare Swedish, stek; Danish, stek, roast meat.)'

The same authority says: 'A "porterhouse" steak is a choice cut of steak from the loin, so named, apparently, first in New York, from a well known "porter house," and eating house where chops, steaks, etc., and porter or stout were served, at which these steaks were a specialty.

'A steak grilled between two other steaks, which are not served after the cooking is finished, is also sometimes called a "porterhouse" steak.'

Not in these days of high cost meat would such a practice as the latter be very generally followed, however.

FIERCE PHILIPPINE BEASTS.

The Tamarao and the Carabao Are Terrors.

The hunter in the Philippines can get a good deal of strenuous life with a comparatively small amount of hunting if what they say is true about the activity of some of the islands' beasts. 'A paradise for hunters,' is the way, according to the Manila 'Times,' that Judge Liddell describes the country in the vicinity of his home and plantation on the southeast coats of Mindoro. One game Mindoro excels in is the tamarao, rarest of animals, and one which is found only in Mindoro. This fierce animal, much like an American buffalo, is held in universal dread by every native on the island, who looks on him as a far more formidable creature than the maddest of wilk carabaos.

The Tamarao is seldom seen in clearings because he sticks to his native wilds. When he does come near a clearing the natives in that vicinity make for the nearest shelter. For the tamarao does not wait an attack. He takes the initiative himself, charging every one and everything in sight.

Mrs. Liddell, wife of Judge Liddell, is perhaps the only white woman who has ever seen a tamarao. A few weeks ago one came within 15 feet of the window of the Liddell kitchen, where she was instructing the cook, and peered in. The natives in the neighborhood took to their heels, and then the tamarao quietly walked off.

But if the tamarao is the piece de resistance among the game of Mindoro, it is not the only game to be found on the island. There are myriads of deer, wild chickens and game birds of all sorts. There are also plenty of wild boars on the island, some of them of extraordinary size, and none of them noted for docility. Judge Liddell has one tusk fully 18 inches long. It came from a monster boar, which charged the hunters repeatedly before he was shot down.

Wild carabao hunting is another pastime of the Mindoro planters, and one that is not destined to soothe the nerves of weak-hearted men. These big animals are at all times dangerous, and when once wounded or angered will charge their hunters with all the ferocity of an African buffalo.

James Liddell, a son of the judge, had an experience with one of them recently that will not be forgotten in a hurry. He was hunting and shot the big fellow, knocking him off his feet. As the carabao lay still he approached and when not a foot away the carabao leaped to his feet and charged.

There was no time for a shot, so young Liddell did the only thing open to him— grappled with the infuriated beast. Three times the animal gored him, and finally the boy made his escape. What the Filipinos in his party regarded as the miraculous feature of the accident was the fact that the carabao had permitted him to escape.

STRANGE TIMEKEEPERS.

To ascertain the time at night the Apache Indians employed a gourd on which the stars of the heavens were marked. As the constellations rose in the sky, the Indian referred to his gourd and found out the hour. By turning the gourd around he could tell the order in which the constellations might be expected to appear.

The hill people of Assam reckon time and distance by the number of quids of betel-nuts chewed. It will be remembered how, according to Washington Irving, the Dutch Colonial Assembly was invariably dismissed at the last puff of the third pipe of tobacco of Governor Wouter Van Twiller.

A Montagnis Indian of Canada will set up a tall stick in the snow when travelling ahead of friends who are to follow. He marks with his foot the line of shadow cast, and by the change in the angle of the shadow the on-coming party can tell, on arriving at the spot, about how far ahead the leader is.—'Harper's Weekly.'

A CAIRO-INDIA RAILWAY.

The Royal United Service Institution has been dsicussing the problem of building a railway from Egypt to India. Mr. Charles E. D. Black, who was geographer at the India office, proposed that it should start at Port Said and pass almost due east across the Sinai peninsula and the northern Arabian plateau to Basra, circle the head of the Persian Gulf, passing through the two important cities of central Persia, Shiraz and Kerman, and come out of the British frontier in Baluchistan. This proposed Egypto-Indian railway would be about 2,200 miles in length, while the sea route to Bombay is 3,050 miles Mr. Black estimates that as the speed of a locomotive is double that of an average steamship, the land route ought to save six days on the existing journey to India. The Arabian section would traverse Turkish territory and a concession from the Porte would be necessary.

CHILDREN'S CORNER.

UNCLE RICHARD'S NEW YEAR'S DINNER.

(By L. M. Montgomery, author of 'Anne of Green Gables.')

Prissy Baker was in Oscar Miller's store New Year's morning, buying matches—for New Year's was not kept as a business holiday in Quincy—when her uncle, Richard Baker, came in. He did not look at Prissy, nor did she wish him a happy New Year; she would not have dared. Uncle Richard had not been on speaking terms with her or her father, his only brother, for eight years.

He was a big, ruddy, prosperous-looking man—an uncle to be proud of, Prissy thought wistfully, if only he were like other people's uncles, or, indeed, like what he used to be himself. He was the only uncle Prissy had, and when she had been a little girl they had been great friends; but that was before the quarrel, in which Prissy had had no share, to be sure, although Uncle Richard seemed to include her in his rancor.

Richard Baker, so he informed Mr. Miller, was on his way to Navarre with a load of pork.

'I didn't intend going over until the afternoon,' he said, 'but Joe Hemming sent word yesterday he wouldn't be buying pork after twelve to-day. So I have to tote my hogs over at once. I don't care about doing business New Year's morning.'

'Should think New Year's would be pretty much the same as any other day to you,' said Mr. Miller, for Richard Baker was a bachelor, with only old Mrs. Janeway to keep house for him.

'Well, I always like a good dinner on New Year's,' said Richard Baker. 'It's about the only way I can celebrate. Mrs. Janey wanted to spend the day with her son's family over at Oriental, so I was laying out to cook my own dinner. I got everything ready in the pantry last night, 'fore I got word about the pork. I won't get back from Navarre before one o'clock, so I reckon I'll have to put up with a cold bite.'

After her Uncle Richard had driven away, Prissy walked thoughtfully home. She had planned to spend a nice, lazy holiday with the new book her father had given her at Christmas and a box of candy. She did not even mean to cook a dinner, for her father had had to go to town that morning to meet a friend and would be gone the whole day. There was nobody else to cook dinner for. Prissy's mother had died when Prissy was a baby. She was her father's housekeeper, and they had jolly times together.

But as she walked home, she could not help thinking about Uncle Richard. He would certainly have cold New Year cheer, enough to chill the whole coming year. She felt sorry for him, picturing him returning from Navarre, cold and hungry, to find a fireless house and an uncooked dinner in the pantry.

Suddenly an idea popped into Prissy's head. Dared she ? Oh, she never could! But he would never know—there would be plenty of time—she would!

Prissy hurried home, put her matches away, took a regretful peep at her unopened book, then locked the door and started up the road to Uncle Richard's house half a mile away. She meant to go and cook Uncle Richard's dinner for him, get it all beautifully ready, then slip away before he came home. He would never suspect her of it. Prissy would not have him suspect for the world; she thought he would be more likely to throw a dinner of her cooking out of doors than to eat it.

Eight years before this, when Prissy had been nine years old, Richard and Irving Baker had quarrelled over the division of a piece of property. The fault had been mainly on Richard's side, and that very fact made him all the more unrelenting and stubborn. He had never spoken to his brother since, and he declared he never would. Prissy and her father felt very badly over it, but Uncle Richard did not seem to feel bad! yat all. To all appearance he had completely forgotten that there were such people in the world as his brother Irving and his niece Prissy.

Prissy had no trouble in breaking into Uncle Richard's house, for the woodshed door was unfastened. She tripped into the hostile kitchen with rosy cheeks and mischief sparkling in her eyes. This was an adventure—this was fun! She would tell her father all about it when he came home at night and what a laugh they would have!

There was still a good fire in the stove, and in the pantry Prissy found the dinner in its raw state—a fine roast of fresh pork, potatoes, cabbage, turnips and the ingredients of a raisin pudding, and could make them as well as Mrs. Janeway could, if that was anything to boast of.

In a short time the kitchen was full of bubbling and hissings and appetizing odors. Prissy enjoyed herself hugely, and the raisin pudding, which she rather doubtfully mixed up, behaved itself beautifully.

'Uncle Richard said he'd be home by' said Prissy to herself, as the clock struck twelve, 'so I'll set the table now, dish up the dinner and leave it where it will keep warm until he gets here. Then I'll slip away home. I'd like to see his face when he sees in. I suppose he'll think one of the fenner girls across the street has cooked his dinner.'

Prissy soon had the table set, and she was just peppering the turnips when a gruff voice behind her said:

'Well, well, what does this mean?'

Prissy whirled around as if she had been shot, and there stood Uncle Richard in the woodshed door!

Poor Prissy! She could not have looked or felt more guilty if Uncle Richard had caught her robbing his desk. She did not drop the turnips for a wonder; but she was too confused to set them down, so she stood there holding them, her face crimson, her heart thumping, and a horrible choking in her throat.

'I—I—came up to cook your dinner for you, Uncle Richard,' she stammered. 'I heard you say—in the store—that Mrs. Janeway had gone home and that you had nobody to cook your New Year's dinner for you. So I thought I'd come and do it, but I meant to slip away before you came home.'

Poor Prissy felt that she would never get to the end of her explanation. Would Uncle Richard be angry? Would he order her from the house?

'It was very kind of you,' said Uncle Richard, drily. 'It's a wonder your father let you come.'

'Father was not home, but I am sure he would not have prevented me if he had been. Father has no hard feelings against you, Uncle Richard.'

'Humph!' said Uncle Richard. 'Well, since you've cooked the dinner you must stop and help me eat it. It smells good, I must say. Mrs. Janeway always burns pork when she roasts it. Sit down, Prissy. I'm hungry.'

They sat down. Prissy felt quite giddy and breathless, and could hardly eat for excitement; but Uncle Richard had evidently brought home a good appetite from Navarre, and he did full justice to his New Year's dinner. He talked to Prissy, too, quite kindly and politely, and when the meal was over he said slowly:

'I'm much obliged to you, Prissy, and I don't mind owning to you that I'm sorry for my share in the quarrel, and have wanted for a long time to be friends with your father again, but I was too ashamed and proud to make the first advance. You can tell him so for me, if you like. And if he's willing to let bygones be bygones, tell him I'd like him to come up here with you to-night when he gets home and spend the evening with me.'

'Oh, he will come, I know!' cried Prissy joyfully. 'He has felt so badly about not being friendly with you, Uncle Richard. I'm as glad as can be.'

Prissy ran impulsively around the table and kissed Uncle Richard. He looked up at his tall, girlish niece with a smile of pleasure.

'You're a good girl, Prissy, and a kind-hearted one, too, or you'd never have come up here to cook a dinner for a crabbed old uncle who deserved to eat cold dinners for his stubbornness. It made me cross to-day when folks wished me a happy New Year. It seemed like mockery when I hadn't a soul belonging to me to make it happy, and I believe it will be a happy year all the way through.'

'Indeed it will!' laughed Prissy. 'I'm so happy now I could sing. I believe it was an inspiration—my idea of coming up here to cook your dinner for you.'

'You must promise to come and cook my New Year's dinner for me every New Year we live near enough together,' said Uncle Richard.

And Prissy promised.



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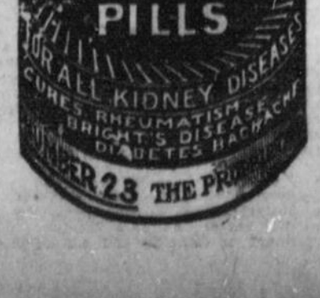
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Duties—Six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each of three years. A homesteader may live within nine miles of his homestead on a farm of at least 80 acres solely owned and occupied by him, or by his father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister.

In certain districts a homesteader in good standing may pre-empt a quarter-section alongside his homestead. Price $3.00 per acre.

Duties.—Must reside upon the homestead or pre-emption six months in each of six years from date of homestead entry (including the time required to earn homestead patent) and cultivate fifty acres extra.

A homesteader who has exhausted his homestead right and cannot obtain a pre-emption may enter for a purchased homestead in certain districts. Price, $3.00 per acre. Duties.—Must reside six months in each of three years, cultivate fifty acres and erect a house worth $300.00.

W. W. CORY,
Deputy of the Minister of the Interior.

N.B.—Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for.

THE BOYS' PAGE.

THE SWEET-HART COMPANY.

'If you capital consisted of a pumpkin patch and you just had to earn twenty-five dollars between now and January 1, how would you go at it?' asked Steve disconsolately.

'Sell the pumpkins,' said Patty promptly.

'Won't bring enough,' said Steve, 'the market's overstocked.'

Patty looked sober as long as her dimples would let her. She knew all about Steve Hart, his sick father, his overworked mother, the five little Harts—and the mortgage. She glanced at Steve's house, which stood next to her Uncle Ben's just at the edge of the town. Somehow, it did seem to Patty that anything so big and uncomfortable as a mortgage on a house must show somewhere. As her gaze came slowly back toward Steve, she saw several tall old butternut trees, covered now with round, greenish nuts.

'Steve!' she cried, and all her dimples dimpled out together. 'I'll turn in my butternuts—there are bushels in the attic—for my share of the capital, and we'll form a partnership. It will be the greatest fun—'

Steve glanced at the butternut trees, then at Patty.

'I— on't—see,' he said.

'I do,' cried Patty. 'I love to bake. And I can make the most delicious pumpkin pies, Uncle Ben says, and nut candy, too. And I've lots of time out of school with only Uncle Ben to look after.'

'Patty Sweet,' cried Steve, indignantly, 'if you think I'd let you, or any girl, earn money for me, you're mistaken.'

'There'll be something to do, I guess,' said Patty, 'beside just making pies and candy. You'll go around and take orders, and I'll fill 'em and we'll both deliver. Lots of people in this town would rather pay for a pumpkin pie—if they were sure of getting a good one—than to bother with making one. And then we'll make a specialty of nut candy for Christmas.'

Patty's enthusiasm began to fire Steve's.

'We must have a company name,' he said, 'so we can put a sign on the biggest butternut tree. And we'll share our proceeds evenly. You need money 'most as bad as I do, Patty.'

'Yes,' said Patty, 'because some day I'm going to a normal school. And Uncle Ben doesn't think too much education is good for girls. So I'll have to earn the money myself. What shall we name our company, Steve?'

'We might put our two names together.'

'Hart and Sweet?' said Patty slowly to get the general effect.

'Sweet and Hart,' suggested Steve.

'Sweet-Hart,' cried Patty. 'O Steve, that's a splendid name. It sounds just like good things to eat, doesn't it?'

'Maple sugar,' cried Steve smacking his lips. 'Next spring, Patty, why couldn't we make maple sugar—just little fancy cakes at fancy prices?'

'We could,' cried Patty, 'and apple and plum jelly from our old orchard, and currant and raspberry from your garden. O Stevie, when once you begin to think of things, how many there are!'

In a week's time, a neat sign was fastened to the big butternut tree. It read:

She is most wise,
Who comes and buys
One of the Sweet-Hart Pumpkin Pies!

THE SWEET-HART COMPANY

Orders promptly filled.

Patty had made the rhyme. Steve had painted the sign. It was his idea, too, to print some neat little slips which he left at the houses in the vicinity of the Sweet-Hart Company's headquarters.

A few orders, mostly from friends of the Sweet-Hart Company, came in. Pumpkins were sliced and baked and Patty made her first pies. They were delicious and sold readily. Still, when the cost of the materials had been taken out, the sum which remained to be divided into two parts didn't look much like paying off mortgages and going to normal schools. But the Sweet-Hart Company wasn't discouraged.

One morning the big bakery waggon from town drew up in front of the Sweet-Hart Company's rival establishment.

'Trying to run opposition?' asked Mr. Stone, who was a old friend of Patty's.

'Mr. Stone,' cried Patty, sitting down suddenly on a heap of maple leaves, 'I—we—never thought of that. Have we hurt your trade very much?'

'Well—not to mention as yet,' laughed the jolly baker. 'But I hear you can make better pumpkin pies than I can. Now, how would it be if I should contract with you for—well—say twenty pies a week to start with—five each on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays? I'll use most of them in the restaurant—and I can afford to pay you your regular prices.'

'O Mr. Stone, could you?' cried Patty. 'That would be splendid.'

'Sometimes I could use more, of course,' Mr. Stone went on, 'but I'll contract for twenty a week now.'

Steve was overjoyed with the good news.

'I only hope,' he said, 'the pumpkins will hold out.'

With the pies ordered from Mr. Stone and the ten or twelve furnished to families of their acquaintance, the Sweet-Hart Company was soon in a flourishing financial condition.

One Saturday morning Patty made her first candy. One toothsome nutty square was enclosed with each of that day's pie orders, 'as an advertisement,' Patty said.

'It's every bit as good as the big companies send out,' declared Mr. Stone, when he came for his pies on Monday. 'Think up some fancy way to do it up, Patty, and a fancy name, and I'll take all you'll furnish.'

After a long consultation the firm decided to invest some of their money in small, tin, heart-shaped cooky-cutters. When the next Saturday came, Patty cut her candy into little hearts. Each was wrapped in oiled paper and a band of colored paper was pasted around it. On the band was printed 'Sweet-Harts.'

The candy sold so fast that Patty couldn't fill the orders. Steve had to boil and cut, while she made pies and gave directions. Two of his little sisters were engaged to shell the butternuts, wrap up the candy hearts, and do other small jobs. Uncle Ben himself cracked butternuts.

With all the rest, Jack Frost came along and the new butternuts had to be gathered and spread out in the attic to dry.

'Else what'll we do next fall?' the firm asked each other.

There were some anxious days—one especially, when Mr. Stone declared he must have pumpkin pies until after Christmas, anyway. Patty and Steve set out with an old horse and waggon, and bought up all the pumpkins they could find.

'Well,' said Patty to Steve one rainy Saturday, 'how about the twenty-five dollars?'

'Twenty-five dollars!' cried Steve; 'I've more than thirty now.'

'So have I,' said Patty.

'And more coming,' said Steve.

'A pumpkin patch and a few old butternut trees aren't such poor capital,' laughed Patty.

'Specially not when you get the kind of partner I did,' said Steve gratefully. 'It's all due to you, Patty. Mother says she never knew such a girl.'

'And Mr. Stone says,' cried Patty, 'that he never knew such a boy. He's going to give you a position in vacation. But don't let's dissolve the Sweet-Hart Company, Steve.'

'Never!' cried Steve.—Alice E. Allen in the 'Popular Educator.'

WHAT A GREAT MAN SAYS TO BOYS.

Boys, don't bother about genius and don't worry about being clever. Trust rather to hard work, perseverance, and determination. This is the advice Sir Frederick Treves, the great English physician, gives to boys.

The best motto for a long march is, 'Don't grumble; plug on.' You hold your future in your own hands. Never waver in this belief. Don't swagger. The boy who swaggers, like the man who swaggers, has little else that he can do. He is a cheap-jack, crying his own paltry wares. It is the empty tin that rattles most. Be honest, be loyal, be kind. Remember that the hardest thing to acquire is the faculty of being unselfish. As a quality it is one of the finest attributes of manliness. Love the sea, the ringing beach, and the open down. Keep the body and mind clean.

THE HABIT OF INDUSTRY.

There are many teachers who profess to show the nearest way to excellence, and many expedients have been invented by which the toil of study might be saved. But let no man be seduced to idleness by specious promises. Excellence is never granted to man but as the reward of labor. It argues, indeed, no small strength of mind to persevere in habits of industry without the pleasure of perceiving those advances which, like the hands of a clock, while they make hourly approaches to their point, yet proceed so slowly as to escape observation.

There is one precept, however, in which I shall only be opposed by the vain, the ignorant, and the idle. I am not afraid that I shall repeat it too often. You must have no dependence on your own genius. If you have great talents, industry will improve them; if you have but moderate abilities, industry will supply their deficiency. Nothing is denied to well-directed labor; nothing is to be obtained without it.—Sir Joshua Reynolds.

ARBITRARY ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

We'll begin with box, and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox should be oxen, not oxes,
The one fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of mouse should never be meese.
You may find a lone mouse on a whole nest of mice,
But the plural of house is houses, not hice.
If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
The cow in the plural may be cows or kine,
But a bow if repeated is never called bine,
And the plural of vow is vows, never vine.
If I speak of a foot, and you show me your feet,
And I give you a boot, would the pair be called beet?
If one is a tooth and the whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?
If the singular's this and the plural is these,
Should the plural of kiss ever be nicknamed keese?
Then one may be that and three would be those,
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose,
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.
We speak of a brother, and also of brethren.
But though we may say mother, we never say methren.
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his, him,
But imagine the feminine she, shis, and shim!
So the English, I think, you all will agree,
Is the funniest language you ever did see.

Duty is always plain: right is a verbal mystification. A man can always and everywhere do his duty. He seldom can get his supposed rights without trampling on the rights of others. Men wrangle incessantly as to rights. They easily agree as to duties. The performance of duty is always an ennobling, a moral, a religious act. The struggle for rights calls out all the passions of self and of combat.—Frederic Harrison.

Puzzles

SQUARE.

(Contributed by R. E. B.)

My first is a wanderer kin to the star.
My next is a fruit that comes from afar.
In hoarding his money my third is not wise.
My fourth has the meaning of equalize.
And now let me say in closing this verse,
My fifth you will find will rhyme well with 'worse.'

A TRIANGLE.

(Contributed by R. E. B.)

1—My first is a part of a house.
2—My second is a pronoun.
3—My third is a body of water.
4—My fourth is a large bird.
5—My fifth is a lawn.
6—My sixth is used at funerals.
7—My seventh is the name of a youth in a Greek legend.



DIAMOND.

(Contributed.)

Part of pen. Anger. A Mediterannean Island. A leading government official. A pleasant look. Not old. Seen in both summer and winter.

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLES.

PHONETIC AUTHORS.

1. Stevenson.
2. Reade.
3. Burns.
4. Webster.
5. Hawthorne.
6. Shakespeare.
7. Henty.
8. Chatterton.
9. Kipling.
10. Crawford.
11. Scott.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

I d i o t i C
T r i u m p H
A d e l p h i
L i n c o l N
Y a m a s k A

BEHEADINGS.

Dace, face, lace, mace, pace, race.

The correct answers to the puzzles of Nov. 28 ('Weekly Witness'), with the exception of one small failure in the Acrostic, have been received from Bertha Smith, Bowen Island.

Edith Morrison answered correctly the Acrostic and Beheadings of last week's puzzles. Thanks for the original puzzle.

Jean Cartier also answered these two correctly, but had several errors in Phonetic Authors. Johnson, though a very good guess, is not the one required.

Jessie Dobbie was successful in finding most of the Authors, though No. 1 proved to be a stumbling block also; the answers to the two other puzzles were correct.

Indoor and Outdoor Department

THE COURAGE OF THE CAT.

The mastery of herself which a cat shows when, having been caught in a position from where there is no escape, she calmly sits down to face out the threats of a dog, is a marvellous thing, says a writer in the Boston 'Transcript.' Everybody has seen a kitten on the street door-step attacked by a dog ten times her size, as apparently self-possessed as if she were in her mistress's lap. If she turns tail and runs down the street she is lost; the dog will have a sure advantage of her. Even as it is, if he could get up courage enough to seize her on the spot he would be able to make short work of her.

