HE NOTICES LITTLE THINGS.

There Is No Emergency of Life Where God Is Not Willing to Help.

[Entered according to Act of the Parliament of Canada, in the year One Thousand Nine Hundred and One, by William Kelly, of Toronto, at the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.]

A despatch from Washington says: —Rev. Dr. Talmage preached from the following text:—II. Kings vi, 6, "The iron did swim."

A theological seminary in the valley of Palms, near the river Jordan, had become so popular in the time of Elisha, the prophet, that more accommodations were needed for the students. The classrooms and dormitories must be enlarged or an entirely new building constructed. What will they do? Will they send up to Jerusalem and solicit contributions for this undertaking? Will they send out agents to raise the money for a new theological seminary? Having raised the money, will they send for cedars of Lebanon and marble from the quarries where Ahab got the stones for the pillars and walls of his palace? No; the students propose to build it themselves. They were rugged boys, who had been brought up in the country and who had never been weakened by the luxuries of city life. All they ask is that Elisha, their professor and prophet, go along with them to the woods and boss the job. They start for the work, Elisha and his students. Plenty of lumber in those regions along the Jordan. The sycamore is a stout, strong tree and good for timber. Mr. Glaistone asked me if I had seen in Palestine any sycamore tree more beautiful than the one we stood under at Hawarden. I told him I had not.

The sycamores near the Jordan are now attacked by Elisha's students, for they must have lumber for the new theological seminary. I suppose some of the students made an awkward stroke, and they were extemporized axmen.

STAND FROM UNDER!

Crash goes one of the trees and another and another. But something now happens so wonderful that the occurrence will tax that the credulity of the ages, so wonderful that many still think it never happened at all. One of the students, not able to own an ax, had borrowed one. You must remember that while the ax of olden time was much like our modern ax it differed in the fact that instead of the helve or handle being thrust into a socket in the iron head the head of the ax was fastened on the handle by a leather thong, and so it might slip the helve. A student of the seminary was swinging his ax against one of those trees, and whether it was at the moment he made his first stroke and the chips flew or was after he had cut the tree from all sides so deep that it was ready to fall we are not told, but the ax head and the handle parted. Being near the riverside, the ax head dropped into the river and sank to the muddy bottom. Great was the student's dismay. If it had been his own ax, it would have been bad enough, but the ax did not belong to him. He had no means to buy another for the kind man who had loaned it to him, but God helps the helpless, and He generally helps through some good and sympathetic soul, and in this case it was Elisha, who was in the woods and on the river bank at the time. He did not see the ax head fly off, and so he asked the student where it dropped. He was shown the place where it went down into the river. Then Elisha broke off a branch of a tree and threw it into the water, and the ax head rose from the depths of the river and floated to the bank, so that the student had just to stoop down and take up the restored property. Now you see the meaning of my text,

"THE IRON DID SWIM."

Furthermore, in that scene of the text God sanctions borrowing and sets forth the importance of returning. I do not think there would have been any miracle performed if the young man had owned the ax that slipped the helve. The young man cried out in the hearing of the prophet, "Alas, master, for it was borrowed!" He had a right to borrow. There are times when we have not only a right to borrow, but it is a duty to borrow. There are times when we ought to lend, for Christ in His sermon on the mount declared, "From him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away." It is right that one borrow the means of getting an education, as the young student of my text borrowed the ax. It is right to borrow means for the forwarding of commercial ends. Most of the vast fortunes that now overshadow the land were hatched out of a borrowed dollar.

We borrow time; we will borrow eternity, and that constant borrowing implies a return. For what we borrow from God we must pay back in hearty thanks and Christian service, in improvement of ourselves and helpfulness for others. For what we borrow in the shape of protection from good government we must pay back in patriotic devotion. For what we borrow from our parents in their good example and their hard work we ought for us in our journey from cradle to manhood or womanhood for all the ages to come, we ought to be paying back. The hallelujahs of heaven will be returned for

CRUCIFIXION AGONY.

Furthermore, let us admire these young men of Elisha's theological seminary for the fact that they were earning their own way. The most of those to-day who are successful in the professions, medicating the sick or advocating the law or preaching the gospel, fought their own way on and up. Those are the kind of men who know what education is worth and know how to use it. Many of us remember that in college days the sons of affluent fathers, with plenty of money to spend and horses to drive and libraries crowded with books never read and wardrobes that kept them in perplexity as to which of many garments was appropriate for the weather that day, were worth to the world nothing then and have been worth to the world nothing since, while the young men in college who had to economize three months in order to get some book they needed and who could hardly raise money for their diploma, have since wrought mightily for God and the truth, turning the world upside down because it was wrong side up.

Those students in the valley of Palms by the Jordan had a physical strength and hardihood that would help them in their mental and spiritual achievements. We who are toiling for the world's betterment need brawn as well as brain, strong bodies as well as illumined minds and consecrated souls. Many of those who are now doing the best work in church and state got muscle and power of endurance from the fact that in early life they were compelled to use ax or plow or flail or hammer, while many who were brought up in luxuries of life give out

BEFORE THE BATTLE IS WON.

