

### IMPRESSIONS OF CAPE TOWN

#### INTERESTING LETTER FROM MR. AND MRS. W. E. EARLE,

The First Port of Call on the African Coast—A Sketch of the City and its Harbor—Bits of History.

Our readers will welcome the following letter from Mr. W. E. Earle, who has been travelling with Mrs. Earle in South Africa, and is now on his way to the Orient. It will be remembered that in a letter published a week or so ago Mr. Earle kindly offered to forward a donation to the Ross Hospital endowment fund. Cape Town is the first port to call on the African coast, and with the exception of Durban is the only harbor in British South Africa where the largest steamers can be alongside of the wharf. In every other instance passengers are landed by lugs, into which they are sometimes lowered by means of a large basket. Cape Town and the west coast are swept by the cold Antarctic current, whereas the whole of the South African coast is washed by the warm Mozambique current from the Indian ocean.

While swimming at different times in each ocean we noticed a difference of sea temperature of about ten or twelve degrees between Cape Town and Simons Town, a distance of twenty miles. Table Bay is very large, and its advantages seem to have been recognized by the early Portuguese navigators, but the murder of a noted Indian voyager, with many of his men, on its shores seems to have given it a distaste for the locality and perhaps accounts for its happy exemption from their influence at the present day. For many years after the Dutch settled at the Cape no means were taken to guard the vessel lying at anchor from the terrible northeasterly gales.

and many a gallant East Indianman was driven aground and finally embedded in the drifting sand on the southeast shore of the harbor. At intervals during the eighteenth century several attempts were made to construct a shelter for ships, but none proved successful until 1869, when a breakwater, forming an outer basin with an inner dock accommodation, was commenced. The material used in constructing the breakwater was excavated from the site water was excavated from the site of the inner basin. This has now been carried out nearly a mile, and the end heavy concrete blocks are built solidly to protect it from the action of heavy seas. The inner basin contains an area of about five acres protected by a jetty running at right angles to the breakwater. In 1882 a large floating dock was added, which has been made capable of accommodating the largest vessels. The whole of the docks are well lighted by electricity. All this has been accomplished at immense cost. I do not know the exact figures but judging from the cost of Government works in general in South Africa I presume each carload of earth excavated from the basin and dumped upon the breakwater was charged up at its weight in guineas.

Large Traction Engines. To which long road cars are attached, stand in waiting at the wharf for the arrival of mail steamers, and without leave of license from the owners all luggage is taken from the land and conveyed to the customs, and as the customs at Cape Town is long and broad and deep and passenger luggage correspondingly so, the caddy who is engaged at 5s. 6d. an hour is the only one who smiles as the weary passenger tries to claim immediate attention from the admittance bluecoat. After hours of painful waiting our dry goods are made safe and we proceed towards the town, but just before we pass the dock gates another bluecoat appears on the scene and demands sixpence per package. No explanations are given so we conclude that is not cost of the creaking. We are now driven along the principal streets, past Green Point, to our hotel at Sea Point, a distance of six miles.

The best street in Cape Town is Adderley, in which most of the principal buildings are situated. It was formerly called "Gentlemen's Walk" because of its beauty. At the foot of the street stands a statue of Van Riebeeck, ten feet high, presented to the city in 1899 by Hon. Cecil Rhodes, and is the Dutchman what a statue of Washington is to the United States citizen. Just here Government avenue begins. It is a quarter of a mile long and well shaded with oak trees, some of them over a hundred years old. On the left hand side, immediately on entering the avenue, are the Houses of Parliament, among the handsomest buildings in South Africa. The surrounding gardens are tastefully laid out and contain a beautiful marble statue of Queen Victoria, erected in commemoration of the jubilee. Opposite the grounds of the Government House are the botanical gardens, covering fourteen acres. These, besides being a pleasure garden, have a nursery attached, where experiments are being continually carried on with vegetable production from all parts of the world to test their suitability to South African soil. Overlooking the gardens is the museum, containing interesting relics, among them a portion of the marble cross erected by Bartholomew Diaz.