'You dare not touch me and you know it,' is what her position tells the dog. But she is intensely on her guard, in spite of her air of perfect content. Her legs, concealed under her fur, are ready for a spring; her claws are unsheathed, her eyes never move for an instant from the dog; as he bounds wildly from side to side, barking with comical fury, those glittering eyes of hers follow him with the keenest scrutiny. If he plucks up his courage to grab her, she is ready; she will sell her life dearly. She is watching her chance, and she does not miss it. The dog tries Fabian tactics, and withdraws a few feet, settling down upon his forepaws, growling ferociously as he does so.

Just then the sound of a dog's bark in the next street attracts his eyes and ears for a moment, and when he looks back the kitten is gone! He looks down the street and starts wildly in that direction, and reaches a high board fence just as a cat's tail—a monstrous tail for such a little cat—is vanishing over the top of it. He is beaten: the cat showed not only more courage than he had, but a great deal more generalship.

A CAT'S WAIT FOR HER SHIP.

An instance of remarkable sagacity displayed by a cat in connection with the oil tank steamer Bayonne, once loading at Point Breeze, was the prevailing topic of conversation among the officials of the custom house and the employees of the Atlantic Refining Company, says the Philadelphia 'Times.' It is a true story, and is vouched for by the crew of the Bayonne, the boarding officers and all others having to do with the vessel.

When the Bayonne came to Philadelphia about seven weeks previously, it had as a pet a black and white pussy, whose birthplace was far beyond the Italian Alps. The cat, which was a present to Captain Von Hugo, had accompanied him on several voyages.

While the big oil-tanker was loading its cargo at Point Breeze, to the horror of the captain and the consternation of the steward, who was charged with its keeping, the animal disappeared the day after presenting to the ship four beautiful kittens. Well organized parties searched the tanker, and thoroughly explored the streets and wharves around the oil works, but all to no avail. Pussy was gone, and with much regret Captain Von Hugo was obliged to make sail without his old companion.

Two days after the Bayonne left the prodigal returned. Running down on the wharf it cast anxious glances at the big barque Sternbeck, which now occupied the pier formerly held by the Bayonne. Visiting in succession every ship in the vicinity, the instinct of the cat forbade it boarding any of them, and finally, giving up in despair, it cast its lot in the watchbox of Watchman Manly, seemingly reconciled to the fact that it must await the appearance of the absent oil ship. During the six weeks in which the Bayonne was on its voyage to Savonia, Italy, about twenty other steamers came in, and each was carefully inspected in turn by the abandoned tabby. Strange to say, a survey from a distance seemed to satisfy the cat. It was obvious that its former home was not recognized.

At last the Bayonne returned, and then was manifest an unparalleled exhibition of animal instinct. When the oil ship was still far down the stream pussy took her position on the end of the wharf, showing by a thousand antics that the oncoming craft was the one so anxiously awaited for so many weeks. Unnecessary to say, perhaps, that the recognition was mutual from Captain Von Hugo on the bridge, and there was no need to decry the absence of an enthusiastic welcome. To cap the climax, when the Bayonne was some feet from the pier the cat's impatience reached the limit. With one flying leap it cleared the intervening space, and, to the surprise of the cheering crew, ran directly to the place where her kittens were formerly domiciled. The latter were still on board, and in a few moments the happy family was again united.

Captain Von Hugo will have a picture painted of his celebrated pet, which will ornament his private cabin, and on his return home will have the strangest of tales to relate to his family and friends concerning the phenomenal instinct of pussy.

SENSITIVE PLANTS.

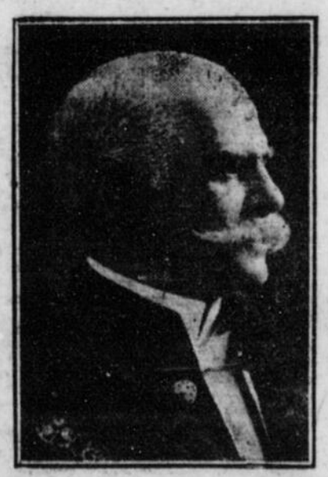
The large sensitive plant (Cassia Chamoecrista) and the wild senna (Cassia Marilandica) have most curious ways of hanging down their stalks, rotating on their axes, and folding their leaflets together whenever they are touched or rudely knocked against. This is owing to their extreme sensitiveness. They then appear much as they do when asleep. Although it is not generally appreciated, the sensitive brier (Morongia uncinata) can be grown with facility in many more northern states than those to which it is a native, and the delight of watching it grow is keen indeed. The many pairs of small leaflets which it bears are even more sensitive than those of the casias. To tread over much of the dry soil it inhabits in the South, and then to look backward, is enough to foster the notion that witches had been at work in the plant world; since the path of the traveller is then as distinct as the wake of a ship. Flaccid and drooped, the innumerable little leaflets appear to have lost all interest in living.—Alice Lounberry, in the Tribune Magazine.'

The BOY SCOUTS



SOME CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

To our Boy Scouts.—I am delighted to join with the well-wishers of the boy scouts' movement and wish our



MAYOR GUERIN.

boys every kind of success in the organization in which they take so much pride, as well as in the great benefits they expect to derive from being members of the boy scouts.

Good, conscientious men are the backbone of our country, and I am satisfied that every boy who is true to the principles taught by his masters will become such a man.

A Merry Christmas to you all.

J. J. GUERIN,
Mayor of Montreal.

To the Boys.—I wish you all 'a Merry and enjoyable Christmas,' and would remind you that you will have many opportunities during the holiday season of exercising the precepts embodied in the scout law. Do not miss the opportunities. If you feel in your heart that you have benefited by becoming a scout, make up your mind to enlist during the coming year one or more boys from your circle of friends, or from your district, so that they may have the advantages which you and your brother scouts now possess.

F. MINDEN COLE.

Old stagers like myself deserve to receive a great deal of sympathy from young people from the fact that we were born in the days when there were no boy scouts. We had nothing picturesque about our clothes; we did not learn then what to do when people broke their legs, or had lain at the bottom of a canal for two or three minutes. Things are very different now. There was a dreadful railway accident in England lately, not far from London, and the first to the rescue were the members of a patrol of boy scouts, with their ambulance. The boys happened to have been exercising in a field at hand. Nothing could have been finer than their work, although it was the first time they had ever seen real tragedy. The boy scouts have a great reputation to live up to and a great future before them. They need to keep reminding us all that the things by which a nation lives are the unseen things, the character, the honesty, the self-sacrifice of its people.

R. BRUCE TAYLOR.

This is the time to smile, as all scouts do; and the time to make others smile, as all scouts try to do. It is no theory—we know it is a fact—that the very best way to have a good time is to help others to have a good time. So, Merry Christmas, and God bless us, every one.

NEVIL NORTON EVANS.

Good luck to the boy scouts in the coming year. May their numbers increase and their pleasure both in work and in play. They are true soldiers of their country, and fight a cheery warfare against the forces of ignorance and dullness and wickedness. More power to them. Look out for the great Child Welfare Exhibition in October, and be ready to lend a hand.

J. A. DALE.

1ST. LACHINE TROOP'S CONCERT

The first concert of the 25th Montreal (1st Lachine) Troop, held in St. Stephen's Hall, on Friday, 14th instant, was an unqualified success.

The chairman, the Rev. Austin Ireland, in his opening remarks, introduced S. M. Wensley, as 'the popular scoutmaster of Lachine,' and the enthusiastic cheering which greeted this statement showed that the scoutmaster of the 25th had won the confidence of everybody.

The first item was a rendering of the Ingonyama chorus, followed by the song 'Be prepared,' sung by S. M. Wensley, the troop whistling the chorus from the back of the hall. Comic songs rendered by Mr. Dan Mathews 'brought down the house.' Corpl. Jackson and Scout Smith contributed with recitations and songs. The physical drill, ambulance display and fire lighting drill showed that the troop had been doing 'good business' in the past months, and that scouting was being looked upon as something worth while.

Perhaps the most original feature of the evening was the tableau entitled 'Tis the boy who makes the man.' The scenes were four in number, two depicted the life of the street urchin, and what it would lead to. The first showed a number of street urchins, gambling, card playing and fighting, and the second, entitled 'Street urchins in later years,' showed these same fellows in a western saloon. One fellow comes on the scene intent on making trouble; he pushes another fellow off his chair at the gambling table and enters into the game. Cheating leads to a shooting affair, in which one is killed. This tableau was very well acted, and the scout doing the shooting is to be complimented on his good acting.

The other tableaux shows, in the first scene scouts busy at their work, knot tying, signalling, boxing, etc., and the second depicts a couple of prospectors doing successfully and living honest, upright lives.

The 25th saw its beginning in April last, in the home of the Rev. Austin Ireland, where six picked boys were undergoing, under Mr. Ireland, a thorough instruction in the ground work of scout principles and methods. To-day the troop has sixty-six members actively identified, not including a number who are undergoing preparation for the tenderfoot examination.

S. M. Wensley, his assistants, A. S. M. Hilton and Marsh, and the boys of the 25th, are to be congratulated on having such a fine record.

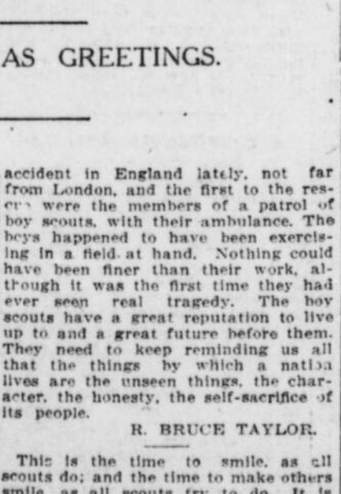
SUCCESS IN LIFE.

I believe success in life is within the reach of all who set before them an aim, and an ambition that is not beyond the talents and ability which God has bestowed upon them. We should all begin life with a determination to do well whatever we take in hand, and if that determination is adhered to with the pluck for which Englishmen are renowned, success, according to the nature and quality of our brain power is, I think, a certainty. The first step on the ladder that leads to success is the firm determination to succeed; the next is the possession of that moral and physical coura which will enable one to mount up, rung after rung, until the top is reached.—Lord Wolseley.

A NEW COMMISSIONER.

Mr. F. L. Wanklyn has consented to act as scout commissioner for Montreal.

Mr. Wanklyn is one of those directly responsible for the great improvement that the civic government of Montreal has shown during the past two years. He is a member of the Board of Control, and his knowledge of engineering and his determination that the city's work should be at least as well done as that of any private company have been of invaluable service to his colleagues. For many years Mr. Wanklyn occupied executive positions with the Grand Trunk Railway, including the post of master mechanic of the great shops at Point St. Charles. Since then he had been chief engineer of the Montreal Street Railway, and general manager of the Dominion Coal Company, with its extensive mines at Sydney. Mr. Wanklyn is the type of man likely to make things 'boom' among the scouts.



MR. WANKLYN.

FIRST ANNUAL DINNER.

Enthusiastic Gathering of the Scoutmasters and Patrol Leaders' Clubs—A Strong Programme.

An event which had been looked forward to with a great deal of anticipation was the joint gathering of the Scoutmasters' Club with the newly-formed Patrol Leaders' Club. This took place at the Edinburgh Cafe, on the evening of Thursday, Dec. 14.

Principal Wellington Dixon, in the chair, was very happy in his remarks throughout. The programme consisted of a series of short addresses on topical subjects by leading citizens, interspersed with musical numbers.

The first to speak was Prof. J. A. Dale, of McGill, who in masterly fashion presented 'the responsibility of leadership.' The professor said 'leadership can be learned,' and he placed emphasis on the fact that the shouldering of responsibility has in it great possibilities for any one.

Provincial Commissioner J. Burland announced amirst great applause that Controller F. L. Wanklyn had very kindly promised to accept a district commissionership. This acceptance is significant of the place the Scout movement is taking, slowly but surely in the civic life.

Dean Frank D. Adams spoke of 'The value of outdoor scouting' in humorous fashion, telling of personal experiences in camp life, emphasizing the value of practical experience of camp craft if one is to enjoy a week of fellowship with nature. His rehearsal of an experience when his party had to live on ham and cocoa for three days because the 'experienced bushman' (who turned out to be a stonemason!) in charge, had forgotten the provisions, did not seem to excite the sympathy one might have expected.

The newly-appointed, but well-known president of the Patrol Leaders' Club, P. L. Simons, spoke on 'The objective of the P. L.'s Club.' He briefly outlined some of the things which should be accomplished. It should develop a social spirit amongst the troops unifying them in their purpose, and the club could take off the shoulders of scoutmasters a great deal of the work which they were now doing. That the club is going to 'get busy' was made amply sure by the enthusiastic way in which the members received the statements of their president.

Prof. Nevil Evans was the next speaker. He related a number of humorous stories.

Major J. A. Ewing spoke on the 'Scout movement filling a need.'

The music was contributed by the Rice Brothers, who were received with an ovation as did Mr. Hugh Hamilton, Mr. F. C. E. Burnett, Mr. R. Lacey Johnston and Mr. Conder, all of whom helped to make the evening so successful.

Other members of the council present were Major E. C. Cole, Messrs. A. Stewart, W. P. Slessor, J. C. C. Almon, also our friends, Mr. L. G. Morris and Russell Patterson.

To character and success, two things, contradictory as they may seem, must go together—humble dependence on God and manly reliance on self.—Wordsworth.

WESTMOUNT.

Invitations have been accepted by scouts of Toronto, Kingston, Ottawa and Napanee to spend three or four days with the Westmount scouts at the New Year, and a thorough winter sports programme is mapped out, including hockey matches, tobogganing, bun feeds, etc. Westmount hopes to give the visitors one royal time.

This interchange of visits from other towns must do much to bind the scouts together from other parts of the Dominion, and though Westmount is starting with a small number, they hope, if the experiment is successful, to arrange for a large crowd another time, when the whole of the city can participate in the entertaining of the visitors.

PATROL LEADERS' CLUB.

Two more fitting scouts could not be picked to fill the positions of president and secretary-treasurer of the P. L. Club than P. L. Simmons and



P. L. SIMMONS.

Cunningham. Both have been in the scout movement since its infancy, and both have done good work.

The President at the Patrol Leaders' banquet said, in stating the object of the club: 'We intend sharing the work that has been borne by the S.M.'s club, and we will try to foster the spirit of esprit de corps among the



P. L. CUNNINGHAM.

troops in the city. I am sure we are in closer contact with the scouts and know their needs better than the S.M.'s do, and we hope to help our officers in many ways. We intend holding lectures on various scouting subjects that will be of help to every troop, and we mean to make this club so good that not only the S.M.'s of Montreal will be proud of it, but the whole Dominion of Canada.

21ST. TROOP.

Through the kindness of Chief Moffitt and the staff of Westmount police and fire department, the 21st Troop spent a pleasant Saturday afternoon in the fire station recently. The boys were instructed in the uses of the various apparatus and in the principles of the fire alarm and police patrol systems. Last Saturday the troop held its first snowshoe tramp of the season.

JAS. W. ROCH,
W. S. M.

THE OWL

JOTTINGS.

Let me wish you all the merriest of Christmases.

It is, as every one knows, the custom to have an extra large dinner on Christmas Day.

Don't sit down to yours until you have helped some one else to enjoy his.

I am sure you will be much happier and have a better appetite.

There are several troops in the city doing good helping those poorer than themselves.

But every troop should be doing this.

And it is not too late to begin today.

Last Thursday's banquet was a corking success.

When the president of the Patrol Leaders' Club in his speech mentioned the 'esprit de corps' of this city, I was almost inclined to say, 'Hear, hear!'

When you really know the fellows in the other troops, you find out that they are not such bad fellows after all. In fact they seem to be just as decent as oneself.

I saw that Seasick kept up his record as a shifter of ice cream.

As a matter of fact, I lost count, and up to the moment of going to but up to the moment of going to position.

This time next week some of you will be representing your troops at the Y. M. C. A. Conference at Sherbrooke.

To these fellows I would like to say, 'Go there with the idea of getting the best out of it for your troop. Don't go only to have a good time.'

Prov. Sec. Evans tells me it is the plan of the S.M.'s of this city to give a large demonstration of scouting at the Arena early in the spring.

To make this a success the cooperation of every officer and scout in the city is necessary.

I am sure every one will be ready when required.

On Thursday scouts from Toronto, Kingston, Napanee and Ottawa will be the guests of the Westmount troops.

Arrangements are being made, I understand, to have a rally on the mountain one night when all the troops can join in the fun.

The Ontario visitors are stopping until Tuesday, during which time a very pleasant programme is being arranged for their entertainment.

F. Todd, W. S. M., of Toronto, is coming, and every one is looking forward to seeing him again.

The entertaining of scouts from various towns does a tremendous lot of good.

Not only can we learn things from one another, but it will strengthen the friendship between the two big provinces.

With the provinces of Ontario and Quebec working hand in hand in this organization I feel sure that the movement will be put on a solid basis.

McGill Scouts certainly know how to entertain.

Their anniversary banquet on Monday was a splendid affair.

One felt quite awed by the large number of professors and deans present.

However, they did not seem to take the edge off the scouts appetites.

McGill has started a new game.

It is to put your name on a card on a plate and let you look for your place at table.

One scoutmaster looked decidedly fagged as he circuited the room endeavoring to find his place.

Unfortunately the gentleman was near sighted and went by his card.

Well, scouts, don't let any of us forget that the slogan for this week-end is 'Good Will to Men.'

THE OWL.

FROM THE ROYAL LIFE-SAVING SOCIETY.

Dear Mr. Evans,—At a meeting of the above society last Thursday evening, the dates for the Sir Edward Clouston Cup competitions were changed to the last week in January of each year, and the last week of July of each year.

The reason of the change being that clause 6 was altered to read that one of the competitions must be held in a tank and the other in open still water, and it was considered that September was too late in the season.

It was also decided that after all the teams entered had had their trial, the four finishing with the highest number of points should compete against each other again to decide the winners of the trophy. The object of this being that as each team will take an hour to go through the competition, it would be necessary to hold the trials on different dates, and not always with the same set of judges, and as one set might be more strict than another a good team might loose to one not as good, on this account.

The four teams left in the final would compete on the same evening and have the same judges all through. This final trial, too, would be the most interesting to which to invite the donor of the cup, and other friends of the boys.

Trusting those changes and the reason for them, will be acceptable to your council and yourself.

LEONARD G. NORRIS.

THE BOYS.

Is there any newspaper in Canada that does as much to interest the boys in things that are really worth while as the Montreal 'Witness'? Then can its publishers not depend on them to introduce it into the families of their friends? The boy readers—yes, and why not the girls, too?—could get new subscribers for the 'Witness' just now. Very likely the very first one they asked would subscribe—if not try, try, try again and succeed. All that is necessary is to show this copy of the 'Witness' to your friends or their fathers and mothers, and tell them why you and your folks like the 'Witness.' Then show them the coupon for new subscribers, and they will probably give you the subscription on the spot.

PAIR OF SKATES FREE

Winter's fast coming, and you can get a splendid pair of skates—any size—screws and all complete—a boy to any boy or girl—for selling only thirty-six copies of the Christmas Number 'Canadian Pictorial' at ten cents each. You send us the $3.60 after selling and get your skates postage paid. Money back if not delighted. Send no money at first. We trust you. Just send post card, so we can send you a package of 'Pictorials' to start your sales, and give you particulars of other premiums, all good. Write quickly, to

GEORGE KEMP, Agents' Dept., 'Canadian Pictorial,' 'Witness' Office, Montreal.

N.B.—Montreal boys must call at 'Witness' Office for 'Pictorials.'

Home-Makers and House-Keepers

The Abuse of Christmas

(By Elizabeth Cady Stanton.)

While a chorus of voices are chanting the holiday joys and the pleasant memories of childhood, I feel impelled to disturb the general harmony with one discordant note of protest and complaint.

I fain would rouse my countrywomen to the thought of the serious abuses that have grown out of the once simple customs that made Christmas one of the most charming days of the year. Amusing letters, little tokens of affection have all given place to most extravagant presents from those who have plenty of money, and elaborate pieces of embroidery and worsted work from those who have neither time nor strength to waste. The pleasures our mothers had in the give and take of a few trifles has now developed into a stern necessity, making wholesale Christmas presents as imperative as the laws of the Medes and Persians.

The season is a dread to pater familias, because of the terrible strain on his pursestrings, and to the woman of the household, because of the labor involved. How anxious they look as they push their way through the crowds in Macy's from day to day; and though they go home, with all the bundles they can carry, there is always some one forgotten that compels another visit to the busy marts of trade, and another appeal to the well drained purse of some long-suffering son of Adam.

And although women seem wild with delight, in spending every cent they can wring out of any one, you will hear them say: 'Oh, dear me, there comes Christmas Day again; I am hardly rested from last year, and now, I must get presents somehow, for at least two dozen different friends. I can't afford to go to Tiffany's and buy beautiful presents, and so I must work early and late to make them.' Who would value a present given as a necessity? It should be an offering of love, a real pleasure to both giver and receiver.

The delight of children in an ideal St. Nicholas, who puts a few little toys in their stockings, is all very well; but when the custom with a large circle of grown people becomes imperative, it is a tax on one's friendship, and an unmitigated nuisance. I spent a few weeks at a sanatorium, one year, and noticed all the nervous women for whom the physicians were doing their utmost to restore their health and comfort, sitting in the parlors with the thermometer up in the seventies working away intently hour after hour, to get some satin pincushion and velvet slippers embroidered for Christmas. I suggested to them to throw all their needles to the winds, and go on top of the house and lie down on their cots in the sunshine. They exclaimed: 'What would you do about Christmas presents?' 'Give none,' I replied. 'There is no necessity in the case. If you wish to remind your friends of your existence, or to show that you remember them, send your card, with "Merry Christmas" and best wishes of the season. If you were my friends, I would rather get your cards than embroidery, that had taxed your vital forces, and optic nerves for weeks, in your present condition.'

If you are always troubled with spasms of emotional benevolence at Christmas time, send some meat and vegetables to the poor, apples, nuts and candy to their children; the money you spend in satin, silks and bright worsteds would cheer many a fireside and make the children inexpressibly happy.

Christmas and wedding presents, and flowers at funerals have come to be such a tax and nuisance in their extravagance and excess, that sensible people, not wishing their friends to feel compelled to observe the custom now say, on their cards of invitation, 'No presents,' and 'No flowers.' If rich friends wish to send us a cheque of a hundred dollars or more, we might receive it with pleasure, as it requires no labor to draw a cheque, nor privation to give of their abundance.

But a present of an elaborate piece of worsted work, say of 'Rebecca at the well,' over which a dear friend has strained her optic nerves for weeks, and inhaled impalpable particles of arsenic from the bright green worsteds would give me no pleasure; on the contrary, it would be a source of sorrow every time I looked at it. I would not work a cat on the toe of a slipper for the one I love best on earth; I would rather give or take a live cat.

Standing in a bookstore a few days before Christmas, one year, I heard a wife say to her young husband: 'I must get a present for Lucy.' 'No,' said he, 'I have already spent much more than we can afford; come, let us go.' But she insisted, and lingered in spite of his appeals. I felt so sorry for the man, probably a clerk on a small salary, that I hurried away.

Suppose, dear ladies, you try the experiment one year and give no presents, and see what a relief it is; and what a saving to your husband's pocketbook, as well as of your own time and temper. At all events, in these hard times curtail somewhat your expenses and labors in this direction.—Selected.

ON CHRISTMAS DAY

(By Margaret Ogden Bigelow.)