They are keen and sharp of mind, but have no physical endurance. They have the ax head, but not the handle. The body is the handle of the soul.

Notice, also, how God is superior to every law that has been made, even the strongest law of nature, the law of gravitation. The stick that Elisha threw into the Jordan floated, but the ax head sank. By inexorable law, it must go down into the depths of the Jordan, yet without so much as a touch the hard, heavy metal sought the surface. There it is, the floating ax head. What a rebuke to those who reject miracles on the ground that they are contrary to nature, as though the law were stronger than the God who made the law! Again and again in Bible times was that law revoked! Witness the scene on the banks of the same Jordan, where, in after time, the ax head sank and rose. Elijah stood there, wearing cape of sheepskin, when there was a mighty stir in the air and a flashing equipage descended. Elijah stepped into it, and on wheels of fire, drawn by horses of fire, he rose. Fifty men for three days searched the mountains to see if the body of Elijah had not been dropped among the rocks and picked up by the birds of prey, but the search was in vain. The law of gravitation had been defeated.

DO NOT FEEL LONELY

because your nearest neighbor may be miles away, because the width of the continent may separate you from the place where your cradle was rocked and your father's grave was dug. Wakened though you may be by lion's roar or panther's scream, God will help you, whether at the time the forest around you raves in the midnight hurricane or you suffer from something quite insignificant, like the loss of an ax head. Take your Bible out under the trees, if the weather will permit, and after you have listened to the song of a bird in the treetops or the long meter psalm of the thunder, read those words of the Bible, which must have been written out of doors: "The trees of the Lord are full of sap. The cedars of Lebanon which he hath planted, where the birds make their nests; as for the stork, the fir trees are her house. The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats and the rocks for the conies. Thou makest darkness, and it is night, wherein all the beasts of the forest do creep forth. The young lions roar after their prey and seek their meat from God. The sun ariseth, they gather themselves together and lay them down in their dens. Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labor until the evening. O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all. The earth is full of riches." How do you like that sublime pastoral?

My subject also reminds us of the importance of keeping our chief implement for work.

IN GOOD ORDER.

I think that young theological student on the banks of the Jordan was to blame for not examining the ax before he lifted it that day against a tree. He could in a moment have found out whether the helve and the head were firmly fastened. The simple fact was the ax was not in good order or the strongest stroke that sent the edge into the hard sycamore would not have left the implement headless. So God has given every one of us an ax with which to hew. Let us keep it in good order, having been sharpened by Bible study and strengthened by prayer. The reason we sometimes fail in our work is because we have a dull ax or we do not know how aright to swing it. The head is not aright on the handle. At the time we want the most skill for work and perfect equilibrium we lose our head. We expend in useless excitement the nervous energy that we ought to have employed in direct, straightforward work. Your ax may be a pen or a type or a yardstick or a scales or a tongue which in legislative hall or business circles or Sabbath class or pulpit is to speak for God and righteousness, but the ax will not be worth much until it has been sharpened on the grindstone of affliction. People who have had no trouble do not amount to much for usefulness, but God puts their ax on the hard circle of the grindstone, and betrayal gives it a turn, and pain gives it a turn, and poverty gives it a turn, and disappointment gives it a turn, and bereavement gives it a turn, and now it is sharp enough

FOR SUCCESSFUL WORK,

and how it cuts down evil and builds schools and churches and theological seminaries!

Alas, there are impossibles before thousands of people—called to do work that it is impossible for them to do, called to bear burdens that it is impossible for them to bear, called to endure suffering that it is impossible for them to endure. Read all the gospel promises, rally all your faith, and, while you will always be called to worship the God of hope, to-day, with all the concentrated energies of my soul, I implore you to bow down and worship God who can turn the impossibles into possibles. It was no trivial purpose, but for grand and glorious uses I have spoken to you to-day of the borrowed, and lost and restored ax head.

GOOD KING CHRISTIAN.

Reasons Why He Retains the Affections of His People.

King Christian of Denmark is the most beloved of European monarchs. A story is told which illustrates the affection of his people, and at the same time the freedom with which they approach him.

The King was visiting a town in northern Jutland, when a peasant advanced to him on the street and asked him if he was the King. The monarch smiled, as he answered affirmatively and inquired if he could do anything for him.

"No," said the peasant, bluntly. "I just wanted to tell you that you are a good king—one of the best we ever had."

The King laughed.

"Do you think so?" he replied. "Well, perhaps it's a matter of taste; but then, I'm a poor judge in affairs of this sort."

That the peasant, however, was not far wrong in his estimation is evidenced by another story in which King Christian was the good angel. This story has been revived by the actions of the King in placing a wreath on the grave of the wife of Jensen, the famous portrait-painter.