discoverer of the Cape in 1482. Also one of the old post office stones beneath which are kept the letters sent on outward bound for conveyance home by returning ships. The oldest date on this stone is 1624, and it is noteworthy that all the inscriptions are in Chaucer's English. It also contains large collections of native shells, pine, palm, ferns and skulls. In Van Riebeeck square is an old building, of granite the stone market,

which is kept now as a model of ancient barbarism. The great charm of Cape Town is the magnificent mountain which rises behind the town in a sheer precipice to the height of 4000 feet. On either side, and rather in advance of Table Mountain, are two lesser peaks, forming the horseshoe valley in which Cape Town is built. That to the left, "The Devil's Peak," rises to an elevation of 3,300 feet. It is supposed the name had its origin in popular superstition, and those who wish to hear the southeasterly gale whistling among its gorges can hardly doubt this. The mountain to the right is "The Lion's Head," over 2,000 feet high, and is connected by a spur with a lesser elevation known as Signal Hill.

Cape Town Water Supply is derived from Table Mountain, being collected during the rainy season in large reservoirs built round the base of the mountain, and in looking down on these from the height as it is, the view is very fine, the great drawback being occasional dust storms. The three hottest months, January, February and March, are almost rainless at Cape Town, but the summer heat is not so oppressive as it would be where the air is not so intensely dry. During the night, cool breezes from the Atlantic prevail to such a degree that a blanket is quite a necessity.

### IN THE SPRING

#### Nature Teaches a Lesson that Tired, Exhausted Men and Women Should Follow

The spring is the season when nature prepares for summer. All the trees and plants are filled with new sap to build and brace them up to withstand the coming hot season. Without new sap in the spring a plant would wither and die beneath the midsummer sun. It is the same with men and women. All physicians are agreed that everyone needs a fresh supply of new blood in the spring. Without the new blood you would be as helpless in the summer as a tree without new sap. What you need at this season is a tonic to give you new blood, and the very best tonic medical science has discovered is Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Every pill makes new, rich, red blood, braces the nerves and restores all weakness, headaches, backaches, indigestion, loss of appetite, skin eruptions and other troubles so common in spring. This is an established fact, proved by thousands in every part of the world. Miss M. M. Tuckey, Oxdrift, Ont., says: "I do not know what would have become of me had it not been for Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. My blood seemed to have turned to water and I was troubled with dizziness, headaches, nervous prostration, and I felt so weak that I could hardly go about, and notwithstanding that I was constantly doctoring I got no relief until I began using Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. They completely cured me and have given me back all my old-time health and strength."

What these pills have done for Miss Tuckey and thousands of others they will do for you. They will make you bright, vigorous and strong. Don't take a substitute nor any of the "just as good as" medicines which some dealers push because of a larger profit. See that the full name, "Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People," is found on the wrapper around every box. If in doubt send direct to "The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., and the pills will be mailed at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50.

### Cheese Inspectors

The Eastern Dairyman's Association has appointed Mr. Wm. Hall inspector of cheese factories in Lindsay District, and Mr. Robert Ward inspector for Peterboro District. The inspectors, or instructors, will not be compelled to carry a Babcock tester this year as they are gradually doing away with this and each factory is required to provide one for its own use. The inspectors will carry the alkaline test and the fermentation test, which will make a load without the Babcock. They will commence work about the first of May, and Mr. Pablow will visit each syndicate as often as he can during the summer.

### A Timely Suggestion.

The chairman of the Board of Works should see that the town roads get full advantage of an intelligent use of the town grader, and particularly new pieces of road should be scraped and the holes filled so as to shed water. This is a cheap and fairly effective way of making the streets passable until a steam roller and good road metal is provided. It is much better than dumping loamy sand and gravel in the holes without providing means for the water to get away. The Grand Trunk had several car loads of gravel spread at the different railway crossings in town yesterday, which will effect a much needed improvement.