This festival commemorates a day many years ago, when the world's greatest Man came to us very simply, as come the humblest.

Therefore, let us make it a day of loving democracy, of bread sharing, and of hand clasping, between high and low.

If we are poor, let us remember that even the rich are human, and bear their own share of the common travail—for perhaps we also would be rich if we could!

If we are rich, let us remember that even the poor are divine, — potentially, as sharers of Godhead,—and have their own need, their own desire for joy and beauty—for, perhaps we shall yet lose our riches!

And because this is a festival of gifts, let us make it a day of glad giving;

For we can all give something, if it be only the silence that endures a taunt.

And because it is a festival of joy, let us take joy in giving joy—a just exchange of benefit and beauty.

And because it is a festival of birth, let it be a day of service to women, and of affectionate homage to mothers;

For no her or saviour comes into this world, save by their agony.

And because this is a birthday of a wondrous Child, let it be above all things a day for children.—

For the plainest and dullest children, for the sweet little children that play, and—God's pity!—for th sad little children that work.

Let us greet those in our houses and those we pass on the street, those who serve and those who rule, the friend, the homeless stranger, the enemy, striving in our hearts to wish for each and all:

A Merry Christmas!

—'Tribune Sunday Magazine.'

CHRISTMAS.

The Christmas note is peace and good will. Whatever of discords, resentments, wrongs or estrangements the year has held for us, the blessed Christmas tide should end them all. The mists of earth blind us so often; misunderstandings, hurts and heartaches will come, and lives that are dear to each other drift apart. But the very soul of Christmas tide is love—the love of the Father, which overflowed the barriers of sin, ignorance and wandering, and bent down to us with its 'unspeakable gift;' the love of Christ who came to us because we could not, would not go to Him who bore our gifts and carried our sorrows, lived our life, and died our death, that we might know the heart of a brother.

Oh, if there is any hand that you have pushed aside this past year, reach out and clasp it now. If any dear tie has been loosened, knit it up again on this gladdest, holiest of anniversaries. If there is a wound or alienation anywhere, let it be healed, and all bitterness and pride buried deep under the Christmas holly.—'Herald and Presbyter.'

To be trusted is a greater compliment than to be loved.—George Macdonald.

I love little children, and it is not a slight thing when they, who are fresh from God, love us.—Dickens.

FOR CHRISTMAS

(By Carrie May Ashton, in the New York 'Observer.')

With the approaching holidays many are wondering what they can serve to their loved ones in the way of dainty and novel refreshments. Many will be the social and family reunions at the joyous season which should bring 'peace on earth and good-will to men.' There are a great variety of sandwiches which are easily prepared, inexpensive and delicious. Nothing can be better than those which contain a celery filling. Spread thin slices of bread with butter; chop celery fine and mix with salad dressing made as follows: One tablespoonful of butter, two tablespoonfuls of sugar, three eggs, half a cupful of vinegar, half a teaspoonful of salt, one dessertspoonful of flour, made smooth with vinegar. Cook until it thickens; cool before adding celery. Cut sandwiches in various shapes, such as squares, oblongs, triangles and hearts.

One of the latest fads is the chestnut sandwich. Boil the chestnuts until tender, peel and pass through a wire sieve, season with salt and spread this paste between as you would any other filling. Chopped hickory nuts or English walnuts moistened with sweet cream or a salad dressing are very good and candied ginger is frequently used for sandwiches.

Chicken, tongue, veal, ham, lamb and roast beef, when chopped very fine, and mixed with salad dressing, can be used for this purpose, but the other fillings are a little newer and daintier.

Where a supper is served more substantial food must be prepared. Salads are usually relished by men, particularly chicken. Chickens are frequently high, and it is not always possible to secure them. In such a case veal will answer very nicely. Procure a solid piece weighing about three or three and a half pounds and cook until very tender, cool and then cut in small pieces as you would chicken. Cut about half as much celery as you have meat fine and mix with it. Where celery cannot be had use a good hard cabbage, either chopping or cutting it very fine, so it is crisp. When cabbage is used season with celery salt.

Dressing.—One heaping tablespoonful of butter, one dessertspoonful of mustard, one dessertspoonful of salt, half a saltspoonful of cayenne pepper, four eggs, two-thirds cupful of vinegar. Cook until it creams and begins to thicken, stirring constantly to prevent burning or sticking. When thoroughly cold stir through the veal and celery, reserving enough to smooth over the top. Garnish with curled parsley, carrot leaves, or the tops of celery.

Salad eggs are always nice and easily prepared. Boil one dozen eggs hard, cut in two when cold and remove the yolks; rub smooth with a little vinegar and season with salt and mustard, then return to the whites and smooth. Garnish and serve on a large platter.

Oyster patties are considered a great dainty. To make a dozen, take one and a half cupfuls of flour, two-thirds of shortening (butter or cottolene is best), a pinch of baking powder or what can be placed on the point of a teaspoon, and a dust of salt. Add as much cold water as for piecrust. Line muffin rings with this crust and place a little roll of tissue paper or soft brown wrapping paper in each and then cover as you would a tart or pie. Bake five to eight minutes until a light brown, remove the paper and fill a few minutes before ready to serve, and let them stand in the oven for a moment or so.

Filling for Patties.—Two tablespoonfuls of flour, two tablespoonfuls of butter stirred until smooth and cooked until they begin to brown, then add gradually the juice or liquor of a pint of oysters which has stood on the stove just long enough so that the oysters curled, a pint of small oysters and a cup of cream, season with salt and as you remove it from the stove stir in the yolks of three eggs well beaten. Fill the patties. Serve one on each plate, keeping the remainder hot until needed.

Veal, lamb or chicken croquettes can be made of chopped meat mixed with sufficient salad dressing to moisten well, shape like cones, dip in egg and cracker crumbs and fry in a wire basket in hot fat.

Salted almonds are always nice and not difficult to make. Blanch the nuts, soak in cream for a few moments and place on granite plates in the oven. When dry sprinkle with salt and turn repeatedly until crisp and brown.

A delicacy which is much liked is made of whipped cream and macaroons. Whip a pint of thick cream (Jersey if you can get it) until firm, sweeten, then add enough macaroons, which have been rolled very fine, to give the cream a delicate brown tinge. The macaroons should be at least two days old. Serve this in small glasses.

For an informal evening entertainment nothing could be nicer than cups of coffee, with a spoonful of whipped cream on top, and some of the sandwiches described above, and cake (either angel's food, caramel or chocolate would go well with the other things), and ice cream or the dainty referred to above made from macaroons and cream.

A delicious cake consists of four white layers with whipped cream spread between just before serving. If it stands long it will be sure to soak. Another nice cake is baked in sheets, and is a white sponge cake. Spread with whipped cream between, and sprinkle over each layer freshly grated or dessicated cocoanut. Chopped English walnuts or almonds can be substituted for the cocoanut if one prefers.

Candied or Crystallized Fruit or Nuts.—Boil two cups of granulated sugar and two cups of boiling water together for half an hour. If it threads and is brittle the syrup is ready. It must be stirred, and should boil gently. Pour the syrup into a bowl placed in hot water to keep the syrup from candying, and take the prepared fruit or nut on the point of a fine skewer, dip them into the syrup, and then lay them on a dish which has been buttered or on oiled paper. Oranges are divided into sections and wiped dry. Cherries should be stoned. Nuts should be blanched.

GARDEN TALKS

This department is conducted by Mrs. Annie L. Jack, Chateauguay Basin, Que., to whom all questions should be sent. All questions answered through the 'Witness.'

'Everywhere, everywhere Christmas to-night,
Christmas in lands of the fir tree and pine,
Christmas in lands of the palm tree and vine
Christmas where snow peaks stand solemn and white
Christmas where corn fields are sunny and bright,
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas to-night.'

These words written by Phillips Brookes and bequeathed to the world with many other beautiful thoughts, were in mind when the stranger came in during the busy hours of Christmas week.

Perhaps my tone was a little severe as I greeted him with the remark that 'you men folk have nothing to do but wait-round for your Christmas dinner.' 'Queer, he retorted, but Santa Claus is always represented as a man, a busy generous man, and that brings me to the object of my call. I am getting up a subscription to give him a present this year.'

'Give Santa Claus a present,' I repeated rather dazed by the idea. 'Yes, he affirmed, it will be a good thing for us to experience that blessedness of giving you advocate so much.'

I am glad you realize it I said, the strivings and givings that are sincere remind us of the poor widow of old who shared her failing meal and oil with the prophet, so struggling toilers of to-day enrich their lives by self-sacrifice. I always notice that giving brings happiness when in a good cause.

'How much?' he asked, waving a fountain pen in the air. What's the use? I questioned the old fellow will only spend the money to buy more toys for those who do not need them. I wish more could be spent for the sick and unfortunate, and less for those who have too much already. A friend of mine used to say—'The water always runs to the river,' a modern version of, 'To him that hath shall be given.'

The stranger poked the fire reflectively. The whole business needs reconstruction, he assented, and it must begin with the children.

When I was a boy there was a big fire in a big city in December, and mother explained to us that hundreds of boys and girls would have no Christmas and were homeless.

So we sent them our Christmas money, and what was to have been spent on us, for Santa Claus was told to take our gifts to those suffering children.

It was a happy Christmas I remember with plenty of good cheer, and some simple home made gifts for each that are dear treasures now, for the hands that fashioned them are forever stilled.

Such memories are sacred and inspiring he added softly—turning away his face as the back log rolled away from the andirons, and needed his attention.

SCHOOL GARDENS.

Student.—Breslau in Germany was the first city to have a botanical school garden. For some years the teachers and pupils tried to grow wild flowers in pots, but found the method unsatisfactory, as may be supposed when we consider the disadvantages of the transition.

The school garden movement began over ninety years ago, and made its greatest development in Europe where there are at present more than one hundred thousand school gardens.

In this country the movement is of much later origin, but there are over one hundred towns in America where successful school gardens are carried on suited to the conditions. In Europe it is often used to provide added income to the teacher, as well as furnish agricultural training to the pupils.

But in America conditions are different, and the object is to train the mind to a knowledge of nature by practical methods.

In New York City Mrs. Parsons started her children's farms in the heart of a tenement district in an undeveloped part of De Witt Clinton Park, that had been used as a dump. Two hundred and fifty children were each given a garden, and a three-foot fence kept others from entering.

A marked result has been in the moral training it gives children, teaching mutual responsibility. A boy who has a garden will realize the feelings of others, if theft goes on, and often through it learns to respect the rights of others.

Civic pride is created and vandalism vanishes, so by this means the community has an uplift that leads to good citizenship.

WINTER BIRDS.

Bird lover.—I am sure you enjoy the birds in winter, and it is a good thing to feed them as you do at meal-times outside the dining room window where you can watch their antics. Chicades can be tamed, so that if a window is open they will come into a room and eat out of your hand, and seem to know by instinct their friends from enemies. These little birds are considered as exclusively insectivorous, but will pick the soft kernal from oats or corn, and peck at sunflower seed in the same way. The fruit of the bayberry and berries of the sumach are food for winter birds when found.

EASTER LILY BULB.

Mrs. H.—I lately asked a florist if his Eastern lillies bloomed the second year, and found that they were treated in summer in the same manner as my own, and as you have described. If there are only small side sprouts it would seem as if the centre shoot had died, and these offshoots will not amount to anything. Only two of my dozen bulbs of last year have formed centre shoots, that look as if they might blossom.

As a rule they are not expected to flower the second year under these forced conditions, and the bulbs being natives of Bermuda or Japan, cannot recuperate and reproduce in this climate out of doors.

The asparagus fern sometimes turns yellow from over watering with poor drainage, and at other times the frond is ripening. All depends if new shoots are coming up, which is a sign of good health. Perhaps it has rested at the wrong time, and it may be necessary to stir the soil and allow air to circulate to the roots.

ONIONS FOR PROFIT.

I. M. A., Constant Reader.—The Weathersfield red is an old standby variety but Prizetaker is the most popular variety of the present day. Seed should be sown as early as the ground is dry enough to work and the land should be rich loam, finely pulverized. If the rows are straight they can be worked with a wheel hoe early in the season. They must be thinned out, and can be transplanted if done by a careful hand. Never earth up the bulbs, as that encourages thick necks, and apply unleached ashes if obtainable. As for cabbage, they do best when started in hotbed frames as early as possible in spring, and transplant from the seed bed into boxes when the second set of true leaves appear, placing the plants twenty-four inches apart each way, and transplanting again to the open ground in rows four to five feet apart with plants two feet apart in the row.

The most serious enemy of all cabbage like plants is the root maggot, and a piece of tarred paper placed close to the stem upon the surface of the ground will keep them from attacking it. The cabbage worm can be dispatched by pyrethrum, or kerosene emulsion, but must be put on early before the worms get into the head. The soil must be in good heart and it is not advisable to plant twice on the same ground. Cabbages grow best when the weather is not too hot and require plenty of water.

Melon seeds are planted in frames that is, each hill is enclosed by a portable box frame about three feet square, having a movable sash cover. This is raised, or removed on warm days, and taken away as soon as all danger of frost is past. Seeds are planted an inch deep, four to six in a hill, and the ground cannot be too rich. Ashes, lime or tobacco dust help to keep off the cucumber beetle, that attacks melons—but covering till they are large enough to resist attacks is the only sure remedy.

STRAWBERRY GROWING.

While strawberries thrive on a variety of soils they generally succeed best upon a strong sandy loam or light clay loam. For most purposes it is best to grow them in narrow matted rows, and plants should be set early in spring on ground that has been prepared the previous fall, the rows being three and a half feet apart, and from one to two feet in the row according to growth of variety. Care must be taken to spread the roots out as much as possible and to press the soil firmly about them, holding the plant so that the bud will be just above the surface. If blossoms appear the first season they should be taken off as soon as they appear and runners restricted to a space about one foot wide. The land must be worked rather deep at first, but as weather becomes warm and roots fill the ground it should be restricted to a depth of not more than two inches. Weeds must not be allowed to get a start, and if the season is dry cultivation should be frequent, as a dust mulch to conserve moisture. A good crop should be produced the second season.

INFESTED SNOWBALLS.

S. F. B.—It does seem a pity to have fine plants overrun with insects, and I know of one impatient gentleman who cut his down because it made them unsightly. It is best in this case to take time by the forelock and spray early in spring, using kerosene emulsion. If done regularly every week or ortener, if necessary, before the leaves are grown, there will not be any chance of 'curling.' Such large shrubs are well worth the trouble to keep them, in good condition.

NON-BLOOMING CALLA.

Mrs. S. E. R.—The calla seems such a free bloomer that it is hard to understand why yours fails if the stock is good. One great mistake made is over-potting, for a four-inch pot is large enough for a young plant that should grow to it. The soil must be rich and light and drainage perfect, and it is well to give a little fertilizer every fortnight after growth is established. Pulverized charcoal, worked into the soil keeps it sweet and heightens the green of the foliage. Much depends upon the summer treatment of giving the plant a good rest.

WHEN TO PLANT PEONIES.

Miss R. G.—The very best time, in the opinion of experts, is in early October, as soon as foliage is well ripened. If dug and planted earlier than this the eyes are not so large and the root has a tendency to wilt. The peony, however, will stand more ill usage than almost any other flowering plant, but if left till spring before being moved, they put out white feeding rootlets as soon as the ground thaws. These are broken off in transplanting, which gives the plant a serious setback. Sometimes with spring planting they fail to bloom for two or three years, or the main body rots away, and they are compelled to make a fresh start, from a point just below the eye. Taken altogether the best advice that can be given on the subject is to plant in the autumn, if possible.

EGG PLANTS.

R. G.—This vegetable is difficult to manage in the north, but requires the same treatment as melons. It is necessary for the plants to be vigorous and healthy at the time of transplanting to open ground. Set two to three fet apart in rows three and one-half feet apart and give plant of fertilizer and cultivation. Large Purple is the variety generally grown, though some of the smaller white-fruited sorts will doubtless give satisfaction to an amateur. Needless to say, plants must be started under glass.

DECEMBER REMINDERS.

The house plants will require more warmth as the weather grows colder and must be turned to the light, with enough water to keep them from being thirsty.

Roman Hyacinths and Paper White Narcissus should be at their best and will last longer if kept cool.

Christmas plants or flowers should be taken from a heated room every night and set in a cool place, being covered with a newspaper. In this way they will last very much longer. See that ferns and palms are sprayed with clean water, and that dust is washed off the rubber and palm.

Dutch Hyacinths and daffodils can be brought to the light now—to bloom next month. They grow slowly at first, and require more water as bud form.

Primulas do well in half shade and only require a moderate supply of water, which must not be allowed to touch the leaves.

THE RED CRESCENT.

(From the 'Westminster Gazette.')

Among the nations of Europe Turkey is the only one which flies no Red Cross in time of war. Though a party to the Geneva convention, Turkey has steadfastly refused to use the emblem of that convention, the Greek cross, to protect its sick and wounded in time of war. In place of the cross the Turkish army medical corps makes use of a red crescent on a white ground, but this departure from the recognized international emblem has never received the sanction of the nations signatory to the Geneva convention. There is little doubt that Italy will look on the crescent as equivalent to the red cross.

A MOTHER'S CONCERN.

In these days every young person, even the children, read the newspapers, and absorb good or harm day by day. No paper is perfect, and no two people would edit a newspaper in the same way. But the selection of a newspaper for the family is of the utmost importance. It must be clean throughout. If it reports crime, it must not be to gloat sensationally over the details for the sake of circulation but aim solely to expose wrongdoing and to point a warning of like dangers or doings.

And the newspaper must be honest and genuine throughout. Far better that it should make mistakes of judgment than that it should be lacking in principles. If it is not good at heart, it is not worthy of admission to your home, and will do harm day by day, if it gets an entrance. If there is no perfect paper, there are at least those that are best. Be sure to select the best you know. And choosing it for yourself, advise your friends to take it too. Many people do not realize the persistent influence, little by little, and line upon line, for good or for evil, that the daily or weekly newspaper may exert.

We know that your friends would be interested in the coupon for new subscribers on another page, and also you know if you get two new names even your own renewal may be sent at the campaign rates.

MISS SARAH'S RETURNED BREAD

(A CHRISTMAS STORY)

MYRA GOODWIN PLANTZ.

'Mother, I wish I could do something to brighten the holidays for you,' Katherine Ames said, dropping a kiss upon her mother's pale forehead.

'That is impossible, darling, the first Christmas without papa,' was the sad answer. 'Yet he was so glad to be relieved from suffering, and he must be happy now,' said the daughter.

'If we only could believe God knew best and that all things promised were true, what heartache we would be saved,' mused the bereaved wife. 'I remember that funny little woman who sewed for us last summer used to say, "If we didn't hanker so after manna we'd enjoy plain bread and butter more." What a cheery thing she was anyway, and what an example to us lazy people at the hotel. Think of her earning her own living and keeping city children every summer. I asked her last summer if she made enough sewing to keep such a family, and she laughed and said, O, no. The garden and having her own chickens helped, and the boys fished and picked berries, but she had to save all winter to be able to have her summering with the rest of us. "I have the fresh air handy," she said pointing to the lake rippling in the breeze, "and a teacher friend hunts up the most needy children she can find, and an Epworth League fixes them up and pays shipment back and forth, and I cook for them and teach them what I can. Some day my bread on the waters will come back good and plenty."

'I wonder what she would say to such a home as this and the sights of a big city, and a rest from the sewing machine,' said Mrs. Ames.

'O, mamma, make her my Christmas present and let us return some of her bread,' cried the daughter. 'Country people are so good about giving poor, tired, city children a change, and entertaining their relatives during the heat of the summer. Why should not city people send for their country friends when things are dreary in the country?'

'Write for her, dear. Send a check and directions to come, and have her telegraph what train, and tell her to bring Tabby in a basket. Tell her I need her to cheer me up. Make it a duty and she will take it as a providence.'

Katherine was so delighted over the animation in her mother's face she hastened to do her bidding at once.

So it happened in a few days Miss Sarah found a letter waiting for her when she went to the general village store which was post office as well. 'Nobody's dead, I hope?' questioned the post mistress who read the postals and unwrapped papers while waiting for customers for tea and coffee.

'Maybe I've got a fortune coming my way,' answered Miss Sarah cheerfully. 'I left my specs at home, but I guess the good news will wait,' and Miss Sarah hurried out before her friend Samantha Jones could offer her eyes.

'Tabby, we've got a letter,' the spinster said as her companion met her purring at the door. 'It's from one of my summer boys, like's not. Maybe the one who used you so mean last summer, but he was sorry and you scratched him good and hard, anyway. It's good and cold out, but we've got coal for the burner and wood for the kitchen and double windows on and the house well banked with leaves and boards. Tabby, I wish you could talk back. I s'pose that's the best part of a husband. I'm sort of hungry for folks now it's coming Christmas and one wants to give something and get something out of the ordinary.' The little woman checked a sigh, shook off the cat and down the fire, lighted the lamp, and sat down to read her letter.

'O Tabby, I never saw a city bigger than our country seat, nor a picture gallery, nor a park, but I'd feel at home in Chicago; I've heard so much about it from the children and I've seen the World's Fair pictures, and I'd like the going of it. Tabby, Samantha Jones would be glad to keep you and the plants, too. No going to the city with a cat in a basket for me. Johnnie White would tend the chickens for the eggs, and make, too. I've nursed his mother more than once so she'll see he don't forget. How good the Lord has always been to me!' and Miss Sarah could hardly keep back tears of joy. A visit to Chicago had been beyond her wildest dreams.

The whole village rejoiced with Miss Sarah in her good fortune, and Tabby had offers for room and board with nice privileges by half the town. So much lunch was pressed upon the traveller that she could have been cast away on a desert isle for some days. As it was she enjoyed feeding children all the way to city, which was a good day's journey, taking in the time at several 'junctions.' She alighted from the train fairly dazed with the throng of people hurrying madly in every direction. She followed those who were making for the gate, and there, to her relief, stood beautiful Miss Ames waiting for her. She thought the angels must wait in that inviting way when mortals wake from the troubled dream of life, and was hardly sure of it being a real world until the young lady gave her a warm kiss of welcome. Then there was a spin in an auto, during which Miss Sarah not only said her prayers, but repeated part of the catechism to calm her fears. The house on the boulevrd seemed like a palace to the bewildered guest from the country.

There were no more montonous days in the big house while Miss Sarah was 'eating her returned bread' as she called her visit. Each day something was planned for her entertainment. Katherine felt she had never seen statuary or pictures before as she heard the comments of this child of nature, who had lived so long near the heart of things. She understood by instinct what the girl had failed to grasp by culture, the soul the artist tried to show in color or in marble.

Miss Sarah had to hunt up, through her good teacher friend, the dozen or more fresh-air children whom she had entertained at different times in her little home by the lake. With most of them she was well pleased, and they each welcomed her with a greeting she felt she hardly deserved.

'I thought you would be discouraged, Miss Sarah, when you saw these children in their own homes,' Mrs. Ames said when Miss Sarah returned from the 'slum' district with her usual happy face.