Jensen was a poor boy in whose career his Majesty took much interest. One day the King met the young man on the street, and impressed by his sadness, asked what was the matter. The young man confessed that he was in love with the daughter of a wealthy man, who would not let her marry the son of a poor tradesman.

"O-ho!" said the King. "Is that all? We must see what we can do."

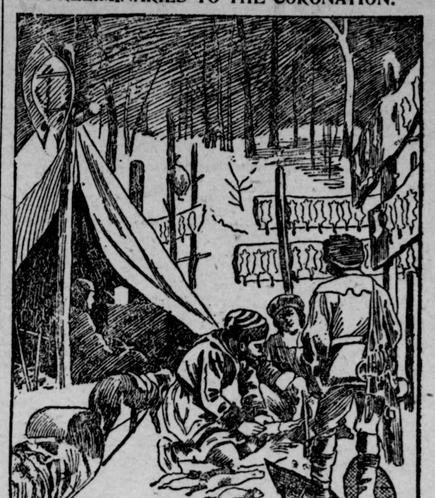
The very next day he called on the wealthy citizen, and argued the young man's case so successfully that all opposition was withdrawn. A king is a hard man to resist, and a king who uses his power wisely is a mighty instrument for good.

LARGE FAMILIES.

Few fathers have such large families as an applicant for relief to the Birkenhead Guardians, England, who stated that he was seventy years of age, was the father of twenty-one children, the oldest of whom was fifty and the youngest an infant. The man has married twice, hence the case is not so remarkable an instance of a large family as those given by Thoresby in his "History of Leeds". He cites the case of Dr. Hudson, Chancellor of York, whose wife died in her thirty-ninth year, having given birth to twenty-four children. Another large family was that of Mr. Joseph Cooper, belonging to the same town, whose wife bore twenty-six children, but the most remarkable was that of Mr. William Greenhill, of Abbots Langley in Hertfordshire, who had no fewer than thirty-nine children by one wife.

Husband—"Well, she had on one of those dresses made of what-you-call-it stuff, of a kind of a mixed shade, and trimmed with what's-his-names. I don't remember now whether it was cut low or not, or whether it had sleeves, but I know it had one or the other. Her hair was done up the style like you see in pictures—you know what I mean. I don't know whether she had any ornaments or not, but I expect she had. That's about all, I think, that I noticed about her, but you can easily tell from that how she looked."

PRELIMINARIES TO THE CORONATION.



WORKING FOR THE CORONATION IN CANADA: HUDSON BAY COMPANY'S TRAPPERS PREPARING ERMINE AND MINIVER PELTS.

THE S. S. LESSON.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, FEB. 9.

Text of the Lesson, Acts iv., 32 to v., 11. Golden Text, Eph. iv., 25.

32, 33. "With great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all." In these days we can scarcely imagine several thousands of believers of one heart and one soul to serve the Lord, no one clinging to his own things, but each loving the other as himself and all having all things in common. If it was the power of His resurrection that did this, they must have known something that few know to-day.

34-37. Possessors of lands and houses sold their property and put the proceeds in the common fund that the need of each might be supplied and that no one might have either more than his righteousness and no self-seeking. This seems all the more remarkable when we consider the strife for pre-eminence that was seen more than once among the twelve before Pentecost; yes, even at the passover on the night before His resurrection, but now they were all filled with the spirit, and hence this great difference. A Spirit filled people will manifest the life of Christ and not the life of self. Joses, surnamed Barnabas, son of consolation, a Levite, and evidently a true one, is mentioned as one of those who having land sold it and laid the money at the apostles' feet. Levi signifies "joined," and he illustrated the truth, "He that is joined to the Lord is one Spirit" (I. Cor. vi, 17). Our Lord Jesus not only gave up all His riches and became poor to make us rich, but He actually gave Himself for us, taking the place of sin offering that we might be joined to Him (II. Cor. viii, 9; Gal. ii, 20).

v. 1, 2. "But Ananias and Sapphira." The tares and the wheat will grow together until the harvest. Until Jesus comes again many a bird will lodge in the branches, but no bird ever becomes a branch. The commands, "Walk before Me, and be thou sincere" and "Thou shalt be sincere with the Lord thy God" (Gen xvii, 4, margin; Deut. xviii, 13), are always binding and "Cursed be he that doeth the work of the Lord deceitfully" (Jer. xviii, 10), seems to be always a necessary warning. When Abram and Sara agreed to act a lie and Isaac and Rebekah did the same (Gen. xii, 11-13; xx, 2; xxvi, 7), which of us can say that the eyes as a flame of fire may not see some deceit in our inmost hearts? We are not our own, but bought with His precious blood.

