HER MAJESTY'S CANES.

One Room in Victoria's Suite Filled With Walking Sticks.

Since the infirmities of Queen Victoria made it necessary for her to use a walking stick, she has been the recipient of many canes. Her friends, relatives and subjects have seized upon every possible occasion to present her with a new cane. One entire room of her private suite is stocked with these special gifts. Whenever she expresses her intention of attending a function, like a royal wedding or christening, the interested parties consider it fitting to send her another cane. Every anniversary she is forced to acknowledge a score or so more.

Hers is a collection of priceless value. There are solid gold sticks, silver sticks, exquisitely engraved sticks that are a marvel of the carver's art and sticks that contain many jewels.

Queen Victoria has leaned more heavily on her stick of late years, using it to cross the room even, instead of only on long walks about Windsor Castle, and after a long, tiresome ceremony. She always places it against her chair, and when she rises it is the duty of the highest court official present to hand it to her.

The story of the prank played upon her by the son of the Duke of York has never appeared in print before. The Queen, who is not fond of court ceremonies when she is in retirement, was at Windsor, and had dismissed her attendants, who had withdrawn to an arbor near by. She was very much interested in her favorite pastime, knitting socks for the Prince of Wales, when that small embodiment of mischief, her greatgrandson, slipped away with her cane and "played horsey" with it over the lawn.

He had to be captured before the Queen could enter the house. There Her Majesty proceeded to teach him that even the future King of England cannot tamper with the dignity of the present powers that be.

Of recent years her subjects have hoped in vain to see her use their gifts. She has used only one cane. It is one of great historic value, having been presented to King Charles II. by one of his merry court. Very properly it was cut from an oak tree. When Charles accepted the gift it had a plain gold head, which was round and apt to hurt the hand if the cane was called upon to support much weight.

It was whispered about the court recently that Her Majesty used no longer the historic stick. This is not true; only the top has been changed. An idol, which graced the temple of an ill fated Indian prince, has been added for a handle. This is an exquisitely wrought affair in ivory, on an infinitesimal pedestal of alabaster. The eyes and forehead are jewelled, and on the tongue is the rarest of rubies.

BALLOON VS. IRONCLAD.

The use of the balloon in warfare will be one of the developments of the near future. A first-class modern ironclad costs about $5,000,000. This would construct and equip for war purposes a great many balloons, and it would seem as if they might be used by the inhabitants of a beseiged city with which to sail over an invading fleet and drop explosives upon the warships underneath with deadly effect. They might also be used to drop these explosives over the cities occupied by an opponent. Of course there would be considerable risk in such an enterprise, unless the balloons could be properly steered, but the dirigible balloon is one of the inventions that we may expect to see in the near future.

Quick as Thought

The maddening toothache stops when Nerviline—that wonderful nerve-pain cure—is applied to the tooth. Nerviline is the only positive, never-failing remedy for toothache and all nerve pains. Be advised and try it.

MAXIMILIAN.

Though 30 years have passed since Maximilian was shot in Mexico, his brother, the Emperor of Austria, always holds memorial services on June 19, the anniversary of that tragic event. At the castle of Miramar, near Trieste, on the Adriatic, the rooms occupied by Archduke Maximilian before leaving for the new world are kept, by the Emperor's orders, just as his brother left them when he went to his death.

Use Quickcure for Lame Back, Sprains, Strains, &c.

AN "IF."

If we moved our legs proportionately as fast as an ant, it is calculated we could travel nearly 800 miles an hour.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY.

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All Druggists refund the money if it fails to Cure. 25c.

HOW TO REACH MARS.

An eminent astronomer says that for communication with the inhabitants of Mars we should require a flag as large as Ireland and a pole 500 miles long.

CROWN OF PORTUGAL.

The gems in the crown of Portugal are worth $8,000,000. Those in the royal diadem of England are valued at $1,800,000.

Indigestion

CURED BY **CELERY KING**

Strengthens the stomach; aids digestion; acts pleasantly on the bowels. Large package, 25 cts. Sold by all druggists, or WOODWARD MEDICINE CO., TORONTO, CANADA.

A WONDERFUL MAN.

There was a man in England named George Muller who used to read the Bible quite through every four years. He died recently. Mr. Muller was a remarkable man. Besides preaching constantly in English, German and French he distributed over 250,000 Bibles and 100,000,000 religious books and tracts. He built in Bristol orphan homes costing $575,000 and maintained 2,000 orphans in them at an annual cost of $130,000—cheap and practical, by the way. He dealt in his long career with 125,000 orphans and spent on them in all nearly $7,000,000, yet he never directly asked any man for a penny. All the money that came in for the support of his work he prayed for. If he didn't get as much as he needed he made what he had answer. It was simple and it worked.