'I have only seen and heard one live missionary in all my life,' replied Miss Sarah, 'but I will never forget one thing he said. "You can find snakes or souls in India, whichever you are looking for," says he, and to-day, when I saw a batch of new immigrants swarm into the Italian quarters, a nice-looking lady near me said, "Poor things, think of the struggle before them." "Yes, and its reward," says I. "There was no chance for them on the other side, but here the thrifty ones will push their fruit cars into stores, and they'll all get on if they don't drink. There's the public school with our sweet young women teachers waiting for the children, and the mission Sunday School bidding for them, and all kinds of charities for those who are too sick or lazy to get along. I can see why city children looked peaked, they live in close places, but they see a lot and have a good deal done for them. As to working hard, good land! the children in the country have to help on the farm and go out to work for their neighbors, and in big families the older girls must milk and take care of the babies, work in the field and all, and then they don't see much. Then there are chances in the city. That little crippled Jim I took so to went to a hospital free and a noted doctor straightened his leg. My dear little Bettie has gone to the hospital for the incurables. What a blessing there is such a place for the poor. I don't deny they have it hard, and none of us sacrifices enough for them, but folks are finding out what religion is, and it is getting brighter in the dark corners.'

'You have opened a new door of happiness for me,' said the widow. 'Since I have been going around with you I have seen so many in deeper trouble than myself I begin to feel cheerful. I am determined not to brood over my sorrow again, but, honestly, does not the sight of so much misery discourage you?'

'I can carry so little myself, I've just had to turn the management of the world over to the Lord who made it,' replied Miss Sarah cheerfully.

The crowning event of the long visit was the Christmas celebration, for Mrs. Ames wished to entertain the children who had been Miss Sarah's fresh-air guests. Some of the girls had to bring babies with them, and several mothers were included, but it was a very happy gathering. After the graphophone had lost its charms, and viewing the conservatory was over, the long dining-room was thrown open and the glittring tree met admiring eyes. The order was not always the best, and one urchin got a box on the ear from a fond mother for snatching a dollar timepiece from an older boy. The presents were not mittens and comforters, much as they were needed, but what the recipients wanted and could not possibly have from their parents or friends.

'I'll never forget this party if I live to be a hundred,' declared Miss Sarah as she sank exhausted but happy in an easy chair after the last well fed child had been gotten safely out of the house. It is the Christmas of my life.'

'And a fine one for me,' cried Katherine; while her mother said, 'I never expected to laugh again as I have this evening.'

When Miss Sarah arrived home she found the neighbors had made fires and had supper waiting for her. The chickens had been fed from nearly every table in the village, the plants were again blooming in the south window, and Tabbie was purring on the best sofa pillow in the house. Mrs. Samanatha stayed to help her friend with supper and to hear the latest news from the front. There was roast pork and baked beans, canned 'sauce' and 'fried cakes,' pie and layer cake, to say nothing of brown bread and cold 'raised biscuits.' 'It was like heaven, Samantha, the beautiful house,' the hostess said as she poured the tea. 'And the grand church with the pipe organ that made you think of angels singing and of martial music, too, and the flowery preaching when the whole dictionary was thrown at you at each time, and the stores and the fancy cooking — why, Samantha, we had ice cream just as if it were Fourth of July all the time, and grapes, not canned, either, and candy on the centre table all the time—in a bonnet dish, I think they called it. But the best was the party with my blessed fresh-air children. Yet, after all, there is no place like home. My fresh air ain't so well het, but it's awful cheery to see the glowing coals in the baseburner, and it's nice to have a cat instead of those wild children all the time, for you feel free to turn the cat out of doors when she gets on your nerves. And there ain't no friends like the old ones, Samantha. Do let me warm up your tea for you, my dear.' — 'The Northwestern Christian Advocate.'

LETTERS FROM READERS.

SOCIALISM OR SUFFRAGE.

(To the Editor of the 'Witness.')

Sir,—What has gone wrong with he 'Witness?' There was a time when, being a busy woman, if I saw a dispute in other papers over any matter of right and wrong I would go to the editorial pages of the 'Witness' to find the opinion expressed there, and I was satisfied that it was right. But lately I have been compelled to be doubtful. In an article recently published on Socialism, after speaking rather favorably of that cult, it proceeded to speak of what it had done for Milwaukee, and said about its only attainment had been to reclaim a rocky piece of ground and turn it into a playground. If the 'Witness' is read extensively in the United States, I can imagine the enemies of Socialism chuckling over such a remark in the columns of a paper of such high standing. It surely is a case of damning with faint praise. It may be that the 'Witness' does not know any better, but in that connection I am reminded of what my son—an ardent Socialist—has said when I have tried to make excuses for the 'Witness' in former times when it sometimes ranked Socialism with Anarchism: 'It ought to know,' he would say; 'A paper of such high standing should not write about such a thing without knowing.' He was brought up on the "Witness," as I was myself. I am not a Socialist, for I cannot believe it will do all its adherents claim for it, but I know that it has already done good in a general way, and in places like Milwaukee it has done a great deal, though hampered by its narrow bounds. One day, after a long conversation with my son, in which he explained the intentions and wishes of Socialism, I said: 'Why, if Socialism fills your ideals it will bring the millennium.' 'That's just what it will do,' was his steadfast answer. Now, could not the 'Witness' find out something of how things are going in Milwaukee, and please don't take the story entirely from the ordinary newspapers as they are too much under the thumb of the capitalist, the natural enemy of Socialism, to be depended on.

Then there is another thing. The 'Witness' has always posed as — in fact I believe it has been—the friend of women's suffrage, and yet in a late issue it remarks that women's suffrage makes little difference on the general result in those places where it is enjoyed. I am a suffragist, and claim our right to vote, not for the good that we may do (though I believe we will do good), but as a simple matter of justice. And I am astonished at the attitude of your paper. Some years since, when the late Mr. Sedden was passing through Canada, I read a report of an interview which, if I am not greatly mistaken, appeared in the columns of your paper. Of course, he was asked about the effects of women voting, and his answer was (I quote from memory): 'They are only good.' He went on to say that he had opposed their enfranchisement, but if it had to be done again, he would work as earnestly for it as he had once done against it. Asked for any particular instance of their good work, he gave as one of them that neither party dared to bring out a man of bad character, as the women 'would snow him under.' When Sir Joseph Parks was passing through Winnipeg, he also was interviewed, and his remarks were almost identically the same. There was another man—I forget the name; it was Betts or Getts, or something like that—who came to Canada on a mission regarding the extension of trade between the two countries. He also was interviewed on that subject, and if he and the two Premiers of New Zealand had conferred on their answers, they could not have been more alike. Now, if women had done nothing more than relegate the immoral man to the background, they would have done well. A short time ago the Winnipeg 'Tribune' spoke of New Zealand as the best governed country under British rule. A few years previous to that, when 'Everybody's Magazine' sent a man around the globe to inquire into the conduct of the governments of the different countries, he stated that New Zealand was the best governed country in the world. Surely women should get a part of the credit for this. If the opposite could be said, how quickly we would be reminded that women had the franchise there. Of course, I am ready to acknowledge that the women there have a good chance, for the men must be of a superior stamp, or women would not hold the position they do. And there is a showing for Socialism here also, for, though not altogether Socialistic, it is conceded that it is the nearest approach to it that there is in a whole country. A country in which there is neither great riches or extreme poverty, where school children ride free on government-owned railroads, wher there is a special low rate for workingmen, so they need not crowd into city slums, where orphan children are the wards of the nation, and where they are not herded in so-called 'homes,' but where real homes, where children are desired, but have been denied, are found for them, and where they are kept under a loving supervision lest ill befall them, surely in these things and in many others there is something to show that women's hearts and women's heads have been at work.

As for Milwaukee, I will just mention one or two things that Socialistic rule has done. In the candy factories a condition existed that rivalled that of the Chicago packing houses when 'The Jungle' brought them into the limelight. The civic government closed them and would not allow them to be opened until they were put in a thoroughly sanitary condition. There was no appointing of a commission to inquire into a condition that was patent to all beholders, to give the guilty parties a chance to make a temporary spurt, and clean up for the time, and incidentally to give some favorites a good paying job at the expense of the city, but it was done in a businesslike way.

Another thing they have done. They have opened a free maternity hospital for poor women, where they can receive the care in their confinements which is almost invariably denied them. Frances Willard said that it was the inadenable right of every child to be well born, and while Milwaukee Socialists cannot compel the conditions that will secure that right, they are at least determined that as far as it is in their power the child will get its first start in life under proper conditions. Then the women who have to take in washing to support their families get water free. Some may smile at the mention of such a trifle, but is not life made up of trifles? In conclusion, I would say that the 'Witness' is a Socialist,' only it makes the mistake of looking to the old parties for the revolution, but 'they are joined to their idols, let them alone.'

SUBSCRIBER.

Notes. — (a)—As to Socialism, the ideals of modern Socialism are in one respect the reverse of those of the kingdom of heaven. Christ's socialism is based on the principle: All mine is thine. The principle of academic socialism is: All thine is mine. There are two ways of looking at the same thing, but they work in opposite directions. The one works on pure love, the other too often breeds envy, wrath, malice, and all uncharitableness. Christ's plan was to save society by making men divine; the plan of socialism is to save men by reforming society. We have most faith in the divine method, little as it has been understood and little as it has been tried. Experience in Canada has shown that whatever is socially managed is corruptly and wastefully managed, not for the public, but for private ends. We shall need to have different people before we get, in any permanent way, different results from social control.

(b) With regard to the suffrage also, we think our correspondent exactly reverses the eternal law. She says, 'I am a suffragist and claim our right to vote, not for the good that we may do, though I believe we will do good, but as a simple matter of justice.' We do not see that any one has a right to vote—that is, to rule over one's fellow beings. Voting is a duty not a right—a duty in response to society's needs. In principle those should vote, and only those, whose votes will be for the benefit of society. That is the right principle. The only claim for any extension of the suffrage is that such extension would benefit society. It is only on the crudest lines that fitness has ever been attempted to be determined. We should like to see our educational standard, as some test of at least understanding what he is doing. In any case let the plea not be on the selfish basis of right, but on the social basis of the good that would result, which our correspondent has so well urged. We are not discussing either of the questions on which our correspondent has reached such strong convictions—only setting forth some eternal guiding principles.

THE BASIS OF UNION, RE THE POLITY.

Sir,—As to doctrine, the basis is a compromise. Some of the difficult and debatable points have been treated as an old-time preacher used to treat difficulties in his text: 'Brethren, we'll look this matter squarely in the face and pass on.' So the whole thing was ignored. When I listen to a preacher I can be profited only as I have the conviction that he is uttering his real sentiments. For an honest preacher to compromise his convictions is unthinkable. 'Here I stand, I can do no other.' God help me.' So spoke the grand old hero of Protestantism, Luther. Who can do any good otherwise? As to polity, it can be clearly shown that it is harmful to the pastors and to the people. Watch the scheme in operation. In Methodism the stationing committee guards the interests of the circuits and of the pastors as well. In the basis church the pastor is wholly in the hands of the congregation, and possibly in the power of the least wise, least devoted, element in it. Suppose we admit for a moment that the three bodies all preach the same doctrines (as some vigorously contend) then the history of a settled ministry and independent church government as compared with Methodism and the itinerancy during the last one hundred and seventy years is a conclusive argument on a world-wide scale for Methodism and the itinerancy.

The basis proposes 'to preserve the essence of both the itinerancy and the settled pastorate,' and then, curiously enough, provides a scheme which utterly destroys the itinerancy, lock, stock and barrel, and gives a settled ministry under conditions far inferior to those under which it exists at present. Let us see:

First, the basis provides for the election of managers by the congregation (p. 43) who may be non-members (one, two, three, possibly all, may be such). They control the finances. 'Adherents (members consenting) may vote on temporal matters.' (p. 42.) What kind of pastor and of preaching will be desired and demanded by men elected managers yet not willing to be members of God's Church? The terms of membership are broad and low. (p. 41-42.) These non-members in power will say 'prophesy smooth things.' 'We must have crowds and dollars. The pastor must secure them or go.' No matter how able, earnest, and spiritual he must please the easy-going crowd that prefers worldly managers, or at the end of the year he may expect to receive the dismission the basis provides for. The fearless fidelity encouraged by the itinerant system, if preserved at all, is held fast in the face of great temptation to preach and act so as to please rather than to save. Can you expect a Spirit-filled man to vote for this? There is no provision such as the Methodists have in the stationing committee to see that the pastor as well as the people receive fair play. His character and prospects can be blighted or ruined in the basis church by a small coterie of men who know nothing of the religion of Christ.

Second. Notice carefully the working of the basis polity as to changes in the pastorate. In Methodism about one-third are changed each year, but every man has a place and every place a man. In the Presbyterian Church, I am told, the average pastorate is about seven years, and many charges for months are without pastors, and pastors without charges. About six hundred ministers (including probationers) would probably be the strength of the basis church within the bounds of Toronto Conference. Some would not go in. They would expect to do more good in the United States or elsewhere as genuine Methodists or genuine Presbyterians, than as workers on a compromise basis. Suppose the grand, modern, basis church to be so very loving that the changes would be one in ten only yearly (i. e., sixty men): allow for deaths, superannuation and calls to new places for thirty men (a large allowance), then what is to be done for the thirty men who have been voted out, or politely compelled to resign voluntarily (as a French wit puts it)? They have no home, no charge, no income. Note, the settlement committee has no power to give any of them a place, even for a year, until 'after consultation with the congregation or its governing board.' (p. 48.) It can correspond, and nothing more. The thirty congregations will fight shy of the thirty men on the street. They will want to see them, hear them and size them up (or down), and try hard to secure some one else. 'Consultation,' what does that mean? It means delay of one, two, three or more months before a man can be sure of even a year's work. It means thirty congregations without a pastor for months. It means unnecessary humiliation of good men. It means that some will feel compelled to leave the ministry. They can at least secure a livelihood without degradation. It means discouragement from entering the ministry. We are told 'it is to sift out incapables.' Possibly it may turn out to be the very plan to sift out some of the bravest, wisest and most conscientious.

In the Methodist Church every year the question is asked concerning every preacher and probationer: 'Has he competent abilities for our itinerant work?' Where a straight 'Yes' cannot be given there are several ways of dealing with the case without degrading the brother. The noblest young men have an exalted ideal of ministers as 'ambassadors for Christ.' Such can never condescend to be the mouthpiece merely and the echo of a semi-Christian coterie in a single congregation. Difficult to secure pastors now. Yes. Ten times more so under the basis. It must be allowed that godly men and ministers have human imperfections and even faults. Because of these and because of limitations intellectually and lack of adaptations, a change is often desirable. In Methodism members sometimes say, 'Not just the man I'd like, but for the sake of the children and the cause we'll make the best of it for a year or two and then, without friction or hurt, we'll get a new pastor.' Any senior preacher can tell you of many cases where a man appeared to fail on one circuit and was grandly successful on the very next. St. Paul seemed to fail at Athens. How grandly successful at Corinth and Ephesus.

They tell us changes will be made in the basis. I should think so. To vote for it as it is we cannot. As co-operating Protestant churches we can do grand work for moral reform, for missions, for the Kingdom, without rending the churches over this basis. Our strength is not in numbers but in the presence and power of the indwelling Spirit. Till we get a fair, scriptural, effective basis I must vote 'No.' With cordial love to all who love our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

GEORGE WASHINGTON,
Of Toronto Conference.

Note.—We are always anxious that all views shall find expression in our columns. Unfortunately on this question, as in most, it is almost exclusively the objectors who are heard from, while, so far as appears, the great majority are in favor of union. The above letter looks at the matter exclusively from the minister's point of view. For the minister's sake the writer would have an authority with power to impose any sort of minister on a congregation whether it wanted him or not, because he was a minister needing a place, and to tear one from a congregation to which he had become a father dearly beloved. That system has worked well among those who are used to it, but it would obviously be impossible to get some congregations to enter a union on such terms.

PREACHERS AND HEARERS.

(To the Editor of the 'Witness.')

Sir,—Kindly grant space in your columns for a few words on a matter that interests me.

In these days we read and hear much about the falling off in church attendance, and the fact lamented of 'ministers preaching to empty benches.' In different church papers, regret on this point has been expressed. Some have advanced as a reason for this falling off, that this is an age in which it is harder to reach people spiritually than in time past. Other reasons also have been given, but it is a question whether these are the real, or only causes of the lack of interest. Although it must be granted that times have changed, yet it is indisputable that the human heart is the same as in the early days of Christianity, albeit some would persuade us that 'the world is growing better,' and if so, of course men's hearts must be better! Leaving this opinion aside, however, let us deal with facts.

In the time of Wesley, Edwards, Finney, and all those famous divines of by-gone days, there was no complaint of poor attendance at church services. People came, and heard, and their hearts accepted the gospel message as 'good tidings of great joy.' And why did they accept it as 'good tidings'? Because, under the holy power of the godly men who preached, they were first pierced with arrows of conviction for sin, and told to repent. And to a man under a burden of guilt, news of a free pardon is good news. But to-day, men are not preached to as sinners. We are not made to feel that we by nature are the bond-servants of sin, standing condemned in the sight of God, so why should we, in eager crowds, come to hear the proclamation of liberty for all in Christ Jesus?

Only a part of the gospel is preached to-day, and therefore it has not power to reach the unawakened heart, and so, from lack of vital interest people remain away. When, occasionally, we find a minister preaching the gospel in the old-fashioned way with some of the fire and earnestness of the early apostles, warning men to flee from sin, and find shelter in Christ's atoning blood, we also find people listening with wrapt attention. The gospel preached in its purity still has the power Paul claimed it had. See Romans 1: 16. Let ministers be as true to their duty of warning souls to escape sin's penalty, as were the preachers of other days, and they will see, at least, in some degree, the same results.

E. M. GRAHAM.

Brandon, Man., Dec. 10, 1911.

BANKING FOR WORKINGMEN.

(To the Editor of the 'Witness.')

Sir,—May I for a few moments attempt to draw the attention of the superior or intelligent workingman to the advantage of a 'Banking Account.' Of course, in these days, when commodities are low-priced, and by consequence, wages are low also, it is useless to talk of saving money, which cannot be done; but by banking his earnings intact, a man acquires the 'careful habit,' and always has a margin on the right side, small or large, as the case may be. He should also pay for everything possible by cheque, thereby obviating the necessity of keeping money in his pocket. This procedure negatives the temptation to spend on fancies, or gamble, which is always with some men, and which, when yielded to in the case of men with families, places the families in a dangerous and difficult position. Any bank in Montreal will allow a man to keep a current account. Some may charge him, on a turnover of nine dollars a week, twenty-five cents a month for working it, others do the work for nothing.

F. T. GRIST.

Montreal, Dec. 19, 1911.

Note.—We have a letter from 'A Canadian Workman' which we should have liked to print could we follow its meaning. We gather that the writer resents a remark by a contractor at a recent meeting of the building trade, that we had now to go to the United States for skilled labor. He attributes this to the repression of initiative on the part of our own workers, who would soon develop skilled labor if they got a chance. We understand that it is the common experience of contractors, as of other employers, that they are always in anxiety to find persons who are [illegible] they do not pick these out from among their own employees, and give them a chance it is because they have no means of knowing which they are. The correspondent strongly commends Mr. Goodwin's remarks on the same occasion; we presume those wherein Mr. Goodwin urged a sympathetic acquaintanceship with employees. The real difficulty seems to lie in the ideals of organized labor, which are that competition among workers should be as largely as possible eliminated, and that no one should in any way attempt to outshine or outdo his fellow.

A TRAGICAL EXPERIENCE

The Sole Survivor Describes How a Volcano Buried Her Village.

HORROR OF CATASTROPHE.

Terrible Eruption of Grim Taal Left Only Four Out of Several Hundred Alive on Island.

(New York 'Tribune.')

(Lewis R. Freeman, in N. Y. Tribune.')

I reached Manilla a few days after the recent eruption of the volcano Taal, and thus was able to see, while it was still fresh, much of the havoc incident to the great catastrophe, and to appreciate the horror of the grim tragedy to an extent not possible to later spectators.

On the day of my arrival I heard a graphic, if technical, account of the disaster from a member of the Insular Bureau of Science, who with several scientists had ascended the ominously rumbling volcano on the day previous to the eruption and had observed the latter from the little pueblo of Tanuan, at a distance of fourteen miles. Later, I heard the story of a man and his wife who, camped upon the margin of the lake, had been engulfed by the tidal wave following the eruption, from which they escaped in their night clothes, through showers of hot mud, to a Filipino hut upon a nearby hill. Graphic and exciting this also, and so, too, the accounts which I heard during the following days from some of the refugees of the ruined barrios along the western edge of the lake, where the loss of life had been so great.

But all of these account: interesting as they were, were the recitals of people who had been no nearer to the dread centre of destruction, Taal volcano itself, than the rim of the large lake from which it raises its blunted cone of ashen gray, with from five to a dozen miles of cool clear water and verdant, close-growing jungle to mitigate the first fury of the outburst.

A STORY AT FIRST HAND.

What of the six or eight hundred people who were known to have been upon the fertile little island at the time of the great eruption? It would be the story of some one of these, who had felt the heat of the heart of the great volcano, who had stood at the gate of hell itself, that would be really worth hearing. Where were all of these people? How vividly I recall the dramatic answer which I received the first time that I ventured to put that question!

I had come afoot over the deep-worn, moonlit jungle road from the railway station at Tanuan to a camp at the edge of Lake Taal in the company of a lieutenant of Philippine constabulary, and at 3 o'clock in the morning we had started for the island in a native banca.

'The native vaccinator claims that he scratched the arms of close to eight hundred people on Taal Island last spring,' he said; 'and we believe that there could not have been many less there the night of the eruption.'

'So I have heard,' I cut in. 'Where are they all now? I've just been thinking how interesting the story of many of those who escaped would be.'

'Where are they?' he repeated, the lines of a sad smile streaking his face for an instant in the grey light. 'Where are they?' He looked from the glimmering light-line which was yellowing behind the eastern range of mountains to the blurred mass of opacity which was bulking higher above the mist ahead. 'You wouldn't have asked that question five minutes from now,' he said presently. There is where they are'—the words had the sting of personal hatred in them—'there.' He waved his hand toward the blank blue-s ahead, but before it had fallen again to the rail of the banca the cloud which had veiled the segment of the rising sun drew back and it was blank blueness no longer. I beheld a smooth, round tumble of grey cones and ridges and hollows, as devoid of trace of animal and vegetable life as a relief map of clay. 'There,' he repeated, and for the moment I was too much awed to ask further questions.

We landed in a tiny bay beyond the islets. Calling my attention to the sheltered location of this spot, my companion said that he had landed there to show me the site of the only barrio on the island from which any one escaped.

'Then there is some one living to "tell the tale,' 'after all?' I asked.

'There are several living,' he replied: 'four to be exact—but the "tale" has not been told yet, and there is a good deal of question as to whether or not it ever will be. Two of the four are apparently hopelessly insane, another is a child, too young to give an intelligible account of what happened, and the fourth—a girl in her teens—though clear in mind, is so badly burned that the chances of her recovery are not favorable.'

We landed on the newly formed beach of a mud-choked inlet and started on the easy 600-foot climb to the rim of the crater, over a surface which, save for an occasional unsubmerged snag or an upheaved block of rusting iron, was as smooth as newly laid pavements.

'The first rescue party which landed on the island after the eruption,' continued the lieutenant, 'wired to Manilla that no man, bird, beast or reptile had survived. The next party discovered, cowering under some rubbish at the water's edge, a badly, but not fatally, burned gamecock. He was brought on to Manilla, and as the supposed lone living survivor of Volcan Island, was the recipient of a good deal of attention until the following day, when word came that six human beings—residents of Pirapiraso, where we landed—had been brought to the shore of the north side of the lake. Seven had been picked up, but one died on the way. Two of the surviving six died of their burns en route to Manilla, and, as I said before, only one of the four others is believed to be mentally capable of giving an account of what happened, and she is not likely to live.'