3, 4. "Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost? Thou hast lied unto God." See the oneness of the Father and the Spirit, for in lying to the Spirit they lied unto God. See also the oneness of the Spirit and the believer, for in lying to Peter and the others they lied unto the Spirit. Notice also that it was the work of the devil, the father of lies, in Ananias, the same adversary who in the garden of Eden lied to Eve and has ever since been practicing his ungodly wiles. Contrast Peter filled with the Spirit and Ananias filled with Satan and the high priest and others filled with indignation or envy (chapters iv, 8, 31; v, 3, 17). If filled with the Spirit, evil can find no place in us. The Spirit of Truth and the father of lies each desires us, but neither can fill us unless we welcome them.

5, 6. Dead and buried in a few hours; gone from the earth and from his possessions, but gone where? To the true child of God death is gain and far better than sojourning here. But what of Ananias? His name means, "Jehovah is gracious." But did he know the saving grace of Jehovah? We know that there is such a thing as being saved as by fire, that Satan may destroy the flesh and yet the spirit be saved, that some of the members of the church were sickly and some dying because of sin and that we are told to judge nothing before the time until the Lord Come (I Cor. iii, 15; v, 5; xi. 30; iv, 5), yet Rev. xxi. 8, gives us little hope for Ananias.

7, 8. "It was about the space of three hours after when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in." Three hours a widow, but not aware of it. How long they had journeyed together in these mortal bodies we do not know, but his journey has ended, and he has gone to, though she is all unconscious of it. Perhaps she had come seeking him, wondering why he delayed to return home. It is a sad story and should teach us to be sincere with God, who desires truth in the inward parts (Ps. li, 6). If we did not know that Peter was filled with the Spirit, we might feel like questioning his way with her and might wish that he had sought to lead her to repentance, but perhaps her heart was fully set in her to do evil (Eccl. viii. 11).

9, 10. "How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord?" So one with God are His people that when we touch them we touch Him, and as we walk with them we deal with Him (Zech. ii, 8; Acts ix, 4). There is unspeakable comfort and yet a solemn warning in this great truth. How awful is this scene before us! Sin for the first time told of her husband's death and at the same time told that she must die, and in a moment she is gone. In the morning they are in health, but united in sin to God that they may appear before men to be very religious, but before night they are found out (Num. xxxii, 23), and are dead and buried. Two liars in one grave. But those who are sincere and "Thou shalt be sincere with the Lord thy God" (Deut. xviii, 13), are always binding and "Cursed be he that doeth the work of the Lord deceitfully" (Jer. xviii, 10), seems to be always a necessary warning. When Abram and Sara agreed to act a lie and Isaac and Rebekah did the same (Gen. xii, 11-13; xx, 2; xxvi, 7), which of us can say that the eyes as a flame of fire may not see some deceit in our inmost hearts? We are not our own, but bought with His precious blood.

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THE MARKETS

Prices of Grain, Cattle, etc in Trade Centres.

Toronto, Feb. 4.—Wheat—Market was firmer to-day, with more enquiry. Fifty-eight lb., white and red, quoted at 74 to 75c, middle freight. No. 1 spring at 72c east, and No. 1 goose at 67½c low freights. No. 1 Manitoba hard, nominal at 78½c to 80c g.i.t. Sarnia; No. 1 Northern sold at 83c North Bay, and 84c Sarnia; No. 2 Northern quoted at 81c Sarnia.

Oats—The market is quiet, with demand a little better. No. 2 white are quoted at 40 to 41c, middle freight.

Peas—The market is quiet, with prices unchanged. No. 2 quoted at 80c west, and at 81c middle freight.

Corn—The market is quiet, but the feeling is better. Canadian yellow quoted at 56c west, and mixed at 55½c west.

Barley—Market quiet and steady; No. 1 quoted at 56c, and No. 2 at 53c; No. 3 extra at 51c, and No. 3 at 50c, middle freights.

Rye—The market is quiet, and prices are nominal at 55 to 55½c, middle freight.

Buckwheat—Demand limited and prices nominal at 54c middle freight.

Flour—The market is quiet. Ninety per cent., in buyers' bags, nominal at $1.85 to $2.90, middle freights. Locally and for Lower Province trade choice straight rollers, in wood, are $3.20 to $3.25. Manitoba flour steady, with Hungarian $4.10 to $4.30, and strong bakers' at $3.80, Toronto freight.

Oatmeal—Market unchanged. Car lots, on track, $5.25 in bags, and $5.40 in wood. Broken lots, 25c per lb extra.

Millfeed—Bran is unchanged at $18 outside. Shorts, $20 outside. Manitoba bran, $20, and shorts $22, Toronto freights, including sacks.

PRODUCE.

Potatoes—The demand for potatoes is limited, and prices easy. Cars are quoted at 60 to 63c per bag, on track here, and the jobbing price, 75c.

Dried Apples—Market is dull. Choice are worth 6c per lb. Evaporated sell at 9 to 10c.

Hops—Business quiet, with prices steady at 13c, yearlings, 8c.