AN OPINION.

She—I had the impression that she had an even temper.

He—It may be even; but it is on a rather high plane.

Spring Humors

That pimple on your arm, those eruptions, itching and burning hives, just as surely indicate impurities in the blood, which should have prompt

and careful attention, as do boils, carbuncles, ulcers, ralt rheum and the severest forms of scrofula. Hood's Sarsaparilla cures all humors of the blood of every form and degree. As a spring blood purifier and tonic it is just what you want.

This cure is characteristic of Hood's Sarsaparilla. No other medicine effects such cures. No other has such power to purify the blood. The letter is written by Mrs. O. F. Chamberlain, of Glen Sutton, Quebec:

"C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.:

"Dear Sirs:—My husband has been a great sufferer from dyspepsia for years and was unable to attend to any business. After trying the prescriptions of several physicians with little or no benefit, he

CONCLUDED TO TAKE HOOD'S Sarsaparilla. He used two bottles and now eats three hearty meals a day and says he never felt better in his life. My husband's father, past eighty years of age, has been a great sufferer from rheumatism for over forty years. He was also troubled with his stomach, but he was cured by taking less than three bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla. My little boy, three years old, had eruptions on his face, which the doctors called eczema. His face became one solid sore. When he was six months old we had to tie his hands to keep

him from tearing his face on account of his great suffering. We gave him one bottle of Hood's Sarsaparilla and he has never had as much as a pimple or a sore of any kind on his face or body since." Mrs. O. F. Chamberlain.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is Canada's Greatest Medicine, because it cures when all others fail. Be sure to get Hood's.

26th ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

Confederation Life Association

STEADY PROGRESS OF A HOME INSTITUTION.

Large Increase in Payments to Policyholders —Interest Collections in Advance of Any Previous Year

The twenty-sixth annual meeting of the Confederation Life Association was held at the Head Office of the company, Yonge, Richmond and Victoria streets, Toronto, on Tuesday, March 15, 1898, at 3 p.m.

There was a fair attendance of shareholders and policyholders.

Mr. W. H. Beatty, Vice-President, was appointed to act as Chairman, and Mr. J. K. Macdonald, Managing Director, as Secretary.

After the usual formalities the following report and statements of the affairs of the Association for the year 1897 were presented.

REPORT.

The year 1897, like some of those which preceded it, was one that called for the exercise of much care and prudence, both in regard to obtaining new insurance and in the investment of the funds. It would have been quite within the ability of your directors to have largely increased the volume of new business, but it was deemed the wiser course to continue the conservative policy of the past, and do a safe, though moderate business, at a reasonable cost.

The policyholders and shareholders will note with satisfaction that while an amount of new insurance was secured slightly in excess of that for 1896, it was obtained, and the entire business of the association conducted, at a cost actually less than for that year.

The total applications received during the year were 2,164 for $3,332,485 of insurance; 2,072 for $3,143,285 were approved and policies written; 85 for $182,200 were declined, and 7 for $7,000, being incomplete, were deferred. Including bonus additions, the new business for the year was $3,168,172. The total business in force at the close of the year was $28,332,005.00 under 18,915 policies on 16,427 lives.

In the matter of the valuation of the policy and annuity obligations, for all business taken since December 31, 1895, a rate of 3 1-2 per cent. only has been assumed.

Your directors are pleased to be able to report a very fair increase in the returns from property taken over in the City of Toronto, and with the improvement which seems to be very generally anticipated a still higher return is looked for during the present year. They are also very glad to report that the payment of interest on mortgage account has been very much better than for some years past. The actual collections were about 16 per cent. in advance of those for 1896, while the amount due and outstanding at the 31st December last was almost 25 per cent., less than at the corresponding date of 1896. It may also be stated that several house properties have been sold during the year to realize all the company had against them.

The death claims arising in the year aggregated the sum of $243,824. These occurred under 140 policies, on 119 lives. While well within the tabular rate, it is larger than the usual experience of this company, and arises largely from the fact that several lives fell in on which there were large insurances carried, which considerably increased the average. The above, considering the lives at risk and the age of the company will strongly attest the care exercised by the directors in the admission of only healthy lives.