With a suddenness that brought an involuntary exclamation to my lips, we had reached the rim and were peering into the cavernous depths below—a green lake, with circling walls of crumbling brown earth. The effect was weird rather than sinister in suggestion. The green was the greenness of chrysoprase, the greenness of shallow salt seas over coral reefs. Was it hot or cold? was a question that arose to one's lips. But what was there so familiar in the sight? Not a lurking resemblance to Kilauea nor Pelee—they were volcanoes of a different class. Ah! Finally I had it. Glacier Bay, Alaska, with the green fracture of icebergs reflected in the clear depths and the steam rising from the sea water on a zero morning! Odd thing for the crater of a tropical volcano to suggest, wasn't it?

'It takes some stretch of the imagination to think of that little hole full of green water being the means of killing fourteen hundred people,' mused the lieutenant; 'it would, indeed, be interesting to hear that little girl from Pirapiraso, who did not leave the island until the morning after the eruption, tell how it happened.'

'I'm going to try to get her to do it if she recovers,' I replied, as we turned from the weird fascination of the crater and started down to the waiting banca.

When I later made inquiry at the Manilla hospital regarding the Volcan Island survivors, it was to learn that the condition of the girl, the only one of them who might ever be able to give any account of what had happened, was still precarious. A week later she was still in a serious condition, but showing splendid vitality and likely to recover if blood poisoning did not set in. 'Progressing favorably,' was the last bulletin which I received before leaving on a month's trip to the southern islands of the archipelago, and it was not until the eve of my return to the capital that I had any further word, this coming in the form of the following item from a copy of 'The Manila Times,' which I chanced upon in the club at Cebu:

LAST TAAL VICTIM IS SENT BACK.

'Petra Limpiada, aged eighteen, the last of the Taal inmates of the Philippines General Hospital, was discharged from that institution yesterday afternoon. The young girl was admitted to the hospital three days after the great eruption. She was in a pitiable state, having sustained terrible burns all over her body.

'Careful medical attention and tender nursing pulled her through, and little Petra left the hospital fully restored to physical health, although disfigured by a number of scars that will serve as lifelong reminders of the tragic catastrophe in which perished nearly two thousand of her compatriots in the Taal region. She will be returned to her home in Polo by the constabulary to-day.'

The girl was gone, they said, when I telephoned the hospital on coming again to Manila. She had fully recovered as far as strength was concerned, but was frightfully disfigured and would be a cripple for life. She was still a good deal wrought up nervously, and the doctor doubted if she would be able to give a connected account of the events of the night of the eruption; still, if I cared to talk with her, he would give me directions for locating her new home. Those I took down, and the following day journeyed to Polo by Tanuan and Lake Taal.

I had no difficulty in locating the home of the relatives to whom she had gone, but made the stupid mistake of taking my camera with me. The girl, who was lying in a canvas deck chair in the shade of a mange tree as I came up, fled indoors at the sight of the ominous black case, and tripod, and would not come out until my boy had put them again in the caratella. She had declared, her people told me, that she would never be photographed again as long as she lived, a feeling which I quite understood when I saw the extent of her disfigurement. She had been very pretty once, I think, and the poor scarred body gracefully formed; now—but the smallest amend I can make for my thoughtlessness in the matter of the camera will be to emit the description.

None of the people who gathered about spoke more than a few words of Spanish, and, to my disappointment, neither did the girl. So I procured the services of a Spanish-Tagalog half-caste, who was fluent not only in the tongues of his parents, but in English as well. The little story I append, though here connected in form, should not be understood as having been narrated in the manner in which it appears. It was the result of an hour of steady question-and-answer in the morning and perhaps double that time in the afternoon. The method of the 'building up'—if I may use that term—of the brief narrative may be gained from the following example:

I have recorded the girl as saying in effect that the floor of their house rose up as if one of the cows were rubbing its back against it. When first questioned she had merely said that the house fell down during one of the shocks. 'What was it like?' I asked. She looked blank. Then I tried her with, 'Was it like anything you had ever felt before?' She nodded with quick comprehension, puckered her forehead in thought for a few moments and then, with a laugh, declared that the floor rose up and the house shook just as it did when the cows came and rubbed against it. Everything beyond a simple statement of fact was added in this manner. The girl displayed little imagination, except when prompted to it, but such comparisons as are used are entirely her own. I regret that I cannot give the narrative the color that was lent to it by the girl's excited gestures of surprise, of pain, of despair. I trust, however, that it will appear as a painstaking attempt to record the impressions of the only Volcan Island survivor of the great 1911 Taal eruption who is able to tell anything at all of what happened that dreadful February night.

'My family lived a part of the time here at Polo and a part of the time at Pirapiraso, on Volcan Island,' said the girl.

'Pirapiraso means "broken pieces," and the barrio took its name from the little islands near by, which are pieces broken from the big ones. At our home near here, which was also destroyed, we had several hectares of land and many orange, mango and other fruit trees. On Volcan Island we had only a tiny house and a few bananas, our reason for going there being on account of the very good grazing which the lower slopes of Mount Taal furnished for our cattle.

'There were old men living in Lemery and Taal who had heard their grandfathers tell of a great eruption of the volcano over a hundred and fifty years ago, when the country about the lake was deluged with mud nearly every day for six months. There were many more people living about the lake then than in recent years, and the loss of life was greater than even in this last eruption. Whenever earthquake shocks were felt, for as long as I can remember, the old men who had heard their grandfathers tell of all this would begin to warn us about the danger from the volcano, but we had become so used to their mutterings that whenever one of them spoke on the subject we would only call him a name which we call the dogs when they bark at the moon, or at an imaginary noise, and give no heed.

'But for several days before the eruption the shocks were so strong and so frequent that, though we had never paid much attention to the almost daily tremblings of the earth to which every one becomes accustomed around the lake, most of us were really worried. A good many people from all about had cattle on the island, and these began crossing over and rounding them up, so as to take them to a safer place. Still, no one hurried very much, because people were coming in great numbers every day from Manilla, and we told each other that if the danger was really great the Americans would not be going and standing right on the edge of the crater. Surely, if they were not afraid to go so near, there was nothing for us, who were nearly two miles away, to worry about. I think if it had not been for all these reckless visitors that nearly all the people would have taken fright and left the island.

'For twenty-four hours before the eruption not five minutes went by without an earthquake shock. These were much stronger on the island than those we were accustomed to on the mainland, and a good many people complained of a feeling of seasickness, such as they felt when they had gone to Manila by steamer from Taal. At times one could see the actual movement in the earth, like the waves which run down a piece of hemp rope when the men are twisting it. The water of the lake did not run in even waves, but seemed to shiver all over, like that in a pail when the sides are struck. Our dogs kept whining and coming to look into our eyes, as though asking what was the matter, but the cats did not appear in the least disturbed, and I remember that one of them caught a large rat which ran from under a pile of old nipa thatch after one of the shocks.

'We saw the bancas of several American parties during the day, but not one of people leaving the island. My father was out searching for his cattle, and did not return until dark, and I remembere how my aunt implored him to go away at once and leave everything behind. He laughed at her fears, but said that he would be ready and willing to go by the morrow or the day following. Early in the evening one of the houses fell down during a shock, and not long after another. Some of the people from these came to our house, and one of them—a young man—gave me a 'luck charm,' which he got from a Moro at Lake Lanao when he was in the constabulary. He laughed and said that in case old Taal blew up it would protect me from harm. Ai, Madre de Dios! I wish that he had kept it, for he is—over there—and I am—look at me!'

The girl broke down with emotion, and I did not ask her to go on with her story until afternoon. She took it up where she had left off.

'Even if one had not been frightened, it would have been impossible to sleep on account of the shocks. The rumblings from under the earth became more terrible to hear with every shock, and by midnight all of us women had given way to our fears and were crying and praying. I remember that one of the men whose house had fallen down was lamenting much more loudly over the fact that his favorite gamecock was buried in the ruins than over the loss of the hut itself.

'The first explosion must have come an hour or so after midnight. The darkness had been intense, as on the nights of great storms, but just before the explosion a light of dazzling brightness seemed to fill the air. There was a sound like rushing water, which seemed to come from under the earth, and on the heels of this a terrible heaving and twisting of the house. The sound of the explosion came, I think, after the shock.

'Our little lamp fell from the table and went out, and in the awful darkness we felt ourselves being thrown against each other like people in a rocking banca. All around we heard the crash of falling houses, but our ownfi which was the best built in the barrio, was still standing firmly when the worst of the shock had passed. The first great light had stopped flashing, but there were occasional smaller flashes, by which we could see the people and the animals rushing wildly about among the ruins.

'A minute or more must have passed before the rain of falling stones commenced, and after that came the mud. There were not many stones and none struck our house, but we heard the people crying that they were terribly hot and that some one had been knocked down. This started them crowding for the houses which still stood, and they came climbing up into ours until it could hold no more. After the bamboo floor broke through at one corner my father stood at the door and pushed the people back as fast as they climbed up.

'The mud, which at first came irregularly, and seemingly in chunks, soon started falling in a steady shower. This, though hot at first, did not burn, and it became cooler, and fell in finer particles, as the minutes went by. Every one was praying by this time. I think, for I heard the voices of many of the men with those of the women. It was not long before the thatch began giving way under the weight of the mud, but even when most of the roof was gone the sticky shower, though uncomfortable, was not painful to feel.

THE GREAT SHOCK.

'After a half-hour had gone by and no more heavy shocks were felt many of the people went outside to try to see what harm had been done. No one seemed hurt and we were beginning to regain our courage and tell each other that the worst was over, when the great shock and explosion came. It was different from the first, for the floor of the house seemed suddenly to rise as though one of the cows was scratching its back under it. Then it was as though the earth had been taken away and the house was falling through the ter from the lake was rushing around water from the lake was rushing around it. It was brighter than sunlight with the flashes which came from the direction of the volcano, and I still can see the picture of a dozen of us clinging together in the middle of the floor of the house as it reeled on its long piles, and beneath the people struggling in the waters of the waves from the lake. Then the flood of hot mud came—it was hurled in solid masses now and every touch of it burned like flame—the air was filled with the smell of burning matches and that is about the end of my distinct recollections.

'But I still remember perfectly how the man next me threw his body over mine and for a few moments protected me from the showers of boiling mud. I felt the awful sting of it on my arms and legs, and then I felt his arms relax as his burns overcame his senses. All I recall after that is of finding myself in the water and of the endless hours of waiting there in the darkness, with the hot mud falling all around and the cries of the dying sounding in my ears. As for the rest—the coming of daylight and the banca from Talisay, the trip there and to Manilla, and the weeks in the hospital—it is all a hopeless jumble, and you know as much about it as I do.'

'Do you know who it was that sheltered you from the hot mud?' I asked. That must have been the one thing which kept you from being burned to death.'

'Yes,' she answered, closing her eyes and sinking back in her chair. 'It was the young man who gave me the "luck charm." He had kept close to me through it all. We were to have been married this month.'

OUR YOUNGER FRIENDS.

Will any of the little friends who enjoy the bed-time stories, get a new subscription for the Witness' under the direction of their mothers? We are sure that they would be very successful if they tried something after this manner:

'Please, Mr. So and So, Father takes the 'Witness,' and I like the bed-time stories, and mother likes it, and I would like you to get the 'Witness' for your family.'

We believe that any child that just now went to the family friends and showed a copy of the 'Witness' to each, saying something like the above, would very soon find a new subscriber. It would be well to mark plainly the campaign rates to new subscribers, and the coupon, so that the friends would see them when looking over the paper which the child would hand him to examine. Who will be the first boy or girl to get the new subscription?

SAINT NIHAL SINGH ON AMERICAN MANNERS.

(From the 'Literary Digest.')

'A stranger meets with impudent notice' in the United States, writes Mr. Saint Nihal Singh, in 'The Hindustan Review' (Allahabad). Mr. Singh is perhaps the best known of Hindu journalists, both as a traveller, and a contributor to the London and other leading newspapers. By strangers he means Asiatics, for he mentions only his countrymen and Chinamen as likely 'to be singled out and stared at.' Some of his lively article reads almost like a string of new incidents in the experience of Martin Chuzzlewit and Mark Tapley on their way to Eden. When he landed in America on the Pacific Coast, 'boys and girls in droves' followed him along the sidewalks, 'yelling, screaming, and calling him all manner of names.' As he was bearded, he was advised by these gamins 'to get a shave.' They insulted his oriental dignity and self-respect by greeting him with cries of 'Skicoo!' and 'twenty-three for you!' If he had fathomed the meaning of these phrases,' he would have been 'inexpressively dejected, harassed, and discomfited.' He subsequently learned that the words meant 'Get you gone.' His indignation bursts forth as follows:

'Get ye gone! That was the welcome America gave me when I landed on the continent; but that was not the last of that kind of welcome that the people of the United States were to accord me during my extended sojourn in the land of the Stars and Stripes. The very first impression I formed of America was its rudeness to strangers of different appearance from the citizens of the land. The very first conclusion I arrived at in the United States was the fact that I would have to put up with a great deal of impertinent notice. It was providential that the very first day of my arrival to be tormented by the ungentlemanly, and lo! the ungentlewomanly, attention paid to my brown visage and raven-black hair, for had I allowed myself to be discomfited by American rudeness, I certainly would have seen the inside of a lunatic asylum within the first six months of my residence in the United States.'

It is difficult to realize the places which this eminent journalist travelled through in our country, when 'a woman' mistook his turban for a surgical bandage and asked him, 'What kind of accident did you have?' On another occasion he says: 'An oldish American woman brought a wet towel and began to rub my forehead with it as hard as she could' in order 'to rub off the brownish-black stain' on his face, she said. Undoubtedly he may well have been irritated by the 'daring of the American women.' He is struck with 'the nonchalant manner of the American woman and eke of the man.' Male nonchalance he illustrates as follows:

'This spirit of nonchalance in the American is so well cultivated that you can not rebuff it. At least, such has been my experience. More than anything else, you can not whip an American at argument so that he will stay whipt. He never acknowledges his defeat, and the minute you get off his breast he rises, forgets his bruises, and begins to charge you once again, trying to down you if he can. Many a time this conclusion has forced itself on me until now it has become part of my working philosophy in America.'

The newspaper editors he met were very inquisitive about his age, and so were the fashionable ladies he met. His appearance piqued the curiosity of all, and he writes:

'If it is a society leader, a woman with money and power (whatever that word may mean), she asks you this question more politely and she repeats her query less bruskly; but the insistence is there, the same quality, the same quantity of insistence. The young woman will say, for instance: 'So you have been away from home for . . . years?' and you will say, 'Yes.' She will talk for an hour about what you saw in foreign lands, and then will come the query: 'And how old were you when you left home?' When she has the answers to her two questions, your age is just a matter of simple arithmetic. If you somewhat hesitate to state just how old you are, you will be condescendingly told: 'My question may sound impolite, but we are interested (this word is drawled out, in-ter-est-ed) in you.' Funny interest, you may say to yourself, that hinges on one's age: but you can not put off your friend by any adventitious means. She wants to know—and the best course you can adopt is to let her know. Otherwise there is a divorce between you and your peace of mind. I once tested the ingenuity of a woman friend as to her ability to find opportunities and ways to pick out of me just how old I was. She asked me a half dozen times, not once putting to me a direct question. A half dozen different ages I gave her, and each time she laughed.'

He relates many incidents which show how Americans despise Orientals, and writes:

'As to the Asiatic, his head is filled with mashed potatoes instead of brains. The orthodox American regards the Oriental as a huge joke. All kinds of fun are had at his expense. I remember the case of a young Chinese, a very bright feilow, who came to the United States some time ago to study political economy. He spoke English imperfectly, and, as is the case with most Chinamen, he would say 'l' where he ought to say 'r.' Consequently he would call 'rice,' 'lice,' and 'Mr. Lice' was the name by which he became popularly known. A young American boarding in the same family as did the Chinaman, taught the Celestial to drink his tea with a tablespoon, to eat his pie with a knife, . . . eat his soup with a fork, and other ludicrous things, telling him that they were essentially high-bred table manners in America. I had the painful experience of seeing the Chinaman make a fool of himself at an important function. Every one present enjoyed the joke, except the Celestial, who was utterly oblivious of the fun that was being had at his expense.'

He throws up his hands in horror and indignation, and can not understand that an American citizen, who reveres the top hat and Prince Albert coat, is amazed at the spectacle of a swarthy and turbaned Asiatic stalking with dignity through a California thoroughfare. It is no wonder, therefore, that he is struck with doubt as to our civilization, and exclaims:

'Are such things possible in civilized America?' was the only comment John Chinaman made when he found out how he had been fooled. 'Yes,' said I, 'they are possible in half-civilized America. The country is young; it has much to learn. Refinement one could not expect to look for in men and women whose parents were backwoods people, cut from communication with the world, engaged in rudimentary farming in a fierce struggle with Nature; and who, themselves, have no time for anything else save chasing madly after the almighty dollar. When Americans have a little leisure and some inclination to be introspective, they doubtless will outgrow their burly manners, but not before.' This is a simple proposition and constitutes more than ample excuse for American rudeness to strangers.'

STRIKE IN MEXICO.

Pueblo, Mex., Dec. 22.—A general strike of workmen in the cotton and jute mills in and about this city, is on here, affecting between 4,000 and 5,000 men. Twelve establishments have been compelled to close down. Disorders are anticipated.

LITERARY REVIEW.

THE EARLY AMERICAN BAR.

Among the most recent contributions to the history of the Early American Colonies is one of especial interest to the legal profession, dealing as it does with the status of that profession up till the Civil War. It is written by Charles Warren, of the Boston Bar, and is entitled, 'A History of the American Bar.' (Boston: Little Brown and Co., $4.00 net.)

The volume is divided into two parts, of which Part I. is an account of the 'legal conditions' in each of the various colonies during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries—prior to the Revolutionary War. One of the most interesting features is the explanation of the status of the common law as applied by the courts in the different colonies. In Virginia and Maryland the binding force of the common law—as imported from England—was recognized from the very outset. In Massachusetts and the New England colonies as a whole, little deference was paid to the common law, that is to say, they made certain laws for themselves, and, when these did not cover the case, the magistrates were to be governed by the word of God and by the common law only in so far as it was expressive of the word of God. In New York, the common law was accepted by the inhabitants when the colony was taken over from the Dutch. In Pennsylvania there was active opposition to its establishment. While in the southern colonies they had from the outset a most complete system of courts and procedures based on the common law.

Under circumstances such as these, small wonder that few lawyers arose for many years. In New York the merchants and landowners discouraged the rise of any other influential body of men. In Virginia and Maryland the governor was the sole fountain of justice, while concerning those colonies where the word of God was the chief legal text, the significant remark is made that 'When the Holy Scriptures were considered as a proper guide in all cases of doubt, and the parties spoke for themselves, there was no place for an order of lawyers.' It was only with the eighteenth century that any number of lawyers arose, and it was well on in the century before the early prejudice against them disappeared, so that, quite obviously, the pioneers of the profession had no bed of roses. Their legal education was obtained either by a residence in the Inns of Court at London—whence came the better and more potent influence—or by a period of study in some local law office with a perusal of such limited legal textbooks as were then available. Towards the end of the century, however, the various colleges in the colonies, Yale, Harvard, Columbia, etc., began giving law courses. These gradually attracted those who formerly went to London, and a very different attitude towards the profession was assumed by the public after the Revolution.

Part II. deals with the events from the Revolution till the civil war—the period of the 'Great American Lawyers,' and during which the Federation became a firm unit through the strength of the judiciary of the United States Supreme Court. Although the period is famous for its many eloquent and brilliant lawyers and judges, two figures stand out pre-eminent. Chief Justice Marshall and Daniel Webster. This portion of the volume is full of interesting quotations and anecdotes about these early luminaries and includes three periods: the first, from the revolution to the war of 1812—a period marked by the growth of the early Federal Bars, the establishment of law schools and the foundation of the real American common law—; the second, comprises the reign of Chief Justice Marshall, when the Federal Bar was composed of the legal giants from all the Bars of all the States, and the third covering that period of reformation and adjustment of the common law to meet the new social, economic, and political conditions for which these years were notable.

From the death of Chief Justice Marshall in 1853 till the Civil War the history becomes mainly one of changes in the law due to the development of railroads and corporations, and is of interest chiefly to the lawyer.

THE SUPREME COURT AND THE CONSTITUTION.

Grave as are the problems before Britain, they are being met slowly but surely by the leavening of public opinion and through this by the action of the government. In the United States, where the same problems exist, aggravated by 'a caste basis of material possession,' the difficulty of meeting them is enhanced by the cast-iron constitution. 'Social Reform and the Constitution,' by Frank J. Goodnow, LL.D. (The Macmillan Company of Canada, $1.50) is an attempt 'to ascertain from an examination of the decisions of our courts to what extent the constitution of the United States in its present form is a bar to the adoption of the most important social reform measures which have been made parts of the reform programme of the most progressive peoples of the present day.' The necessity for compromise at the time of the confederation of the states, the jealousy of states' rights on the part of each state greatly complicated the work of the framers of the constitution, who had before them the problem of working out an ideal form of government for all, while having regard to the conflicting demands of each. The result embodies the ideas of the later eighteenth century, but lacks any elasticity to meet the new conditions, social and economical, brought about by a century of science and industrial expansion. It is in the teeth of opposition by the champions of states' rights that the Federal Government has attempted any such measures as uniform commercial regulation, federal incorporation, a uniform law of domestic relations, reform in laws of public health, the referendum initiative and recall in political life, government regulation of labor and industrial organizations, and the government aid of the needy classes, such as old age pensions and unemployment insurance. Dr. Goodnow instances a host of cases brought to the final tribunal of interpretation, the Supreme Court, to show that there is in reality little ground for this supposed difficulty. Through the power of taxation and through the federal judiciary most difficulty may be overcome. The superiority of the courts to the legislature gives them great power and great responsibility. The Supreme Court has been more progressive than the states courts, but even this body has far to travel before it reaches the freedom of action enjoyed by other modern governments. The amendment of the constitution is a matter of almost insurmountable difficulty. The liberal interpretation of it is the one accessible avenue to progress. The Supreme Court is amenable to only one form of control, public opinion and public criticism. These have been powerful in the past and may still be powerful in gaining for the federal government powers that shall place it alongside the leading nations of the world in the recognition and development of the public welfare.

PROBLEM OF TRANSPORTAION.

One of the greatest of the economic problems in the United States is the control of the railway transportation. A substantial book, 'Problems in Railway Management,' by Henry S. Haines (The Macmillan Company of Canada, $1.75) is devoted to this subject. It gives a historical survey of the development of the great railway system of the country through the embryonic, experimental stage before the civil war, the period of development till the crisis of 1873, that of reconstruction between that year and 1887, the time of the appointment of the first railway commission, and the later period of legislative regulation. There is an analysis of British railway laws, which has been a more gradual development and freer from political influence, to find out where the new country may learn lessons from the old, and where the problems of the two countries differ. In America, on account of the sparsity of population, railways were originated by private companies, rather than by the government. It was to the state legislatures these companies went for incorporation and it was not until the great transcontinental systems were planned that interstate regulation was thought of. The Interstate Commerce Commission has to deal with such problems as incorporation and amalgamation, finance, construction, operation, rates for traffic in so far as they affect the general welfare. All particular interests are matters for corporations and the courts to consider. The great railway systems are the only high roads of commerce, and have been the greatest forces in the development of the nation and the land. They are part of the national life and partake of the national character and with their welfare is bound up that of the nation. Railway regulation and railway management are to be considered from the point of view of both companies and people. The government has to guard the interests of both. A tremendous array of facts and statistics is presented which will be of interest and value to students of railroading, and those concerned with the management of railways.