Honey—The market is steady at 9½ to 10c for strained. Combs, $1.50 to $2.25 per dozen.

Beans—The market is quiet, with fair offerings. Prime mediums, $1.35 to $1.40; hand-picked, $1.55 to $1.60.

Cranberries — Market unchanged, with stocks small. Cape Cod at $9.50 to $10 per bbl.

Hay, baled—The market is steady, with good demand. Timothy quoted at $9.75 to $10 on track for No. 1, and $8 to $8.50 for No. 2.

Straw—The market is quiet and firm. Car lots on track will bring $5.75 to $6.

Poultry—Market unchanged. Turkeys, 9½ to 10½c per lb; frozen, scalded, and half-fatted stock sold from 8 to 9c. Geese, dry-picked, 8 to 8½c. Ducks, 60 to 90c. Chickens young, 50 to 75c; old, 35 to 50c.

THE DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter—The market is quiet, with choice grades firm. Inferior butter is hard to sell. We quote: Selected dairy tubs, 17 to 17½c; choice large rolls, 16 to 17c; finest 1-lb rolls, 18 to 19c; inferior qualities, 11 to 12½c; creamery prints, 21 to 22c; solids, 20 to 21c.

Eggs—The market is quiet. Strictly fresh, 27 to 28c, held fresh, 21 to 22c; cold storage, 20c; limed 18 to 20c.

Cheese—Market is steady. We quote:—Finest Septembers, 10½ to 11c; seconds, 9½ to 10c.

HOGS AND PROVISIONS.

Dressed hogs unchanged, with car lots quoted at $7.75. Hog products steady. We quote:—Bacon, long clears, sells at 10½ to 18½c, in ton and case lots. Mess pork, $21; do, short cut, $21.50 to $22.

Smoked meats—Hams, 13c; breakfast bacon, 14c; rolls, 11c; backs, 14c, and shoulders, 10½c.

Lard—The market is unchanged. We quote:—Tierces, 11c; tubs, 11½c; pails, 11½c.

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Buffalo, Feb. 4.—Flour—Steady; fair demand. Wheat—Nothing doing. Corn—Stronger; No. 2 yellow, 64½c; No. 3 do., 63½c; No 2 corn, 63c; No. 3 do, 62½c. Oats—Strong; No. 2 white, 48½c; No. 3 do, 47½c; No. 2 mixed, 46½c; No. 3 do, 46c. Barley—Nothing doing. Rye—No. 1, 65½.

Toledo, O., Feb. 4.—Wheat, Strong; higher; cash, 87½c; May, 87½c; July 82c. Corn—Strong; higher; Jan., 60½c; May, 63½c; July, 65½c. Oats—Higher; Jan., 47½c; May, 45c; July, 40c. Clover seed, Jan., $5.80; March, $5.82½ to $5.85; No. 2 alsike $7.85.

Milwaukee, Feb. 4.—Wheat—Higher, close. No. 1 Northern, 77c; No. 2 Northern, 74 to 75½c; May, 79c. Rye—Dull; No. 1, 61c. Barley—steadier; No. 2, 62½ to 63c; sample, 55 to 62½c. Corn—May, 62½c.

Duluth, Minn., Feb. 4.—Wheat—Closed, cash, No. 1 hard, 77½c; No. 2 Northern, 72½c; No. 1 Northern, 74½c; May, 77½c; July, 77½c. Manitoba, No. 1 Northern, cash, 72c; May, 74½c. Oats—42½c. Corn—61c.

Minneapolis, Feb. 4.—Wheat closed—Cash, 75½c; May, 75½c; July, 76½c; on track, No. 1 hard, 77c; No. 1 Northern, 75½c; No. 2 do, 74½c. Flour—Firm; first patents, $3.75 to $3.85; second patents, $3.65 to $3.75; first clears, $2.75 to $2.85; second clears, $2.50. Bran—In bulk, $16 to $16.50.

Detroit, Feb. 4.—Wheat closed—No. 1 white, cash, 90½c; No. 2 red, cash and January, 88½c; May, 87½c; July, 83½c.

St. Louis, Feb. 4.—Wheat closed—Cash, 85½c; May, 85½c; July, 78½c.

CATTLE MARKET.

Toronto, Feb. 4.—The run was light at the Cattle Market to-day. Business on the whole was fair to brisk for anything of choice quality. While there was enough of the medium qualities on hand, there was not enough of the better quality to supply the demand. Some choice export cattle to-day fetched $5.37 1-2, and more of the same kind would have found a ready market. Choice butcher cattle were also selling well, picked lots at $4.40. There was a fair market for heavy feeders, but not many offering. Stockers are fairly steady. Heavy bulls for export are selling at $4 to $4.25. Good veal calves are wanted, and heavy export lambs and sheep are in good demand. Hogs are weak, dropping an eighth again to-day, with prospects lower. The run was 45 loads, with 794 head of cattle, 236 sheep and lambs, 345 hogs, and 15 calves.