Attention may be called to the very large amount paid by the Association during the past year to its policyholders and annuitants, and especially to the sum of almost $90,000 CASH PROFITS TO POLICYHOLDERS. The total payments including $8,031, the amount received for re-insurances, and which is deducted from the death claims in the financial statement, were $511,752.62.

It may also be mentioned that this Association since its organization has paid a total of $1,034,214.74 CASH PROFITS up to the close of last year to its policyholders, on amount equal to 43 per cent. of the total death claims during the same time.

The financial statements herewith submitted exhibit the transactions of the Association and its condition on the 31st December last.

The auditors have given strict attention to their duties, making their investigations from month to month, and their report will be found appended to the financial statements.

The directors are also pleased to report that the field and office staffs continue to discharge their duties with efficiency and diligence.

All the directors retire, but are eligible for re-election.

W. P. HOWLAND, President.
J. K. MACDONALD,
Managing Director.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Receipts.

Premiums, net		$931,561 02
Interest and rents, net		252,966 23
		$1,184,527 25

DISBURSEMENTS.

To Policyholders.

Death claims, net	$243,525 75	
Endowments	93,353 00	
Annuities	9,854 34	
Surrendered policies	66,993 84	
Cash profits	89,994 69	
		$503,721 62
Expenses, salaries, commissions, etc.		206,411 10
Dividends to stockholders		15,000 00
Balance		459,394 53
		$1,184,527 25
Total assets		$6,237,689 28
Total liabilities		5,900,882 54
		$ 336,806 74
Capital Stock		1,000,000 00
TOTAL SURPLUS SECURITY FOR POLICYHOLDERS		$1,336,806 74

Auditors' Report.

We beg to report that we have completed the audit of the books of the Association for the year ending December 31st, 1897, and have examined the vouchers connected therewith, and certify that the financial statements agree with the books and are correct.

The securities represented in the assets (with the exception of those lodged with the Dominion Government, amounting to $84,500, and those deposited with the Government of Newfoundland, amounting to $25,000) have been examined and compared with the books of the Association, and are correct, and correspond with the schedules and ledgers.

The bank balances and the cash are certified as correct.

W. R. HARRIS,
R. F. SPENCE,
Auditors.

Toronto, February 22nd, 1898.

The Chairman, Mr. W. H. Beatty, in moving the adoption of the report commented on the very satisfactory state of the affairs of the Association, and stated that the new business for the year 1898 showed a satisfactory increase over that for 1897 at the same date.

Several of the policyholders and stockholders present referred in complimentary terms to the success which has attended the operations of the Association, and the report was unanimously adopted.

Resolutions of thanks, which were suitably responded to, were also passed to the Directors, Officers, Auditors, Medical Examiners, Field and Office Staffs, for their faithful services during the year.

All the retiring directors were re-elected, viz., Hon. Sir W. P. Howland, Edward Hooper, Esq., W. H. Beatty, Esq., Hon. Jas. Young, S. Nordheimer, Esq., W. H. Gibbs, Esq., A. McLean Howard, Esq., Walter S. Lee, Esq., A. L. Gooderham, Esq., W. D. Matthews, Esq., Geo. Mitchell, Esq., Frederick Wyld, Esq., J. K. Macdonald, Esq.

At a meeting of the new board held immediately after the annual meeting Hon. Sir W. P. Howland, K.C.M.G., C. B., was re-elected President, and Messrs. Edward Hooper and W. H. Beatty, Vice-Presidents.

THE STARS' RAYS.

It requires four years and four months for a ray of light to reach us from the nearest star, and yet light travels at the rate of 186,330 miles in a second. At this rate a first-class express train, running at a speed of 37 miles an hour, would require a continuous run of 75,000,000 to reach Alpha Centauri. It would take 250,000 years for a cannon ball, travelling at the usual speed of such projectiles, to reach this same point, which is our nearest star neighbor.

Corn Sowing

Is conducted by tight boots. Corn reaping is best conducted by Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor, the only safe, sure, prompt and painless corn cure. Beware of imitations.

COMBINED.

My son wants me to buy him a trolley line, and I think he would make a a lawyer. In the one case he would cut people up, and in the other merely pull their legs. What would you suggest?

I'd make a doctor of him. Then he can do both.

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Props. Toledo, O.

We the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by their firm.

WEST & TRUAX, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. WALDING, KINNAN & MARVIN, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, Ohio.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Price 75c. per bottle. Sold by all Druggists. Testimonials free.

Hall's Family Pills are the best.

THE CAUSE OF THE TROUBLE.

What happened to Simpkins?

He had a dispute with a policeman. You know, Simpkins is very quick at repartee?