A new edition of 'The Condition of England,' by C. F. G. Masterman, M.P. (Methuen & Co., London, one shilling net.) has been issued with a view, partly to remove the impressions of pessimism for which the first edition was criticised. Mr. Masterman aims to present a picture of English social, industrial, intellectual and religious life, without committing himself to any point of view on any of these questions. It is a difficult thing to do and he recognizes that he does not always succeed. He gives the dark side and the bright of every question as he sees them, or rather as he supposes an outsider might see them—'the vertical division between nation and nation armed to the teeth and the horizontal division between rich and poor' on the one hand, and the great body of men living with good will and a certain degree of content, on the other. The composite picture of the average Englishman, 'jolly, brave, stupid, making the best of things in a world on the whole desirable, accepting the universe rather than rebelling against it,' is followed by some of the special types that go to compose it, 'the conquerors, the suburbans, the multitude, prisoners, the country side.' The ruling classes have been affected by the tremendous increase and display of wealth but not to the exclusion of the kindly qualities engendered by 'a caste basis of land and breeding,' rather than 'a caste basis of material possession.' Stupidity, an inability to appreciate the changes of the times, rather than haughty superiority, is proving their undoing. There is no material for a revolution in their relations with the other ranks of society. The great, inarticulate body of comfortable, hard-working, home-loving 'suburbans,' limited in intellectual power, losing the controlling influence of religion, is being sapped of its energies, Mr. Masterman considers, by the 'yellow press,' with its petty gambling, under the guise of prize competitions and its encouragement of spectacular sport. The steady industry and manly energy of the fathers are undermined in the children from their childhood. The invigorating influence of large families brought up in simple economy has almost disappeared, as the families of this class are kept within the limit of a comfortable expenditure of income. Yet there is in this and the artisan class much clean, virile life and hopeful promise, if freed from the blight of the 'yellow press.' The removal of the great body of workers from the country to the city presents the greatest labor problem for England. The new generation missing the country childhood are a comparatively puny race, yet the majority of the workers are not dissatisfied as long as work is steady. The misery of those who cannot make ends meet and the depletion of the beautiful country villages are sad pictures. Science, literature, religion all feel the evil tendencies of the time, but have not yet found the remedy. The general outcome of the study is a warning against 'the illusion of security' that makes the Briton hard to arouse. He listens to and applauds all prophets, especially those who tell him of his sins, and settles down unmoved. So many counter forces are at work that 'the wise man will still go softly all his days.'

'THE COMPOSER.'

'The Composer,' by Agnes and Egerton Castle (The Musson Book Company, Limited, Toronto, $1.20, postage 12 cents). Like other works of these writers, 'The Composer' is a story of high tension. Ordinary mortals do not figure in it to any extent. The towering master personality of the tale is Lothnar, a composer greater than Beethoven, grander than Wagner, a monster of genius.' Sarotta, the story's heroine, is a young singer to whom Lothnar makes love for the sole purpose of arousing the dramatic fervor which he deems necessary to her rendering of 'Iphegenia' in what he considers his masterpiece. The contrast between this colossal egoist whom she loves and the honest plain man who loves her, at last opens her eyes to the worth of the unselfish devotion and faithful service of the man whom, without loving, she married.

'THE LIFE OF A DOLL.'

A little story for the little child is 'The Life of a Doll,' by A. Fraser Robertson (The Religious Tract Society, 4 Bouverie street, London, E.C., is. net). It is one of the 'Dainty Gift Series,' and its title indicates its contents.

'HONEY-SWEET.'

A story of a little orphaned girl is this tale, 'Honey-Sweet,' by Edna Turpin (The Macmillan Company of Canada, Ltd., Toronto, $1.25). Left in charge of an uncle who proves a felon and has to disguise himself to evade arrest, this lovable little girl passes through many trying times, while lost to the friends who first helped her when her uncle deserted her. But a happier time comes at last when she is found again and is adopted into a home suited to her birth and early surroundings.

'THEIR HIGH ADVENTURE.'

The adventurers in this tale are a man and a maid, both young, both noble, lovable, and high-minded. Charles Verney, a young English diplomat, beginning a vacation in Switzerland, meets accidentally a young girl, Ionia Mikhailovna. The girl, in deep distress, mistakes him for another man whom she is expecting to aid her in a dangerous enterprise. How the young Englishman offers his services, the perils through which the adventurers pass, the breaking of the fetters which bind Ionia, and the final realization of the highest hopes of each, make a fascinating story, rich in incident, pure in tone, and with no waning of interest until the end. 'Their High Adventure,' by John Oxenham (The Musson Book Company, Limited, Toronto, $1.35).

'MISS BILLY.'

The incident of an orphaned girl self-invited to the home of her father's old-time friend, and the outcome of the adoption of the supposed boy into the family is the framework of the romance of 'Miss Billy,' by Eleanor H. Porter (L. C. Page & Co., Boston). The three brothers, Henshaw, after the eldest of whom 'Billy' has been named, live in a large old-fashioned Boston home, nicknamed 'The Strata.' William, the eldest, is devoted to curios, and occupies the top floor. Cyril, the musician, has appropriated the middle section, while Bertram, the artist, has fitted up the first floor as befits a young man of his tastes and tendencies. 'Billy' is a most charmingly upsetting element in this abode of bachelors, but they cannot send the 'poor boy' away, partly because she will not be sent, and partly because she has brought such sunshine into the gloomy old abode, so 'Aunt Hannah' is installed as chaperone. How she innocently and unwittingly plays havoc with hearts and how at last mistakes are righted and each comes into his own must be the reader's pleasant task, for there is little doubt but that they would all 'live happy ever after.'

'SOUTH SEA TALES.'

These tales are eight in number, and picture vividly varied aspects of life in the islands of the South Pacific. The tragic and the comic, the sordid and the noble, the selfish and the magnanimous in human nature are all delineated. One is shown the moral heights to which a savage may rise, and the depths to which a white man may sink. The hurricane and the shipwreck, famine, thirst, treachery, and narrow escape from almost inevitable destruction, are all in this volume. 'South Sea Tales,' by Jack London. (The Macmillan Company of Canada, Ltd., Toronto, $1.35).

LITERARY NOTES

'THROUGH THE HEART OF CANADA.'

Messrs. Henry Frowde, of the Oxford Press, have found it necessary to issue a fourth edition of Frank Yeigh's 'Through the Heart of Canada.' It is meeting with a cordial reception not only in Canada, but in Great Britain and the United States, and the press of the three countries speak in the highest terms of its value as a graphic and comprehensive treatment of the Dominion as a whole. So many books on Canada are being written by other than Canadians, that it is satisfactory to learn of the success of a native-born production.

'THE RECOLLECTIONS OF A PARISIAN.'

'The Recollections of a Parisian,' G. Putnam's Sons, New York, have just published a volume entitled 'The Recollections of a Parisian,' by Dr. Poumies de la Siboutie, recounting his experiences and observations under six sovereigns, two revolutions, and a republic. The book is full of little character sketches, illustrated by stories. In addition to the chapters devoted to Paris, when that city was the storm centre of the world, the author gives us a picture of old-fashioned Perigord, his birthplace, and the menage into which he was born.

FOR THE VISITOR TO FLORENCE.

'Florence and Her Treasures,' by Herbert Vaughan, B.A. (Toronto: The Macmillan Company, Toronto) is no larger than the Baedecker's hand book, but it is a fascinating history of Florentine art, including the architecture of its palaces and gates, and its splendid treasures of paintings and sculptures with illustrations of many of the most celebrated pictures, buildings and sculptures.

'LOVE IN MANITOBA.'

By A. Wharton Gill (The Musson Book Company, Toronto). The characters who live in the pages of 'Love in Manitoba' are typical of the best and worst in western settlement life. Mr. A. Wharton Gill, the author, was born in Leicestershire, England, in 1850. In the spring of 1883 he 'homesteaded' some forty miles north of the main line of the Canadian Pacific and of the Qu'Appelle Valley. For fourteen years he was missionary in the large district of Minnedosa, and afterwards rector in the town of the same name. In 1910 he was appointed to the staff of St. John's College, Winnipeg.

MEDIEVAL AND MODERN.

The 'Cambridge Modern History' (The Macmillan Company, Limited, Toronto) was planned by the late Lord Acton and carried out under his immediate supervision. The general outline was Lord Acton's, but on Professor Bury, his successor as regius professor of modern history, has fallen the execution of this plan. The work is edited by H. M. Gwatkin, M.A., and J. P. Whitney, B.D., both professors at Cambridge and specialists in historical work.

SACRIFICED THEIR BUNS

Catholics at Social Had to Fast so Protestants Did Also.

An unexpected treat for the poor reached Salvation Army headquarters last week in the shape of a consignment of about 200 buns. Every bun was not only a gift but a sacrifice, and on account of that sacrifice about sixty people went home hungry.

The Newfoundland Society met in St. George's Club House Wednesday last, and after business had been discussed and a musical programme rendered, prepared to enjoy a service of buns and coffee. Yesterday was a fast day, however, and many of the members are Roman Catholics, so they would have been forced to refuse to eat.

The Rev. Father Holland saw some humor, and a possible advantage for the poor of the city in the situation, so he arose and made a unique proposition. The Catholics, he said, could not touch the buns, though they might drink the coffee. If the Protestants would make a like sacrifice he would move that the buns be given as a Christmas gift to the poor.

Alderman Evely, of Verdun, seconded the motion on behalf of the Protestants, and as a result the buns were collected and despatched to the Salvation Army Metropole, while the Newfoundlanders regaled themselves with coffee only.

Mr. Gaden, vice-president, presided, and the evening's entertainment included an account by Mr. Mudge, of his travels in the West Indies, and several songs by Mr. MacDuff.

KNOX CHURCH TO HELP.

Toronto, Dec. 21.—At the coming session of the Legislature Knox church of Toronto will apply for legislation to permit the church after paying the salaries of its ministers and assistants to use its funds to supplement the salaries of ministers in poorer churches of the city.

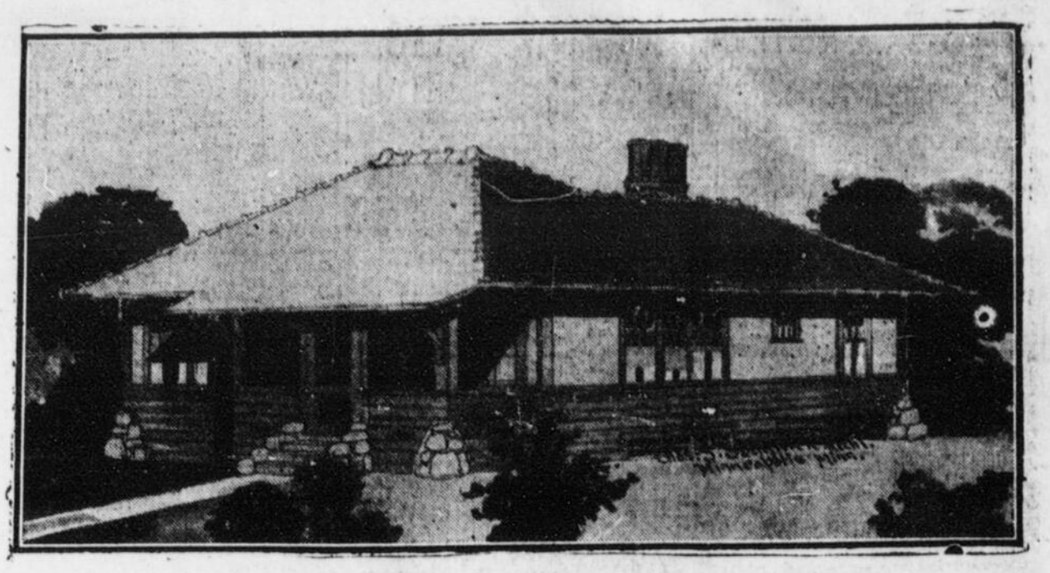
A number of other applications for private legislation have already been received. A charter will be asked for the Porcupine Rand Belt Electric Railway. It is proposed to run the line through McGarry Township west and south to Larder city, west to Dane and then crossing the T. and N. O. Railway by a grade separation to the head waters of the Montreal river, and west again through to Temagami Lake. The company will endeavor to secure connections with the T. and N. O.

The municipalities of Lindsay and Kingston will ask for approval of a number of local by-laws.

LEADING PAPERS DISPLAY THE DANGER SIGNAL AGAINST ALUM IN FOOD.

Thousands have no doubt read the commendable articles recently appearing in some of the leading American and Canadian papers on the use of alum in baking. Until the Dominion Government follows the lead of England, France and Germany and prohibits the use of alum in foods, there is but one safeguard against alum, and that is to buy only a baking-powder which has the ingredients plainly stated on the label.

FOUR ROOMED BUNGALOW COSTING $1,200



This small bungalow was recently designed for a porter's lodge and is suitable for a small family for a city or country home. It is twenty-seven feet in width by forty feet in depth, and has a good cellar, with ample space for heater, fuel, etc. The estimated cost is $1,200. The bungalow is built with eight feet studding, the story being eight feet six inches in height. The lower portion of the exterior is covered with wide drop siding of Washington fir, left rough and stained with Mission stain. The upper portion of wall above sill course is covered with metal lath and finished with cement dash. All of the trimmings, cornice, casings, etc., stained Mission. The interior walls are plastered and tinted. The floor is of Washington fir left natural. The finish is very simple in Mission, with plate rail around the living room. The piazza is enclosed with wire screening. There are two good sized bedrooms with closets. The living room is of ample size, thirteen feet six inches by eighteen feet. The kitchen is in the rear with pantry between. One chimney with flues for heater and kitchen and fireplace in the living room. The side entry affords space for ice box and connects with the stairs to basement, making



QUEBEC PRESBYTERY.

Sustain Call From Scotstown to the Rev. J. R. MacLeod, of Three Rivers.

The Presbytery of Quebec had a meeting on Tuesday at Richmond. The moderator, the Rev. Dr. Love, presided.

The first matter for consideration was a unanimous and hearty call from Scotstown on behalf of the Rev. J. R. MacLeod, of Three Rivers. The stipend offered is $900, with one month's vacation, and the use of a manse. The congregation of Three Rivers expressed its appreciation of Mr. MacLeod's work for twenty years, and would willingly have retained his services, but would put no obstacle in the way, because their pastor thought it his duty to go to Scotstown. The call was sustained, the Three Rivers pulpit will be declared vacant on the first Sabbath of February, and the induction at Scotstown will take place on the first Thursday of the month. The Rev. J. C. Nicholson will preside, the Rev D. Nicholson will preach, the Rev. M. MacLeod will address the minister, and the Rev. Mr. Henderson the people. The Rev. Dr. Love was appointed moderator of Three Rivers. The Rev. S. T. Martin was appointed moderator of Portneuf.

A call from Lunenberg, Ont., Glengarry Presbytery, was extended to the Rev. J. J. Gourlay, of St. Sylvester. In view of the fact that there is a possibility that Leed's Village may be united to Kinnear's Mills, Mr. Gourlay thought it would be well for him to accept the call, and allow the Presbytery to redistribute the field. The translation of Mr. Gourlay was granted, and a deputation composed of the Rev. J. C. Nicholson and the Rev. J. A. McFarlane, was appointed to visit St. Sylvester and Leeds Village. The committee appointed to study the question of the federation between the Presbyterian and Congregational churches of Danville presented a basis of agreement. The Presbytery examined clause by clause the proposed basis of union, suggested a few changes, and sent the document to the advisory committee of the Congregational Union, and to the local churches. It is confidently hoped that the proposed arrangement will be accepted.

The General Assembly report on the unification of Home Mission work, French Evangelization and Augmentation schemes, was considered. The Presbytery vote unanimously in favor of the amalgamation of these various phases of Home Missionary work under the committee.

The Rev. J .A. McFarlane, superintendent of Home Missions in the Synod of Montreal-Ottawa, spoke on the condition of things in the Province of Quebec. He said that we were not facing the problems which confront us, with that earnestness, breadth of vision and vigor which the situation requires. Missionary and educational work, both French and English, calls for concerted and vigorous action. The following committee was appointed to consider some of the plans proposed by Mr. McFarlane, the Rev. S. J. Martin, Dr. Love, the Rev. J. A. McFarlane, Dr. Amaron, G. B. Ramsey, Jas. Muir, and A. E. Elliot. The committee will meet soon in Quebec. The March meeting of the Presbytery will be held in Richmond.

TO DISCREDIT LAW.

Owen Sound Bartender Fined and Much Liquor Seized.

Toronto, Dec. 23.—That an energetic effort is being made to produce 'drunks' in Owen Sound in order to discredit local option during the campaign there, and that certain Toronto wholesale liquor houses are not going out of their way to discourage it, is being claimed by the supporters of the by-law. The provincial license department received a report from license inspector Beckett, of Owen Sound, yesterday of the conviction of the barkeeper of the Comely House, on a charge of keeping liquor for sale without a license. A fine of $40 and costs was imposed. The liquor—182 bottles of whiskey, gin, etc.—was confiscated.

A large proportion of the liquor sold in Owen Sound is sent there from Toronto, and an investigation to bring the shippers to book may result.

BRITISH SHIP SEIZED.

Owners of the 'Menzaleh' Ask Explanation of Foreign Office.

London, Dec. 23.—The Khedivial Mail, Steamship and Dock Graving Company, the owners of the steamer 'Menzaleh,' which was seized yesterday in the Red Sea, by the Italian cruiser 'Puglia,' made representations to-day at the Foreign Office in regard to the capture of their vessel by the Italian warship. The captain of the steamer has cabled to the company that besides the $150,000 which were on board in course of transit from one bank to another, the Italians also took possession of a large quantity of Turkish parcels and goods.

The Foreign Office will not take any action in the matter until it has received an official report from the British consul at Hodeida, who is investigating.

A UNIQUE GIFT.

Employer of 266 Strikers Makes Sure They Will Have Good Christmas Dinner.

Conshohocken, Pa., Dec. 23.—Unique in the history of labor strikes is a Christmas gift being distributed here to-day. Victor Hauck, president of the John Wood Manufacturing Company, has set aside a fund of $2,000 which is being distributed in gifts of $5 and $10 each to every one of the 266 men who have been out on strike for ten weeks at his plant. Mr. Hauck says his gift is inspired by a desire that every one of his old employees can be sure of a good Christmas dinner.

THE VANISHING TURKEY.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Unless something is done to rehabilitate turkey growing there will be no such thing as Christmas or Thanksgiving turkeys in the United States within ten years. The census bureau has issued a bulletin showing that in 1910 there were only 3,668,708 turkeys on farms in this country, while in 1900 there were 6,594,095. At this rate the turkey will be in the dodo class by 1920. There was also a reduction of about fifty percent in ducks during the ten years, and the number of geese dropped considerably. Chickens increased, however, the total for the country going from 233,566,021 in 1900 to 280,345,133 in 1910.

THIS WEEK'S

WORLD WIDE

A Weekly reprint of Articles and Cartoons from the leading journals and reviews reflecting the current thought of both hemispheres.

The German Reply to Sir E. Grey's Speech.

Mr. Lloyd George and Mrs. Pankhurst.

The Insurance Bill.

Scottish Social History—Lord Rosebery's Address.

The Unicorn—By G. K. Chesterton.

The Jew in Russia.

Pictured Politics—The Dilemma of the Cartoonist—By Clarence Rook.

Arnold Bennett and Christmas.

Workingmen's Insurance in Germany.

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Sample Copy of "World Wide" sent to any address free on application to

JOHN DOUGALL & SON, PUBLISHERS, MONTREAL.

READABLE PARAGRAPHS

A JOB FOR AN EXPERT.

A gang of navvies were employed on a railway contract removing earth with wheelbarrows. While proceeding with his work one of the navvies noticed that the wheel of his barrow was squealing terribly, and to put a stop to the noise he turned the barrow over, and was in the act of greasing it when the ganger noticed him and shouted out:—

'Hallos, O'Brien! Hallos, sir! What the deuce are you doing?'

'I'm greasing my barrow, sir.'

'Who told you to do that?'

'Sure, no one, sir. I took it upon myself.'

'Well, don't let me catch you at it again. What do you know about machinery?'—Toronto 'Mail and Empire.'

The Pill That Leads Them All.—Pills are the most portable and compact of all medicines, and when easy to take are the most acceptable of preparations. But they must attest their power to be popular. As Parmelee's Vegetable Pills are the most popular of all pills they must fully meet all requirements. Accurately compounded and composed of ingredients proven to be effective in regulating the digestive organs, there is no surer medicine to be had anywhere.

BREAKING THE MONOTONY.

It was a small town in Central Indiana. The village storekeeper was ticket agent, baggage master, and telegrapher of the little flag station, past which two fast mails thundered each day. At last, growing tired of the monotony of life, he went out and pulled up the flag. The train slid in and came to a stop in front of the tiny station.

'Where's your passengers?' demanded the bustling conductor.

'Waal,' drawled the agent, 'I dunna as thar is any one wantin' to git on, but I kinder thought mebbe some one might want to git off.'—'Success Magazine.'

Clean Stomach, Clear Mind.—The stomach is the workshop of the vital functions, and when it gets out of order the whole system clogs in sympathy. The spirits flag, the mind droops and work becomes impossible. The first care should be to restore healthful action of the stomach, and the best preparation for that purpose is Parmelee's Vegetable Pills. General use for years has won them a leading place in medicine. A trial will attest their value.

LOGIC.

The man who acts on impulse is frequently placed in a position that makes him wish he had not been so hasty. One man noticed that the friend with whom he was walking had drawn very close to a horse that wore a muzzle.

'Look out!' he cried. 'That horse bites. Don't you see he's muzzled?'

'Yes,' replied his friend, calmly. 'That's why I thought he couldn't bite.'—'Youth's Companion.'

The Poor Man's Friend.—Put up in small bottles that are easily portable and sold for a very small sum. Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil possesses more power in concentrated form than one hundred times the quantity of many unguents. Its cheapness and the varied uses to which it can be put make it the poor man's friend. No dealer's stock is complete without it.

A BOOMERANG.

Suffragettes have some little sense of humor. In the scuffle on Tuesday night, says the London 'Chronicle,' there was a fine lump of a woman, and near to her a wizened, decrepit male. 'Don't you wish you were a man?' said the little man jeeringly to her. And she replied, 'Don't you?'

SUPPLY AND DEMAND.

Edith—'Can you tell me the reason for the high cost of living, Mr. Mushley?'

Mr. Mushley—'O—aw—I suppose it's because there is considerable demand faw it, you know.'—'Puck.'

To discern and deal immediately with causes and overcome them, rather than to battle with effects after the disease has secured a lodgement, is the chief aim of the medical man, and Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup is the result of patient study along this particular line. At the first appearance of a cold the Syrup will be found a most efficient remedy, arresting development and speedily healing the affected parts, so that the ailment disappears.

HARD ON HOWELLS.