Export cattle, light cwt	$4.25	$4.50
Bulls, export, heavy, cwt	3.65	4.25
Bulls, export, light cwt	3.00	3.25
Feeders, heavy	4.00	4.25
Feeders, light	2.50	2.75
Stockers, 400 to 800 lbs	2.40	3.37½
Butchers' cattle, choice	3.75	4.00
Butchers' cattle, good	3.60	3.75
Butchers', common	2.75	3.00
Butchers' picked	4.00	4.25
do off-colors and heifers	2.00	2.50
Butchers' bulls	2.50	3.00
Light stock bulls, cwt	2.00	2.50
Milch cows	30.00	55.00
Sheep, export ewes, cwt	3.00	3.50
do bucks	2.00	2.50
Sheep, butchers', each	2.00	3.00
Lambs, cwt	3.50	4.90
Hogs, best	6.00	.....
do light	5.75	.....
do fat	5.75	.....

BIDDLE BROTHERS ESCAPE.

Both Were Under Sentence of Death at Pittsburg.

A Pittsburg, Pa., despatch says:—Edward and John Biddle, under sentence of death for murder, overpowered the guards at an early hour Thursday morning and escaped. With aid from outside, some outside friend who also furnished them with revolvers, they cut the bars and were ready at any moment to make an opening large enough to pass through. The two men occupied adjoining cells and planned the affair cleverly.

Shortly before four o'clock one of the Biddles called to James McGeary, who had charge of the outside gates, and asked for some cramp medicine in a hurry, saying his brother was dangerously sick.

McGeary hastened to the cell with the medicine when John Biddle sprang through the opening in the cell and seizing the guard around the waist, hurled him over the railing to the stone floor beneath, a distance of seven feet.

Edward Biddle joined his brother immediately and both, with drawn revolvers, hurried to the first floor, where they met Guard Reynolds and shot him.

THREE MEN ON DUTY.

There were but three men on duty and the third was on one of the upper ranges. He was ordered down at the point of the revolvers, and the three guards were put in the dungeon.

The keys were taken from Keeper McGeary and the two desperate prisoners had a clear field. The only persons who witnessed the escape were prisoners who could not interfere or give an alarm.

The prisoners went to the wardrobe where the guards keep their clothing, and each put on a new suit. They then unlocked the outside gates and passed out into the street.

The escape was not discovered until the daylight guards came on duty at six o'clock. They were informed by prisoners where the night guards had been put and they were soon released from the dungeon and sent to the hospital.

THE ROMANCE OF IT.

The escape of the Biddles was subsequently explained in a statement issued by Warden Peter K. Soffel. The warden asserts that his wife is responsible for the furnishing of the revolvers and saws to the Biddles, which enabled them to escape.

In her infatuation for Edward Biddle, it is alleged that she has left her husband and her four children, and it is supposed, is to meet the escaped convicts at a place agreed upon.

The story of the matter is brief. Mrs. Soffel was the only person admitted to the jail since last Sunday. Wednesday afternoon she visited them during the warden's absence. Thursday evening she retired at 9 o'clock. She told her husband that she was going to visit a sister at McDonald, and that she would retire early so that she could get an early start. Warden Soffel was about the jail until after midnight. He retired to his own room, which is separate from Mrs. Soffel's shortly before one o'clock. When he awoke this morning he asked for Mrs. Soffel, and was informed that she was absent. Later, when the details of the escape became known, he telephoned to McDonald, and was informed that Mrs. Soffel was not there.

Warden Soffel immediately made a frank confession of his suspicions. The two guards injured will probably recover.

LATER.

A reward of $5,000 has been offered for the recapture of the Biddle murderers. No trace has been found of Mrs. Soffel.

An investigation disclosed the fact that she had taken all of her best clothes with her.

It has been known for several weeks that Mrs. Soffel was taking an interest in the Biddles and it is said that she frequently furnished them with dainties outside their usual prison fare.

It is reported that the Biddles took a train at the Fourth avenue station of the Panhandle Railroad, which is within a block of the jail, and left for the west.

THEY ARE CAPTURED.

A Butler, Pa., despatch, says:—The Biddle brothers, who escaped from the Allegheny County jail in Pittsburg, Thursday morning, and Mrs. KateDietrich Soffel, wife of Warden Peter Soffel, were captured Friday afternoon near Prospect, about nine miles west of here, after a bloody conflict, by Detective Charles McGovern, John Roach, and Albert H. Swinehart. Ed. Biddle is lying in the Butler County Jail in a dying condition, Jack Biddle, his brother, is in the adjoining cell, riddled with buckshot. His condition is not considered serious. Mrs. Soffel shot herself in the battle. She placed a residered serious. Mrs. Soffel shot herself in the battle. She placed a revolver to her left breast and drove the ball clear to the back, but her condition is not critical. She is now in the Butler County General Hospital. The detectives are uninjured. There were about 30 shots exchanged in the fray. The capture was completed about one and a half miles from Prospect.