Yes.

Well, the policeman wasn't. Simpkins will be out in a week or so.

The Finest Yet—

is what housekeepers say about LUDELLA Ceylon Tea. We suggest a trial. Lead packages. 25, 40, 50 and 60c.

Constantly increasing sales speak volumes for

MONSOON..... INDO-CEYLON TEA.

In lead packets only. Black and mixed. All grocers keep it at 25, 30, 40, 50 and 60c.

KOREAN PAPER.

Korean paper is superior to that of either China or Japan, in both of which countries it is in demand for umbrella covers, roofing and as a substitute for window glass.

RIDE **Hartford & Vim Tires**

Head Office— 9 Adelaide St. W., Toronto.

MONUMENT TO POTATOES.

A seven-foot granite monument in the upper Harz, Germany, has an iron tablet inscribed: "Here in the year 1847, the first trials were made with the cultivation of the potato."

To cure Catarrh use vapors of Quickcure.

TO MAKE HOME HAPPY.

An epicure says six things are necessary in order to make home happy. The first is a good cook, and the other five are money.

HANDSOME REGULAR FEATURES

Do not constitute a beautiful face, if the skin be covered with those unsightly pimples. By removing all impurities from the blood, and regulating the digestive functions, Celery King produces a clear, healthy complexion. One month's treatment, 25 cents. At all druggists, or Woodward Medicine Co., Toronto, Canada.

A PAPER CHURCH.

Bergen, Norway, boasts of a paper church large enough to seat 1,000 persons. The building is rendered waterproof by a solution of quicklime, curdled milk and whites of eggs.

W P C 915

MINERALS TESTED for Gold, etc. Write for prices. MILTON L. HERSEY, B. A. Sc., 16 St. Sacrament St., Montreal, Que.

WIND MILLS—Steel, Galvanized, Roller and Ball Bearings, Iron Pumps, Sprayers, and Grain Grinders. Gould, Shap'oy & Muir Co., Limited, Brantford, Canada.

MUSIC Agents wanted to introduce our Catalogue and terms. We will mail prepaid "Dar'll be a Nigger Missin'," with music, for 5 cents, stamps. POPULAR MUSIC DEPOT, 20 Alexis St. Montreal.

DON'T BE HUMBUGGED by agents. Do your own thinking. We sell up-to-date high-armed sewing machines at factory prices $18.50 to $23.00 delivered free within 500 miles of Montreal. Send for special catalogue and terms.

THE BAILEY DONALDSON CO., MONTREAL.

J. H. ANDERSON, M.D., No. 5 College-st. TORONTO, Ont. EYE, EAR, NOSE & THROAT SPECIALIST

Dominion Line Steamships

Montreal and Quebec to Liverpool in summer, Portland to Liverpool in winter. Large and fast twin screw steamships 'Labrador,' 'Vancouver,' 'Dominion,' 'Scotsman,' 'Yorkshire.' Superior accommodation for First Cabin, Second Cabin and Steerage passengers. Rates of passage—First Cabin, $50; Second Cabin, $34; Steerage $22.50 and upwards according to steamer and berth. For all information apply to Local Agents, or DAVID TORRANCE & CO., Gen'l Agents, 17 St. Sacrament St., Montreal.

Established 1854. 33 Steamers aggregating 135,000 Tons.

ALLAN LINE

Royal Mail Steamship Co.,

Montreal to Liverpool.

Steamers sail from Montreal every Saturday morning on arrival of trains from Toronto and the West about 9 o'clock.

RATES OF PASSAGE

Cabin $52.50 and upwards; Second Cabin $34 and and $36.25; Steerage to Liverpool, London, Glasgow, Belfast, Londonderry or Queenstown $22.50 and $23.50.

A reduction of five per cent. is allowed on round trip first and second cabin tickets. For sailings of steamers or other information apply to any authorized agent.

H. Bourlier, 1 King St. W. Toronto, or H. & A. Allan, Montreal.

Jack at All Trades

"A farmer should be able to construct everything needed on the farm." (!) If he wants a wagon, buy a few tools, spokes, hubs, etc. and make it. His time is nothing—"he can't afford to help support big factories." The average farmer will advise you to "tell that to the marines," but many of them listen to just such arguments on the fence question. Are they wise? We can sell you Page fence at from 45 to 65 cents per rod. For illustrated advertising matter apply to the local Page dealer, or to us direct.

THE PAGE WIRE FENCE COMPANY, Limited,

WALKERVILLE, ONT.

P. S.—See our "ad." in next issue.