Mr. William Dean Howells, the American novelist, tells the following story on himself:—

'I got into an argument one day with my wife on the propriety of using a certain word in a sentence. My wife maintained there was no right in favor of my usage, and I held that there was. So, to end the matter, I took the Century Dictionary and looked it up.

'"Ah," I said, "here it is, with just the usage I employed," and I read the justifying quotation aloud. But my wife was still dubious. "Whose quotation is that?" she wished to know.

'"Again I studied the printed page. "Why, it says Howells."'

'"Oh," answered my wife with triumphant scorn, "he's no authority."'

As a vermicide there, is no preparation that equals Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator. It has saved the lives of countless children.

A GOOD GOER.

'I don't believe in forcing schools for children,' said Governor Woodrow Wilson at a dinner in Trenton. 'A child that knows at four as much as ordinarily it would know at eight is, to my mind, about as useful an object as Calhoun Clay's watch.

'"That's a fine watch you've got there, Calhoun," said a friend. "Is it a good goer?"

'"A good goer?" said Calhoun Clay. "Well, you bet your life it's a good goer. Why, it can do an hour in half the time!"'—Washington 'Star.'

No matter how deep-rooted the corn or wart may be, it must yield to Holloway's Corn Cure if used as directed.

A SPIRIT OF REVENGE.

A Yankee suffering from toothache went to a dentist to have the aching tooth out. The dentist pulled out the offending tooth, and was then asked to pull out the double tooth next to it.

'But that is a sound tooth,' said the dentist. 'The pain is only sympathetic.'

'Yank it out, doctor. Hang such sympathy,' replied the Yankee. — 'Tit-Bits.'

'Every husband ought to make his bride a regular allowance from the start,' said Senator Depew at a wedding reception in New York. 'This is but just,' he continued, 'because from the start every bride finds that she must constantly make allowances for her husband.'

TRIED EVERYTHING WITHOUT RELIEF

Until I Took "Fruit-a-tives."

Sarnia, Ont., Feb. 5th, 1910.

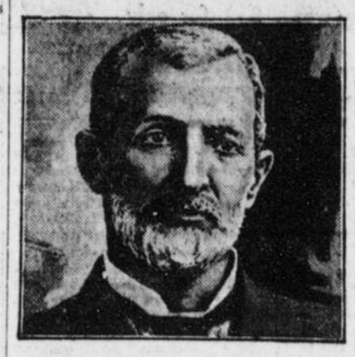
"I have been a sufferer for the past 25 years with Constipation, Indigestion and Catarrh of the Stomach. I tried many remedies and many doctors but derived no benefit whatever.

"Finally, I read an advertisement of 'Fruit-a-tives.' I decided to give 'Fruit-a-tives' a trial, and found they did exactly what was claimed for them.

"I have now taken 'Fruit-a-tives' for some months, and find that they are the only remedy that does me good.

"I have recommended 'Fruit-a-tives' to a great many of my friends and I cannot praise these fruit tablets too highly."

PAUL J. JONES.



"Fruit-a-tives" is the only natural cure for Constipation and Stomach Trouble, because it is the only medicine in the world that is made of fruit juices and valuable tonics. Hundreds of people have been cured, as if by a miracle, by taking "Fruit-a-tives," the famous fruit medicine.

50c. a box, 6 for $2.50, trial size, 25c. At dealers, or sent on receipt of price by Fruit-a-tives, Limited, Ottawa.

FROM THE OLD COUNTRY

ENGLISH NEWS NOTES.

Mr. Stephen Gwynn, M.P., speaking at the City Liberal Club, said that the Irish party were determined that under Home Rule there should be maintained equal civil marriage rights for all.

The Grangemouth Colliery will be closed down this month, after being worked for nearly seventy years, owing to the coal supply being exhausted. About 500 miners will be thrown out of work.

The draft report of the Royal Commission on Divorce has been circulated among the Commissioners. In consequence of the magnitude of the subject, the consideration of the report will take a long time.

Mr. F. E. Smith has, by invitation of Mr. Bonar Law, Mr. Long, and Mr. A. Chamberlain, taken a seat on the Front Opposition Bench. His Privy Councillorship entitled him to this privilege, but he had refrained from taking advantage of it.

The committee in charge of the arrangements for the building of Liverpool Cathedral have formally approved the design by Mr. Gilbert Scott, the architect, for the reredos, which is being provided at the cost of £10,000 by Mrs. Marke Wood, widow of a wealthy Liverpool shipowner.

A boat, which Professor Boyd Dawkins, the geologist, has declared to be 2,000 years old, was unearthed during excavations at Baddiley Mere, near Nantwich. It has been presented to Chester Archaeological Society by Mrs. MacDonald, on whose property it was found.

Seven letters written by George Meredith realized £93 at a London sale. One of the letters contained the following passage: 'The English public will not let me probe deeply into humanity. You must not paint either woman or man; a surface view of the species, flat as a wafer, is acceptable.'

The chairman of Messrs. Rudge Whitworth, Ltd., commenting at the annual meeting at Coventry, on the practical disappearance of the instalment system of buying bicycles, said that, while the bicycle as a vehicle of utility would remain a permanent part of humanity's equipment, its popularity for pleasure purposes was declining.

Lord Rosebery stated at Edinburgh that he had heard from the Aberdeen librarian the result of a test applied to discover which books were really extinct. But the librarian had chosen books of travel. He thought that books of travel were almost immortal; he had never been able to put away any book of travel, however poor, however apparently jejune its subject. He asked the librarian to try his test in some other department of literature.

Miss Violet Asquith said at Hammersmith that when the other morning she saw in one column of the newspapers 'Suffragette chained to a pillar' and in another the report of a protest meeting of women against the 'slavery' of the Insurance Bill, she felt that it was an inglorious day in the annals of her sex. She appealed to her hearers to prove that women are capable of something better than organized hysteria. They might explain the elementary facts of the Insurance Bill to those whom it would affect.

SCOTTISH BRIEFS.

Mr. W. Christie Grant, of Dumbarton road, Glasgow, who was for some years manager of the Grand Theatre, Glasgow, has been appointed by Ayr Town Council to the managership of the Ayr Municipal Pavilion.

The Edinburgh Ice and Cold Storage Company propose to open on New Year's Day a new curling and skating pond, which is in course of erection at Lochrin, near Tollcross. The machinery for making ice in the cold storage building not being used during the winter, it is thought that it could be profitably used to keep an ice floor at this period.

At Paisley Hugh Robertson, a laborer, was charged with having broken into the Old Baptist Church at the corner of Storie street and George street, and stolen twenty-four brass gas brackets. It was stated that the accused climbed over a wall, and, smashing a window, entered the church. He then proceeded to dismantle the church by tearing down the gas brackets. Sheriff Lyell passed sentence of sixty days, with hard labor.

The Leith magistrates will grant a license to the Edinburgh Sunday Society for the carrying on of concerts in Leith Gaiety Theatre on Sunday evenings on condition that the concerts shall be of a sacred character, that there shall be lectures and addresses given, and that no charge shall be made for admission.

An interesting report on the question of appointing female detectives is being considered by the Magistrates' Committee of Glasgow. Communications have been received from various associations regarding the present system of making inquiry by the police in proceedings under the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

At a meeting of Inverkeithing Town Council a letter was read from Mr. Philip Oviston, a local resident, in which he pointed out that he had been offered three sittings in a pew in the Parish Church, which he understood was occupied by Mr. Duncan Morrison, his wife, and three of a family. He failed to see where he could get sittings for three should they all turn out. He did not want to be insulted in the same manner as he had been in the old pew, and he would leave the Parish Church severely alone. (Laughter.)

At Perth three laborers—Edward Queen, James Fleming, and Alexander Fisken—pleaded guilty to having been found near Aberdalgie in possession of three pheasants and a gun. Queen stated that it was two years since he appeared at court for poaching. Of late he had been unable to obtain employment. He complained that in many of the schedules in contracting work there was a clause to the effect that no poachers were to be employed. The sheriff fined each £2, and the gun was ordered to be forfeited.

A band of Galician gipsies has encamped on a vacant piece of ground in the Overnewton district of Glasgow. On their arrival by train the gipsies, who were picturesquely attired, showed their primitive ideas of modern manners by proceeding to light a fire off one of the station platforms, preparatory to cooking the morning meal. They were, however, conducted to a waiting-room, and there they had tea before going to their camping ground. They had intended to go to the United States, but in view of the regulations regarding aliens in America, the shipping agents were not inclined to take the risk of booking them.

A plan has been agreed upon for raising to a uniform height the parapet of Dean Bridge, Edinburgh, so as to make it difficult for people to commit suicide by throwing themselves into the valley below. Many models were made with the view of fixing upon one which would be unclimbable, which would excite no suicidal suggestion in men and women suffering from incipient mental disease, and which would preserve the view of the valley to the ordinary passenger. One morning last week a factory girl had a narrow escape while proceeding along Miller row, underneath the Dean Bridge, as the body of a man fell from above in front of her.

IRISH ITEMS.

The Clonmel Board of Guardians have decided to call for a sworn inquiry into the charges of proselytism against officials made in a letter by the Rev. Canon Leslie, Protestant chaplain to the workhouse.

The Inghinidhe na h-Eireann have unanimously passed a resolution in which they express their sorrow and indignation that the colors of an English regiment had been presented to Renmore Catholic Church, Dublin, and placed in it with the permission of Father Newell.

A few days ago Anne Farrell, an old age pensioner, was discovered dead in her cabin at Channel road, Rush, county Dublin. The place was almost devoid of furniture and the only article in the way of nourishment was a small quantity of tea. It was well-known that the old lady was of miserly habits, and on a search being made the sum of £91 in sovereigns was found in a box. She was in the habit of going about begging.

When the common jury list was being called at the Cork Winter Assizes, Mr. H. L. Longfield, a juror, asked to be excused, as he stood 6 1-2 feet in his boots, and could not sit with any comfort in the jury box. Besides that, he said, he was of rheumatic tendency. In excusing the juror, Lord Chief Justice O'Brien said he sympathized with Mr. Longfield, as he was suffering terribly from rheumatism himself.

Addressing the solicitors at the sitting of the Recorder's Court, Belfast, Judge Craig said that when he spoke the other day about establishing a Court of Conscience in Belfast, such as existed in Dublin, he was only having a joke. He never thought of any person setting up so antiquated a tribunal of justice in that modern and progressive city. A question had been asked the Chief Secretary in Parliament regarding the matter, but he thought the author of 'Obiter Dicta' might have been more alive to a bit of fun.

Harry Smith, who said he was a fiddler and that the 'wee folk'—the fairies—came to him to hear him play, was charged at Magherafelt Petty Sessions with having been drunk and disorderly. Mr. J. Brown, his solicitor, said his client was a 'spiritualist' and had communications with the 'wee folk.' Smith told the court that two of the 'wee folk,' a male and a female, were with him the previous night, that he played for them, and that the 'wee folk' danced. The case was adjourned so that the fiddler may take the pledge.

A considerable amount of interest is being taken in the new herring fishing now being carried on at Queenstown. The curing of herring has been established for the first time in Queenstown. Nine motor herring drifters have been engaged by Messrs. Love and May, and some have been at work for the past fourteen days with success. The fishing now in progress has been established as the result of the belief on the part of Messrs. May and Love that herring are obtainable of the very highest quality from mid-November to Christmas in the vicinity of the harbor.

A YOUNG WOMAN'S PART IN THE CAMPAIGN.

The Editor of this department wonders what share its particular readers will take in securing for the 'Witness' the necessary increase of circulation to warrant its continuance under its present management.

A man works from sun to sun;
A woman's work is never done.

And yet it is to be hoped that the lady readers of this department will take sufficient interest in the 'Witness' to find time to get at least one new subscriber each. It may be surprising, but it was nevertheless true, that apparently the men secured more subscriptions in the Spring Campaign than did the ladies. Your particular friends would surely appreciate a trial of the 'Witness' at the present campaign rates, and it may surprise you to find how few of them who are not taking the 'Witness' know what it is really like.

'WAKE UP; THE DAWN IS ON US' URGES SIR WILFRID ADDRESSING TRAVELLERS

Ex-Premier Wants to See Canada in First Rank of Commercial Nations—Hon. C. J. Doherty, Hon. Geo. Foster and Mr. Bourassa Also Spoke at Banquet.

'I would rather be president of the Dominion Commercial Travellers' Association than president of the Board of Trade,' were the words of Mr. Chas. Gurd when he assumed the presidency of the association. Mr. Gurd gave as his reason the spirit of fraternity which prevailed amongst its members, which was further proven at last week's banquet of the association, held in the Windsor Hotel, which saw the late Premier and the Nationalist chief sitting at the same table, and each receiving an equally enthusiastic ovation upon entering the great dining hall. Mr. Charles Gurd, the newly-elected president of the association, presided, and seated with him at the table of honor were Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Judge Doherty, Minister of Justice; the Hon. George E. Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce; Mayor Guerin, Mr. Henri Bourassa, Ald. Lariviere, Mr. J. Bevan Giles, ex-president of the association; the Rev. Hugh Pedley and Messrs. Leon Garneau, J. S. N. Dougall, Max Murdoch, R. C. Wilkins, David Watson, C. C. Ballantyne and members of the executive of the association. One of the unique features of the banquet was the fact that all the speeches, though on entirely different subjects, and delivered by men differing entirely in their political views, they all upheld the ideals of the association, the advancement of Canada and trade and the spirit of fraternity which should exist therein. The six hundred members and friends of the association gathered from east and west after listening to the enthusiastic speeches last night, left the banquet satisfied that the Dominion Commercial Travellers' Association had high ideals and possibilities in developing Canada and in placing her in the front of all the countries of the world in regard to trade instead of among the last of the nations, and many members of the association who may have joined simply with the selfish idea of getting cheaper rates on the railways or taking out the small life insurance policy connected with the association left inspired with their great duties and privileges.

After the toast to the King had been honored Mr. Charles Gurd, president of the association, delivered a short address, in which he briefly traced the history of the association from its origin in 1875 when it had but 251 members, of whom twenty-two are still on the roll, which now numbers 7,450 members, with surplus funds to the amount of $410,115.24. Mr. Gurd gave an accurate definition of what the association is and what it stands for when he said:

'We are an association of past and present commercial travellers, missionaries of commerce bringing buyers and sellers together for our mutual good and for the purpose of promoting commercial good will and wholesome competition. If Canada is great she is indebted in no small degree to the commercial travellers of our own and sister associations.'

Mr. Gurd then went on to show the fraternal side of the association and how it spent the earnings of its invested funds in the payment of benefits to the families of deceased members, and on the education of the children of the deceased members. 'At present,' stated the worthy president, 'we have six children at various schools enjoying the benefits of this fund. Last year we paid out in mortuary benefits the sum of $49,125. We also take pride in the record of our mutual benefit society, which for the past twenty-six years has done a noble work. The president, in conclusion, paid special tribute to Mr. Wadsworth, secretary of the society, during the past twenty-eight years.

'The Dominion Parliament' was first responded to by the Hon. Judge Chas. J. Doherty, who remarked that this was an age of things which were 'less,' as horseless carriages, wireless telegraphy, and so forth. From this he inferred that the day might arrive when there would be a speechless parliament. Laughter.) 'Canada,' declared the Minister of Justice, 'stands to-day in a prouder position than she ever stood before. In the early part of the present session he said there was some difference of opinion as to whether it was a coalition government, but he held that it was so, and that it was the Commercial Travellers' Association which made it so by the medium of the Minister of Railways and Canals.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who was the next speaker, was given a tremendous ovation, and the cheering was as prolonged as when he addressed a Montreal audience on the eve of a successful campaign. With his usual frankness which always wins his audience, he touched on what some might have considered a tender point. 'The reason,' said the leader of the Opposition, 'for the previous speaker being first called upon to speak for Parliament is simply because he is there and I am here, but if I can in any way relieve his feelings (Judge Doherty expressed his reluctance in speaking first in response to the toast, 'The Dominion Parliament') I will try to arrange it so that the next time we meet here he shall be here and I will be there. Sir Wilfrid then went on to speak of the commercial traveller and the attractiveness of his life, which gave him such an insight into life in general, and said because of his many experiences was always a most interesting man to meet, not only valuable for amusement but for observation. 'A good commercial traveller is always able to put his finger on the pulse of the country and say how the great heart is beating, continued Sir Wilfrid, in one of his apt similes. 'Then,' continuing in a lighter strain, 'he can also do a little missionary work and put in a word for either of the two parties for good or ill.'

Sir Wilfrid then went on to deal with the progress of the Dominion, which, like every commercial traveller he has been able to study in his journey the length and breadth of the Dominion, and touched the keynote of the meeting, youth and hope and personal ambition.

To-day, said Sir Wilfrid, a country is measured by the volun of its trade with foreign countries, and, measured by that standard, I have no hesitation in saying that there is not a nation under the face of the sun which has made such progress in trade during the first decade of the twentieth century as Canada. The Commercial Travellers' Association had participated and aided in the distribution of the trade which had already been enjoyed, but really only just begun.

To show the remarkable growth of the country, and especially the West, Sir Wilfrid gave many statistics which he had at his finger tips, and concluded by asking: 'Is that all? Is the limit of the ambition of the Commercial Travellers' Association to be within our own country, large as it is, and is going to be? For my part I am not satisfied with that, nor do I believe you would be. Trade lives by expansion; the further it goes the further it wants to go, and I would not be satisfied to see the efforts of the association limited to the soil of Canada. Whenever I come to Canada I meet commercial travellers from Europe, Germany, France and Great Britain, but when I have travelled in Europe I do not remember to have met a commercial traveller from Canada. I do not want you to carry war into Africa, but I want you to carry Canadian trade into those countries which give us their trade.' The speaker proceeded to urge also that attention must be given to the Western nations, to which, he said, Great Britain and America were making a straight bee line to capture trade. 'We have the bee line in Canada, and it behooves us to capture that trade, and we can do so if only we will apply ourselves to the task.' Canada is the last of the commercial nations; it is my ambition and yours that Canada should be not only in the front rank of commercial nations, but the very first of the commercial nations of the world. To that end let me tell you to wake up; the dawn is upon us.' (Loud applause.)

The Hon. George E. Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, was the next speaker, and followed with the reply to the toast, 'The Parliament.' Mr. Foster said he rejoiced with the leader of the Opposition in the progress of trade, especially with other countries. Mr. Foster said, however, greater attention should be paid to interprovincial trade of the Dominion. 'Laud as we may the praises of trade between ourselves and nations across the border and across the sea, right here amongst us ought there to be the interchange of our diversified produce. The policy is good which leads to the development of trade between Canada and foreign countries, but that policy is better which leads also to the development of home productions and their interchange between different parts of the country. While we desire foreign commerce, we desire ten times more internal and interprovincial commerce, which comes from multiple productions in different parts. That is good doctrine, and the Dominion Commercial Travellers' Association knows right well that it is.'

Mr. Foster then went on to deal with the work of the Dominion Commercial Travellers' Association. He spoke of its members as the Scouts of Commerce, without whose co-operation much produce would waste. He went on to show the relation of Government to Trade and Commerce, and our policy is now protection and has been for the last 18 years.

It is hard to kick against the pricks My right hon. friend tried to do so during this long period, but had to bow before the will of the people and circumstances while in power, and adopt the principle of protection in a modified form. Mr. Foster, in conclusion, advised Canada to be on the alert, and looking after her in the future in regard to China and Japan, and especially in regard to the opening of the Panama Canal in a year's time, which will open up new opportunities and competition.

The toast 'The Province of Quebec,' which followed, was responded to by the Nationalist leader, Mr. Henri Bourassa. When he rose to speak there were murmurs of dissent from different parts of the room, but these rapidly died away, as Mr. Bourassa spoke of the Province, its needs and advantages, from a purely national point of view. Mr. Bourassa traced the geographical and historical position of Quebec, showing that it was the moral qualities, not the material advantages, that make up a country's history.

He quoted the words of one of the founders of the Confederation, to the effect that the new Confederation was an English nation, not a French nation, but a strong and powerful alliance under the British flag, and upon the solid soil of British institutions, of the descendants of two human races that had done the most to raise the level of modern humanity.' The maintenance of good-will and co-operation among all the inhabitants of Canada was not only a question of settlement, but a question of national import, the very condition of the maintenance of the Canadian federation either as a Canadian nation or as a British colony. They were all intent on one principle, that of making the Canadian nation a nation by itself under the British flag.

'I think we should agree on one basic policy, to do our best to prevent these numerous channels of penetration through which the people of Canada, whatever their race or origin, are being gradually assimilated, by the American way of doing things,' declared Mr. Bourassa, 'by the American way of living and speaking. There is nothing which calls for keener attention on the part of public men and the student, the philosopher, the business and the average man, as the necessity of creating a strong Canadian sentiment in Canada, which must of necessity be different from that which animates the citizens of the republic to the south of us. I do not say that in any disparagement of the United States, for I am an admirer of the American nation for the qualities which they have developed in building up their country, and the moral stamina which has permitted them to pass through great national crises that would have been too strong for any other nation; but I say it is not our business to imitate the Americans. Let us take from them such examples as may be good, but whatever we borrow from our neighbors let us make thoroughly Canadian.'

Passing on, Mr. Bourassa endeavored to show that the safest way to resist the Americanization was to build up a composite nation founded upon the bi-lingual experiment. 'Let us,' he said, 'made up our minds that this country is not going to be either French or English, but Canadian, with equal rights for the two great races that have laid its foundations. (Hear, hear). The position and maintenance—I will go further and say the spread—of the French language all over this Dominion in every province should be the main object of all those statesmen who wish to preserve this country.

Mr. Bourassa called up the instances of French-Canadian loyalty, and besought his hearers as they travelled to try to upset the old ideas as to the savagery of Canada. And to establishing an example of peace and good will between the people of different regions and uniting them by one common patriotism.

The City of Montreal was responded to by Mayor Guerin, and the Guests were responded for by Mr. C. C. Ballantyne, of the Montreal Harbor Commission.

GILLETT'S PERFUMED LYE



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The home dressmaker should keep a little catalogue scrap book of the daily pattern cuts. These will be found very useful to refer to from time to time.

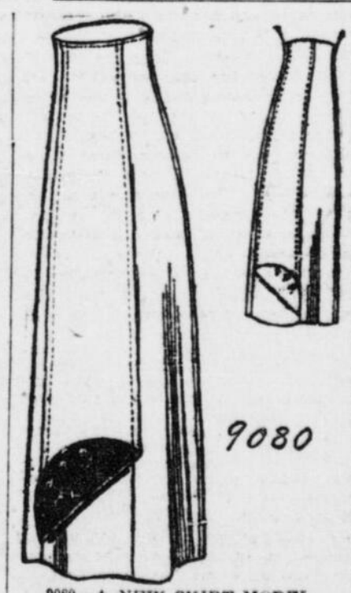


8925—LADIES' ONE-PIECE APRON.

Here is an apron that is simple, practical and becoming. It is fitted to the figure under the arm by a dart, and the skirt portion is ample enough to protect the dress worn underneath. The back portion is extended to form straps that cross at the centre and fasten over the shoulders in front. Gingham, linen, percale or alpaca are suitable for this garment. The pattern is cut in 3 sizes: small, medium and large. It requires 4 yards of 36-inch material for the medium size.

9026—DESIRABLE WAIST MODEL.