THE BIDDLES CANADIANS.

The Biddles were born in St. Thomas, Ont., about thirty years ago. Their father, George Biddle, removed subsequently to Amherstburg, where he kept a saloon locally known as "Hell" for some years, and it was in this atmosphere the boys were brought up. The father died, and the boys were taken in charge by Ben McQuade, their uncle. He used to beat the boys solely for the pleasure he derived from it, but finally, one day, he blew out his brains. After the boys left Amherstburg they drifted around the country, finally landing in Pittsburg.

DEATH OF THE BIDDLES.

A Saturday despatch from Butler, Pa., says:—At the close of a day of intense excitement and many conflicting stories concerning the chances for life of the wounded Biddle brothers and Mrs. Kate Soffel, the unexpected has happened. John Biddle, who, until late this afternoon, was considered the more likely of the brothers to escape present death, succumbed first at 7.55 p. m. His brother, Ed. Biddle, survived until 11. Mrs. Soffel, who developed symptoms of pneumonia this afternoon, after having come safely through the operation this morning for the extraction of the bullet, has a chance for life and will probably recover. The death of Jack Biddle was caused by the bullet wounds in his abdomen and bladder and by internal hemorrhage.

HOSPITAL QUARANTINED.

Smallpox Spreads to Notre Dame in Montreal.

A Montreal despatch says:—Smallpox of a mild type is apparently spreading very fast in Montreal, and many new cases have been reported. A peculiar incident in connection with the epidemic is the quarantining of the Notre Dame Hospital, owing to one of the servants being attacked with the disease. The institution is one of the largest hospitals in Montreal, and the quarantine means that until February 12th, the 200 men, women and children who are within the walls of the hospital will have to remain there, and that the only communication they will have with the outside world will be through the telephone.

OUGHT TO SURRENDER.

American Divine's Opinion on the Boer Resistance.

A London despatch says:—Cabling from Cape Town, the correspondent of the Daily Chronicle quotes from an address delivered by Dr. Joseph C. Hartzell, missionary bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Africa, of Cincinnati, last Sunday. Dr. Hartzell said:—"The Boers have mistakenly attempted to build up a republic based upon preference instead of principle. The Boers have made a brave resistance, and now ought to be brave enough to acknowledge defeat, and no man worthy of the name of Englishman or American would not receive their surrender in a proper spirit."

Dr. Hartzell said he believed there would arise in Africa a settlement of Anglo-Saxon civilization which would complete the arch of Imperial Federation, and create a United people in South Africa like that in the United States after the Civil War.

THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE DOING AT TORONTO.

RAILWAY BILLS PASSED.

The Railway Committee of the Legislature took up the bill of the Morrisburg Electric Railway Company, which proposes to connect Morrisburg and Winchester in Dundas County and construct branch lines. The company also asked the right to construct and operate telegraph lines, electric power, and lighting plants along the line, and to acquire or erect hotels, sanitariums and steamers in connection with the railway.

The main provisions of the bill were adopted, but the latter clauses were changed. Mr. Barber made a protest against permitting telephone companies to spring up all over the country. Mr. Conmee, Dr. McKay, and Mr. Pardee thought the public should have the convenience of using the companies' lines. The clause relating to telephones was amended so as to prevent the company from selling its service to private parties, or charging for the use of its phones. The clause relating to steamers was struck out, and that relating to hotels amended by making them subject to the regulations of the Public Health Act.

The Pembroke Southern Railway Company asked power to extend its line from Pembroke to Golden Lake through Westmeath and Hoss Townships to the Ottawa River, and to amalgamate or enter into running arrangements with the Toronto, Lindsay and Pembroke Railway Company, Pontiac and Pacific Junction Railway Company, or any other railway company. The bill was amended so that the company must make specific mention of the lines they desire to amalgamate with.

AFTER GOVERNMENT AID.

Mr. Munro, M.P.P., and Mr. Loughrin, M.P.P., introduced a deputation from Pembroke and Westmeath, asking for aid for a 15-mile extension of the Pembroke and Southern Railway from Pembroke to the Ottawa River. They wanted $3,000 a mile. The Premier promised consideration.

Messrs. Hugh Blain, Hon. S. C. Wood, W. G. McWilliams, and John Flatt waited on the Government to ask an extension of the time for commencing and completing the proposed ship railway from Georgian Bay to Toronto.

The Premier and Hon. Mr. Latchford were waited upon by Reeve Fawcett, of Wolfe Island, and H. J. Wolfe of Toronto, asking that the municipality of Wolfe Island be allowed to devote any money due it under the Good Roads Act to the improvement of the ferry service between the island and Kingston, the nearest market.

Speaker Evanturel has received a petition signed by many hundreds of people in Prescott and Russell counties, urging the Government to assist in flood preventative measures.