### The Late John Bates.

The funeral of the late John Newman Bates, whose death occurred on Tuesday last after a lingering illness of several years' duration, took place last Friday afternoon to Riverside cemetery, and was largely attended. The services were conducted by the Rev. G. W. Henderson. The deceased being an old bandman and at one time the best cornet player, the Sylvester band and a number of old players marched in a body. The playing of the sad march as the band proceeded along Kent-st. was very impressive. The late Mr. Bates leaves a wife (nee Miss Lyons), a little son, two sisters, two brothers and father to mourn his loss. They will have the sympathy of our citizens in their bereavement.

### FENELON FALLS WAKING UP.

#### CITIZENS ARE ANXIOUS TO RETAIN CONTROL OF THE POWER

Not in Possession of Lindsay Capitalists—A By-law to Raise \$75,000 Will be Submitted to the People.

(Fenelon Falls Gazette) A large and most representative meeting of ratepayers was held in Twomey's Hall on Tuesday evening to discuss the by-law for providing water, light and power in the village of Fenelon Falls. The meeting was orderly and most enthusiastic in favor of the by-law. Mr. Jos. McFarland, Reeve of the village, occupied the chair, and Mr. F. A. McDiarmid outlined fully the many advantages to be derived from the purchase of the water power. Brief addresses were also given by Messrs. Geo. Martin, Dr. Gould and R. A. Robinson, all favorable to the purchase.

Some years ago when the Council allowed the proposal to purchase the water power from the Smiths to slip, the ratepayers were loudly indignant. The Council, for its entire, are now leaving the matter entirely to the ratepayers to decide. This will be the last opportunity the town will have to secure the power, as other bidders are in the field. The Lindsay L. E. & P. Co. have recently doubled their capacity and are now developing nearly all their power. As Lindsay continues to grow more power will be required and the Power Company will have to look for more, and will naturally look for it as near home as possible. The price may seem high, but considering that water powers have doubled their value during the last few years the figure asked is really low.

The scheme is as follows: The Brandon, McDougall & Austin firm were first approached by a certain Lindsay gentleman, acting for interested parties, and asked for figures on their entire property—power, mill, electric plant, etc. They gave him their figures and an option. This was heard of by one of our councillors and steps were at once taken to have the option withdrawn. The firm were very willing to give the consultation to the town and after a conference with the holder of the option they managed to have it withdrawn, and a new option was given to the town for thirteen weeks to purchase for \$35,000 the property, consisting of water power, mill, machinery, electric light franchise and plant (viz. dynamo, poles, wires, etc., office building, land, etc.).

The by-law, as it appears in print, places the matter very unfavorably. It tends one to believe that it is intended to raise a lump sum of \$75,000. Such is not the case. If the by-law carries the town will proceed to issue debentures for \$35,000, the amount of purchase. Commissioners will be appointed to manage the affair and if they can induce manufacturers to locate here they will then proceed with the development of the power and will consequently have to issue more debentures to cover the expense, but the extra revenue derived from the manufacturers will pay those as they become due.

The \$75,000 is made up as follows: \$35,000 for purchase of property; \$25,000, estimated by two competent electrical experts to develop the extra 500 horse power, that is, to build power house, put in electric plant, dam, etc. If the system be found to run smoothly the other \$15,000 will be used to put in a waterworks system for fire protection, etc. Messrs. McDougall, Brandon & Austin are willing to pay a rental of \$1,200 a year for a term of ten years for the mill and power to operate it, and to pay taxes on an assessment of \$5,000. The agreement also demands the firm to keep the property and machinery in proper repair. Besides, it is not binding on Council to rent them the property at \$1,200 a year, but they are at liberty to pay the highest figure.

The company claim that the net revenue from the lighting system (above all expenses) last year was \$1,200. This and the \$1,200 from the rent of mill-making \$2,400—will pay the debentures for the first ten years and leave a surplus. The debentures have been figured on a 4 per cent rate, but it is probable that the company guarantee these, thus enabling them to be sold at even less than 4 per cent. The cheap power will certainly be a big inducement to manufacturers to Fenelon Falls. It now costs about \$25 to make a six-horse power at a manufacturer requiring 100 or 200 h.p. The opening of new industries will mean a large increase of population, consequently of rateable property.