This attractive model may be developed for evening or as a pretty afternoon waist. The fulness is disposed of in tucks near the armscye, and gathered under the belt at the waist line. The shaped yoke trimming is very becoming. The pattern is cut in six sizes: 32, 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust measure. It requires 2 3-4 yards of 44-inch material for the 36-inch size.



9080.—A NEW SKIRT MODEL.

Ladies' Six-gore Skirt, with Added Separate Front and Back Panels (in High or Normal Waistline).

This model is desirable for street or general wear, but is also very effective with the panels for a dressy skirt. Velvet, corduroy, silk or cloth may be used. Blue serge with revers facings on the panels of black satin, ornamented with buttons would make a stylish skirt. The pattern is cut in 5 sizes: 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30 inches waist measure. It requires 5 1-4 yards of 44-inch material for the 24-inch size.



9102.—LADIES' YOKE SHIRT WAIST.

In planning clothes for the season, it is well to include a good shirt waist. The model here shown will be found comfortable and desirable. The shaped front yoke holds the fulness of the fronts, making the model especially desirable for slender figures. The added back yoke may be omitted. The sleeve is the regular shirt model, finished with a straight cuff. The pattern is cut in six sizes: 32, 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust measure. It requires 2 1-4 yards of 36-inch material for the 36-inch size.



9104.—A GOOD HOUSEWORK APRON

It is much easier and tidier to slip on an apron when busy at home than to take out spots on one's skirts and waists. A very practical and easily made apron is here shown. It is closed at the centre back and seamed together at the shoulders. The work of sewing on this design does not require much skill or time, and the result is pleasing and satisfactory. The apron may be finished with high neck edge or low 'V' opening as illustrated. The pattern is cut in three sizes: small, medium and large. It requires 3 3-8 yards of 36-inch material for the medium size.

Weekly Witness Pattern Coupon.

Please send me

Pattern.	Size.
No.....	.....
No.....	.....
No.....	.....
No.....	.....

for which I enclose.....cents.

Name .....

Street and No.....

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Prov.....

For blouses, etc., give bust measure in inches.
For Skirts, etc., give waist measure in inches.
For Misses and Children, give age only in years.

N.B.—Be sure to cut out the illustration and send with the coupon, carefully filled out. Price 10 cents, in postal note or stamps for each pattern, unless otherwise specified. Costumes usually consist of two separate patterns, and hence call for twenty cents.

Address: Pattern Department, 'Weekly Witness and Canadian Homestead,' 'Witness' Block, Montreal.

MILLIONAIRE'S SON CASE

Writ Applied for to Force Saloon-keeper to Say Where Money Is.

Application was made for a writ this morning by Mr. Maurice Alexander, of the legal firm of Davidson & Wainwright, in the Superior Court, to be served on A. F. Blouin, saloon-keeper of Montreal, who will be asked whether he is in possession of money obtained from J. J. Lauzon, of Winnipeg, son of the millionnaire cattle dealer, and if so to state where it is.

The above legal firm is acting for the Dominion Bank, and attached to the fiat is an affidavit made by Clifford Scott Howard, of Westmount, accountant of the above bank, in which he states that on Dec. 7th, 1911, Lauzon falsely represented to the Dominion Bank that he was the agent of J. B. Lauzon, of Winnipeg; that he needed the sum of $210.50 to pay expenses in connection with cattle shipped by J. B. Lauzon to Montreal for export purposes, and that the bank, on the strength of the said statement, gave the defendant the above sum.

On the 9th of December, says the affidavit, Lauzon again falsely represented to plaintiff that he had purchased twenty-two head of cattle for J. B. Lauzon from one G. L. Fouchette, and that he required $1,350, which the bank, believing the statements to be true, gave to him, which amounts were obtained under false pretenses and with a view to defrauding the bank.

The affidavit further states that Lauzon is secreting and making away with this sum; that subsequent to the 7th of this month Lauzon secreted the sum of $700 by delivering it to Blouin, to be held by him as a depository on behalf of Lauzon.

Lauzon was arrested yesterday on a charge of having obtained these sums from the bank with intent to defraud, and pleaded guilty on arraignment and is now awaiting sentence. Mr. Howard states in this affidavit that he is credibly informed that Blouin is actually in possession of the sum of $700, which is the bank's property, and without the writ of attachment by garnishment before judgment the bank will lose its recourse against Lauzon.

LOCAL OPTION.

Toronto Methodists Issue Statement of Views.

Toronto, Dec. 23.—'Emphatically, unanimously, unchangeably favorable to local option' are the head lines of the statement of the Temperance and Moral Reform boards of the Methodist church in answer to an item published by the Owen Sound 'Herald' on Dec. 9, 1911, by the liquor interests of the province. The import of the article was that the above board was not very favorable to local option.

The statement goes on to say that throughout its history the Methodist church has been a consistent and zealous advocate of the principle of prohibition and local option. 'This despicable attempt,' the statement proceeds to say, 'to mislead the people reveals the extremities to which the opponents of local option are driven. No doubt it is discredited, yet lest any are in doubt concerning our position we desire to make it plain.'

Then follows a detailed and emphatic statement of the antagonistic attitude of the Methodist church towards the liquor traffic in all shapes and forms. The Methodist church stands immovably, where John Wesley stood at the beginning when he declared 'the liquor traffic murders His Majesty's subjects wholesale, and drives them to hell like sheep.'

The statement proceeded to say that local option was not the goal of the Methodist church. Prohibition throughout the nation was their ultimate purpose.

THE SUPREME COURT.

Ottawa, Dec. 23.—In the Supreme Court yesterday judgments were rendered as follows:—

Colwell vs. Neufeldt—Appeal dismissed; costs.

Anderson vs. South Vancouver—Appeal allowed with costs; Brodeur, J., dissenting.

Duff vs. Lane—Appeal allowed with costs.

Drolet vs. Denis—Appeal dismissed with costs; Chief Justice dissenting.

Ray vs. Wilson—Appeal dismissed with costs.

Dominion Linen Manufacturing Co. vs. Langley—Appeal dismissed with costs.

Canada Gas and Power Company vs. Orr Brothers—Appeal dismissed with costs.

In the Regina rate case, Chrysler, K.C., and G. F. Macdonell moved on behalf of the railway companies to settle the form of minutes of judgment on a reference to the court from the registrar in chambers. They urged that, as framed, the draft was wrong, as it proposed to make the order affirming the order of a railway board and dismissing the appeal with costs. It was contended that the decision of the court was an original opinion to be transmitted to the board, that the order of the board was not in issue, and that the court had no jurisdiction except to certify answers to the questions on points of law submitted. Although involved and obscure, the question intended to be submitted by the board, no doubt, was whether or not the contract with the Manitoba Government could be pleaded in mitigation by the Canadian Northern Railway Company in answer to the charge of unfair discrimination, and, in the case of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, was its special Manitoba rates a mere matter of competition in the locality affected by the contract between the Manitoba Government and the Canadian Northern Railway Company.

Orde, K.C., contended, on behalf of the Regina Board of Trade, that the frame of the order was the usual one, and the proper and correct form in such cases; that such an order necessarily involved the decision of the points of law submitted by the railway board. After hearing the arguments, the court retired to consult, and later in the day decided that the proper course was to certify the answers to the questions to the Board of Railway Commissioners. The court then adjourned.

SIMPLY TO GET CONTROL.

Why Official Stenographers Want to be Constituted a Corporation.

The official stenographers of Montreal will petition the Quebec Legislature at its next session in order to obtain the passing of a law constituting them, and all other stenographers who desire to join them, into a corporation, under the name of 'L'Association des Stenographers de la Cour Superieure du District de Montreal,' with powers to choose its members, make by-laws, statutes, rules and regulations in order to improve their qualifications and condition, and for other purposes.

The following names of stenographers are appended to the petition: B. Macdonald, Marcel Gabard, L. A. Cusson, Nap. Lozeau, A. Saint Martin, George Hains, Joseph Casgrain, Joseph Lizabel, Rene Huberdeau, Paul A. Cusson, J. H. MacKay, E. Pairault, J. Chas. Vermet, J. C. Hanley, J. H. Kenchan, R. S. Wright, J. Vincent, Alex C. Trotter, E. W. Bush, J. C. O'Brien.

An official stenographer in the Court House was asked Wednesday for what reason this body had been formed, and he replied: 'If we get this act passed we can refuse admission to any objectionable person who passes the necessary examination to practise before the Court. At present all he has to do is to get an appointment from the prothonotary; but in future he will have to pass before this new body to gain admittance. There will also be a representative on the board of examiners. It is simply to get control.'

RAILWAY COMMISSION

And New Regulations for Shipment of Live Stock

Ottawa, Dec. 20.—The Railway Commission yesterday afternoon dealt with the new regulations for the shipment of live stock in Canada, proposed by Dr. J. G. Rutherford, veterinary director-general. Evidence was heard, but no decision was come to, the matter being adjourned to allow the railways and live stock men to agree on a draft of new rules to cover existing needs.

Dr. Rutherford explained that the companies had been asked to give their opinion of the draft regulations submitted, but had not done so, and the matter had proved more contentious than he expected. Mr. W. F. Stevens, of Edmonton, representing the live stock men of that section, and Mr. J. L. Walters, president of the Alberta Cattle Breeders' Association, outlined what was wanted in the way of new regulations. The time taken for the shipment of cattle was too long and the facilities provided were not of the best. The railway companies sent box instead of stock cars for shipments, many of the cars also being out of repair. He told of one shipment of cattle from Stettler to Winnipeg which had occupied six days. Evidence was also given to show that cattle were injured and suffered shrinkage of weight in box cars, while in the summer hogs were frequently smothered to death. While the passenger service on the different railways to the seaboard had been bettered, freight schedules showed little improvement.

Mr. C. Laverton, of Toronto, appeared for the Humane Society, and urged the necessity of providing facilities which would prevent suffering on the part of live stock shipped by rail. It was then decided to adjourn the case for further hearing.

The application concerning the acceptance by one express company of consignments for exclusive points along the lines of others was continued at the afternoon sitting, but no action was taken as the company explained that the complaints on which the application was based were departures from the rule and did not indicate that the conditions objected to were general.

The Bell Telephone Company's application for approval of a draft copy of its proposed new connecting agreement, was adjourned till Feb. 9, at Toronto.

A number of applications concerning the Canadian Northern Railway and the Grand Trunk Pacific locations were also heard.

CUTS HIMSELF.

C. V. Richeson, Accused of Murder, Inflicts Self Injury.

Boston, Dec. 20.—Mr. Clarence V. T. Richeson, accused of the murder of Miss Avis Linnell, cut himself seriously near the groin, with a piece of tin early to-day.

Boston, Dec. 21.—Everything pointed to-day to the rapid recovery of Mr. Clarence V. T. Richeson, accused of the murder of Avis Linnell, who so injured himself with a piece of tin in his cell at the Suffolk county jail yesterday morning that a drastic operation was found necessary. The following statement was issued this forenoon at the jail:

'Mr. Richeson passed a fairly comfortable night, but was somewhat restless. He had some sleep. He is conscious to-day, but is very pale because of loss of blood. He has not spoken since the operation.'

Difference of opinion was expressed in legal and medical circles to-day as to whether the accused minister's condition will permit him to appear in court on January 15, the date set for the trial. District Attorney Pelletier declares that the trial will go on as arranged.

DISTINGUISHED JUDGE.

To Act in Connection With Earl Grey Competition in Ottawa.

Ottawa, Dec. 19.—At the request of H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught, Dr. A. S. Vogt, of Toronto, has consented to act as musical judge for the Earl Grey musical and dramatic competition to be held in Ottawa during the week of April 15 next. It is hoped that Sir John Hare may be induced to come from England to judge the dramatic performances.

ALMOST A TRAGEDY.

St. Catharines, Dec. 23.—While a Christmas entertainment was in progress in the school house on the Queenston and Grimsby road just west of Vineland, on Thursday night an oil lamp hanging in the centre of the room without warning crashed down upon the audience, scattering burning oil. Miss Snure, daughter of Mr. J. G. Snure, Vineland, was sitting beneath the lamp, and was struck by it in falling. She received several painful burns and her clothing was partially burned. The whole thing happened so unexpectedly that it caused great excitement but several men, retaining presence of mind, gathered up clothes and threw them on the burning oil. In this way it was extinguished. The prompt action of the men prevented a panic among the 150 people, mostly children.

PASTOR'S SUDDEN DEATH.

Galt, Dec. 23.—The sudden death of the Rev. W. J. Crothers, M.A., D.D., took place at his home in Preston yesterday morning. Dr. Crothers was pastor of the Methodist church, and beloved by all who knew him. It is understood that an affection of the heart was the cause of death.

The late Dr. Crothers entered the Methodist ministry in 1872 when he joined the Montreal Conference. It was in this conference that he spent the greater portion of his life.

CHILD SWALLOWED COIN.

Brockville, Ont., Dec. 23.—A three-year-old child of George Moxon, of Prescott, swallowed a Canadian copper on Monday last. The tot was brought here yesterday, and under the X-ray the coin of the realm was located in the gullet, close to the stomach, and was successfully removed.

TOOK TO THE BOATS.

British Vessel Burned and Many of the Crew Still Missing.

Gibraltar, Dec. 22.— Fifteen of the crew of the London tank steamer 'Chesapeake,' which was burned in mid-ocean on Dec. 16 on her voyage from New York to Ta[illegible], were landed here to-day from the German steamer 'Adam Sturm. The second officer of the 'Chesapeake' and thirty-two Chinese seamen are still missing. According to the reports of the rescued men, the 'Chesapeake' caught fire on Dec. 6. The crew were forced to abandon her, and took to the boats, two of which were picked up by the 'Adam Sturm.' Two other boats containing the remainder of the crew have not since been heard of.

TO CONTINUE VOYAGE.

Wrecked Royalty Will Take Next Steamer to Destination.

Tangier, Dec. 19.—The Princess Royal, Duchess of Fife, now that she has recovered from her trying experiences, is extremely concerned over the loss of her jewel case, which was swept from the cutter when that boat was swamped. The case contained a diamond tiara and other handsome jewels which she had intended to wear upon the occasion of the opening of the Khartoum Cathedral. It is believed that the case has been covered by the sands.

Gibraltar, Dec. 20.—The Peninsular & Oriental steamer 'Macedonia,' from London for Bombay, is expected to arrive here at noon to-day. A wireless message was received from Macedonia late last night stating that she had been delayed by a series of storms. Some uneasiness had been felt on account of her non-arrival, and the wireless stations both here and at Cadiz made several unsuccessful attempts during the day to get into communication with the steamer.

The Princess Royal, the Duke of Fife and their family, who were passengers on the steamer 'Delhi,' which was wrecked off Cape Spartel last week, and who have been awaiting the arrival of the 'Macedonia,' will continue their voyage aboard the vessel.

THE KING'S SKILL.

Allahabad, Dec. 21.—King George, who has had good practice shooting pheasants in England, has made a record in the big game hunt in Nepal. At the first shoot he bagged three tigers and three rhinoceroses.

THE WELSH FLOODS

Damage Estimated at $1,000,000 Caused by River Bursting Banks.

Swansea, Wales, Dec. 19.—The floods caused throughout southern Wales owing to the river Avon bursting its banks have subsided to a great extent, but the damage is widespread. A score of bridges over the river have been swept away, and hundreds of homes inundated, their occupants being forced to seek shelter on the higher ground. The losses in the Avon and Neath valleys which were most affected by the inundation will probably amount to $1,000,000.

IMPERIAL IMMIGRATION.

London, Dec. 21.— Speaking at Worcester, the Earl of Dudley, former Governor of Australia, said that one of the greatest securities to Imperial unity was the sending from Great Britain of 'our best to the dominions; otherwise places like Australia are likely to diverge from us.'

Anent this matter the Birmingham 'Daily Post' questions if Canada's preference for country bred men is wholly sagacious. We have developed so thoroughly into an urban and industrial people,' says the 'Post,' that insistence on settlers of rural upbringing must either gravely impede the Dominion's natural development or compel them to take more new blood from foreign lands.

ENGLISH MONEY.

To Aid Canadian Missions in North-West.

London, Dec. 20.—Two thousand pounds sterling are being sent from the Archbishop's fund for missionary work in Canada, to be evenly divided between the Colonial Continental Church Society and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

LIBERALS LOSE SEAT.

London, Dec. 21.—The government has lost another seat in the House of Commons owing to the result of the by-election for North Ayrshire in Scotland. A. M. Anderson, King's Counsel, the Liberal member returned at the last election, had to seek re-election upon his appointment as solicitor-general for Scotland, and was defeated by Captain D. F. Campbell, the Conservative candidate, by a majority of 271 votes.

At the last election Mr. Anderson won the seat by a majority of 238 votes.

A DIAMOND RUSH.

London, December 20.—A Johannesburg despatch to the 'Express' reports a diamond rush at Bloemhof, a farming district on the banks of the Vaal River, not far from Kimberley. A canvas town with a population of 12,000 has sprung up within a month. Twenty thousand claims will be officially announced Saturday.

CAPTAIN COMMITS SUICIDE.

Barbadoes, W.I., Dec. 20.—Captain Lorains, of the British steamer 'Jacob Bright,' shot himself after the British armored cruiser 'Berwick' had pulled his vessel off the shoals.

The 'Jacob Bright,' which left Norfolk, Va., for Barbadoes on Dec. 1, went ashore at North Point on Dec. 11. The steamer, which is of 1,734 tons burden, is safe.

A DIVORCE CASE.

London, Dec. 21.—Judge Sir Henry Bargrave Deane, in the Divorce Court to-day, decided that the Gaekwar of Baroda, owing to his rank as an independent sovereign, could not be made a party to proceedings in the law courts. The Gaekwar of Baroda was cited as a co-respondent in a divorce suit which was listed under the caption of 'Statham versus Statham.'

MR. McKENNA'S REPLY.

London, Dec. 21. — Admiral Lord Charles Beresford's recent speeches, in which he made statements against the administration of Reginald McKenna, former First Lord of the Admiralty, in relation to the alleged unreadiness of the British navy during the Anglo-German crisis in regard to Morocco last summer, have to-day drawn a pointed reply from Mr. McKenna.

In a letter written for publication, Mr. McKenna, who in October changed the portfolio of the navy for that of Secretary of the Home Office, says:—'Lord Charles Beresford's speeches do not disturb me in the slightest. Nobody attaches any importance to what he says, and it is common knowledge that I refused to employ him, and also refused to recommend him as admiral of the fleet.'

LABOR TROUBLES

Great Britain Has One Serious Affair and is Threatened With Another.

Dundee, Scotland, Dec. 20. — The troops requisitioned by the Lord Provost of this city to repress the disturbance caused by the dockers and carters of the port who are on strike, have arrived, and their presence has had a salutary effect on the rowdies. These had taken advantage of the strike to create disorder in the city, and had thrown several wagons and a quantity of goods into the docks.

The strike of the carters has necessitated the closing of a number of mills which are unable to obtain coal for their furnaces.

Twenty thousand workers are idle, and the business of the city is almost paralyzed.

London, Dec. 22.—The Miners' Federation has decided to take a vote on the question of national stoppage of the work in the mines based on the question of a minimum wage scale. If a two-thirds majority of the members of the federation vote to stop work the strike will be ordered for the end of February.

THE CLAMOR FOR MORE IRON BOUNTIES.

(From 'Weekly Sun.')

The Toronto 'World' has joined in the clamor for a renewal of the iron bounties.

Of all the unjustifiable demands for special favors for special interests, that have been heard since the Interests triumphed on the 21st of September, this demand for a renewal of the iron bounties is the most utterly unjustifiable. In the fifteen years ending with 1910 there was paid out in bounties to the iron industry, by the Dominion Government, nearly $16,000,000. This was at the rate of over a million dollars a year. The aggregate amount was about equal to the value of the silo corn crop of Ontario for four years. This vast sum of money was not paid out in return for goods received by the Dominion Government. It was a straight gift; just as clear a case of giving something for nothing as would be involved in the Government giving each housewife in Ontario a bonus of ten cents a dozen on each dozen of eggs sold by her in addition to the price obtained by the housewife for the eggs in the open market.

The steel industry has had other forms of aid as well. It has been protected against British and foreign competition in the Canadian market by means of the tariff. On steel rails it is protected against British competition by a duty of $4.50 per ton on British rails; on billets and ingots at the rate of $1.50; on other products there is corresponding protection. Thus the iron industry has enjoyed two forms of plunder; it has, under the bounty system, received a cash subsidy on every ton of metal produced, and it has been enabled, by means of the tariff, to sell that metal to the Canadian consumer at an unduly high price.

For such a system there is no shadow of justification. If an industry cannot be made to pay without such excessive and long continued assistance, it is clearly unsuited to our conditions; if it can be made to thrive without such aid then the continuance of the aid is, to copy the language once used by Sir Richard Cartwright, legalized robbery.

That the iron industry is able to get along without the aid of a pipe line connecting with the Dominion treasury has been shown over and over again. It has been proven out of the mouths of those connected with the industry. The Dominion Iron and Steel Company, the principal beneficiary of the bounty system, has sold rails in India and in Australia in open competition with British, German and American makers of rails. The heads of the Dominion Iron and Steel have told us their company is able to do this by reason of the fact that rails can be manufactured more cheaply at Sydney than anywhere else in the world. President J. H. Plummer, of the Dominion Iron and Steel Co., in an interview in England, declared rails could be made 'much more cheaply in Sydney' than in England, and Frank F. Jones, manager of the same, said the cost of assembling the raw material for rail making is $2.45 per ton less at Sydney than at Pittsburg.

Corroborative evidence of the assertion that the steel industry is not in need of the aid which is being sought is found in the financial statement of the Dominion Iron and Steel Company. This statement shows that in the first ten months of this year, after setting aside $419,000 for sinking fund, depreciation, etc., after paying interest on bonds and dividends on preferred stock, the company had a surplus of $811,000 left. True Government bounties accounted for part of this showing, but only for a very small part, as the bounties ended with this year, and, before being cut off altogether, they had been reduced to a very small amount. Moreover the public have been assured by the company that the reduction in cost of production has more than kept pace with the reduction of bounties. To-day, even with bounties no longer being paid, $20,000,000 of the company's common stock, which is nearly all water, is quoted at well up to 60, a quotation justified by the facts that earnings are sufficient to pay 4 percent on this stock, and still leave a comfortable margin for depreciation, plant renewal, etc.

If, under all these circumstances, the key of the Federal safe is again handed over to the Dominion Iron and Steel Company the breach of trust will be no greater than would be committed by a bank manager in handing the combination of the bank's vault to a burglar and telling the gentleman with the jimmy to help himself.

RELIGION AND MARRIAGE.

Winnipeg Now Has a Sensational Case in Point.

Winnipeg, Dec. 21.—Mrs. Fred. Brewer charges the St. Boniface Hospital with refusing to permit her to see her husband because he is a Protestant and she a Catholic. At the Palace it was said the woman was not admitted because she is not Brewer's wife, saying he had a wife when he married the present Mrs. Brewer. The record shows the first Mrs. Brewer died December 16, 1895, and he was married again four years later. The case is being given wide publicity, and has caused a sensation. Mrs. Brewer claims the priest was trying to force her to be married again in the Catholic faith.

Remarkable Offers

TO PRESENT SUBSCRIBERS.

That the Subscribers to the 'Weekly Witness and Canadian Homestead' may find it easy to join the publishers in the strenuous effort to double the 'Witness' circulation, and so greatly increase the 'Witness' power for service, very special rates are offered below:

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