WOMAN'S RESIDENCE.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt will introduce a bill relating to the Toronto University, permitting the erection of a woman's residence on the property of the university. Mr. Harcourt states that a start will be made during the coming summer, and that as a preliminary step accommodation for 20 young ladies will be provided.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACT.

Two bills to amend the Public Schools Act were introduced. The Minister of Education introduced one which makes two proposals: first, to enable the school boards of rural municipalities to expend money for the conveyance of children to school in urban municipalities; second, to enable several adjacent school sections to unite for the purpose of establishing grade schools.

Mr. Pallis (East Durham) introduced an act to amend the Public Schools Act, which extends the power of rural school boards to borrow money under a sealed note. They are at present restricted in borrowing to sums needed for teachers' salaries, and the bill extends the privilege to expenditures for other school purposes.

MUNICIPAL ACT.

Mr. Smith (Peel) introduced an act to amend the Municipal Act, which deals with the vexed question of farm lands in towns and villages. It provides that the municipality may enter into an agreement with the owners of such lands for a special rate of taxation instead of having the farm lands separated by a county by-law.

ONTARIO ELECTION ACT.

Mr. Lee (East Kent) introduced his bill to amend the Ontario Election Act by providing that railway employes, whose work takes them from home, may be allowed to poll their votes 48 hours before election day. It was given a first reading.

NEW BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. Garrow got a first reading for his bill limiting the number of expert witnesses who may be called in an action to three on each side, except by leave from the presiding judge.

Mr. Auld (South Essex) introduced a bill to amend the Drainage Act, so that instead of extending drainage works to an outlet where the discharge of water would do any injury to lands and roads and where the cost of extension would be heavy, the outlet need not be secured, but compensation could be given those whose lands were flooded.

Mr. Richardson introduced a bill to amend the section providing for the taking of farm lands out of towns and villages. His amendment is that the section shall not apply to towns incorporated since 1880, instead of 1866.

ISSUING DEBENTURES.

A second reading was given Mr. Carscallen's bill to extend to 30 years the period for which debentures may be issued by all municipalities for the purchase of electric light plants for lighting and power purposes. The 30-year period is at present only permitted to municipalities under 5,000 population. The Attorney-General agreed that the present law was rather anomalous.

MUNICIPAL COUNCILS.

Mr. Hoyle (North Ontario) moved the second reading of his bill to disqualify from sitting on the Municipal Council of a city, town, or incorporated village any member of a school board, for which rates are levied. Mr. Hoyle held that it would be for the benefit of both the municipal and educational systems that the members of the School Boards and Councils should be kept apart.

The Attorney-General was inclined to take the same view. The view went to the municipal committee.

TOWNSHIP COUNCILS.

A second reading was given Mr. Duff's bill providing that Township Councils shall consist of the reeve, and first, second, third, and fourth councillors, each of whom shall be elected separately, in case referred to a Municipal Committee.

MANY TREES DESTROYED.

The return asked by Mr. Jessop with reference to San Jose scale inspection has been brought down. It shows that the total number of trees condemned to be destroyed in the County of Lincoln by Government inspectors was 20,965. Of this number 17,788 were destroyed, leaving 3,177 condemned but not destroyed.

DAIRY STUDENTS.

In reply to Mr. Carnegie, the Minister of Agriculture stated that from 1895 to date the number of students at the Western dairy School had been 227; at the Guelph Dairy School, 334; at the Eastern Dairy School, 615. The latter number included students who had taken two or more courses.

100 MINERS KILLED.

Terrible Disaster at the Honda Mines in Mexico.

A San Antonio, Tex., despatch says:—A hundred and six miners killed is the result of a dust explosion at the Honda mines in Mexico news of which was received here on Sunday night.

At the time the explosion occurred there were 106 miners at work in the mine, all of whom are entombed by the shaft being choked up by falling earth and stone, loosened by the explosion. Not one escaped.

The Honda mines are located in Coahuila, at the terminus of a branch of the Mexican International Road, about 100 miles south of Eagle Pass, and are the most important in that state.

NEW CONSUMPTION CURE.

Discoveries of Dr. Robin and Dr Binet.

A Paris despatch says:—The discoveries of Dr. Robin and Dr. Binet respecting tuberculosis have led to a change in treatment. Instead of attacking only the bacillus they strive to fortify the system. They find that persons predisposed to phthisis consume an enormous quantity of oxygen and generate carbon in proportion. Thus the system burns itself out. The new treatment consists in restricting the consumption of oxygen.

MARCHED TO DEATH.

Whole Detachment of Japanese Infantry Wiped Out.

A Yokohama despatch says:—A detachment of 210 infantrymen left Awomori on Jan. 23 to practise marching over the snow. None of them has since been seen except a corporal, who was found last Monday by a relief party. The corporal says that the detachment lost their way, and were overcome by the intense cold. They were without food, and burned their haversacks