The town has now a chance to make it better and we feel sure the ratepayers, one and all, will not allow the chance to slip a second time. The nature of the power being in this portion of Ontario, and to miss this opportunity means the building up of Lindsay at the expense of Fenelon Falls. As Mr. Robinson ably remarked, at the meeting, the chance could not have come at a more opportune time—just when several thousand settlers are coming from Britain to Canada. Other places are getting their share of these new comers. If Fenelon Falls do stand still? We think not, but trust the by-law will carry without one dissenting vote.

### A RICH MUSICAL TREAT.

#### The First Open-air Concert by the Sylvester Band Was a Great Success

A large crowd witnessed the first open-air concert of the season given by the Sylvester band at the corner of Kent and William-sts. Good Friday morning. On account of the funeral of their late comrade, John N. Bates, being in the afternoon, the band played out in the morning, and it being a fine day a great many of our citizens availed themselves of the opportunity of hearing the musical organization. The band has appeared at 10:30 attended in their new uniforms, which for neatness, style and appearance are the finest we have yet seen. It is understood for us to make any comment on the program, for every number from the commencement to the finish was well rendered and highly appreciated by the spectators. The overture, "A Hot Combina-

tion" by the band, merited great applause, as also did the waltz, "Daughter of Love," which was exceedingly well given. The concert solo boys very pleasing. Mr. Young's reputation as a first-class concert player is well known. Mr. Harry Stoddart, Mr. Young's mate, is also coming to the front as a good man on that instrument. The selection to have been given by Mr. Roenigk did not take place owing to the lateness of the hour. The music throughout, although not loud, was full of sweetness, and the boys are to be congratulated on their first concert. Mr. Roenigk, the popular bandmaster, deserves considerable praise for having brought the band to such a high standard of proficiency in the short time he has been in charge. Our citizens should be in charge. Our citizens should be proud of, and it is to be hoped that their courage the boys by attending their open-air concerts this summer in large numbers.

### BEST FOR TIRED MOTHERS.

How many babies wake up just about the mother's bedtime and keep her busy for a good part of the night. The mother may not see anything apparently the matter with the child, but she may depend upon it that when baby is cross and sleepless there is something wrong, and the little one is taking the only way he has of telling it. Baby's means he has recently learned his capacity and are now developing nearly all their power. As Lindsay continues to grow more power will be required and the Power Company will have to look for more, and will naturally look for it as near home as possible. The price may seem high, but considering that water powers have doubled their value during the last few years the figure asked is really low.

### Athletic Carnival.

At a meeting of the gymnasium men at the Y.M.C.A. on April 8th it was decided to give an athletic carnival under the auspices of the association in the near future, provided enough encouragement is received in the matter of application for tickets. The plan provides for an elaborate program in which a team of 20 men from the Peterboro Y.M.C.A. will be the feature. The program will consist of fencing, dumb bell and wind drills (the latter to musical accompaniment), parallel, horizontal and vaulting bar work, tumbling, pyramids, etc. There will also be physical features that will be of first-class merit. If the plan carries there will be at least 35 participants.

### Dr. Shier spent Friday and Saturday at Minden in consultation with Dr. Curry on several patients suffering from scarlet fever.

He states that the reports as to the number of deaths daily have been very much exaggerated, but that the type is a severe anginoid form, the throat being the seat of greatest danger. There have been several cases of the malignant form, where the patient took sick suddenly and died within twenty-four hours. Deaths have occurred at different ages from two years to thirty; within a radius of seven miles about fifteen have occurred. As many as five in one family of the name of Harrison, near Gelert, have died. The difficulty in procuring nurses to carry out the treatment of the doctors has been the cause of some deaths. The doctor thinks that the Provincial Board of Health should take a hand in the matter and try to stop the ravages of the disease.

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