NEWSY TORONTO LETTER

WHAT IS INTERESTING THE PEOPLE AT THE HUB.

The Titanic Catastrophe—Dr. Nesbitt Again—Legislature Prorogued—Bilingual School Question.

Not since the days of the South African war has the city spent such sombre days as the week following the foundering of the Titanic. This, in spite of the fact that the personal touch was almost entirely lacking because with one or two exceptions Toronto citizens were not in danger. In Montreal and in Winnipeg it was different.

But the announcement of the almost inconceivable catastrophe, the days of suspense, and at last the harrowing details sobered and oppressed the whole population. In the clubs men talked and acted as though there was a funeral in the premises. Everywhere that people met little else was discussed. Even the amusement places lost much of their spontaneity and gayety. And such evidences of feeling are not to be wondered at, for history contains few more pitiable events than the wreck of the Titanic.

DR. NESBITT AGAIN IN LIMELIGHT.

After a total eclipse of some sixteen months, Dr. Beattie Nesbitt is back in the limelight. The marvel is that he was able to keep in the background so long. For while there are many things about the rotund doctor that are difficult to understand, the one thing that is patent about his character to everyone is that he dearly loves publicity.

The doctor has always been somewhat of an enigma, even in Toronto, where he is known best. Opinions as to his ability vary all the way from that which believes him to be a genius under an unlucky star to that which dubs him as a vastly overrated mediocrity. But Nesbitt knew how to keep in the public eye. He managed to make friends among the newspaper men. He could whet curiosity by a sphinx-like silence, and could rush into print with some pronouncement just at the moment when it would get him the most attention. Some people who came in contact with him describe him as disagreeable and affensive. To others he appeared as something of a buffoon. And it must be said that many of his actions both in the past and in the present chapter of his autobiography resemble the acts of a character out of a comic opera.

THE LEGISLATURE PROROGUED.

Prorogation comes as a sort of anticlimax to the excitement of the session, this year furnishing no exception. True, a function of state it was with all the trappings. The Lieutenant Governor attended in state, which means that he wore a cocked hat, and his most brilliant uniform, and that he was attended by a military escort, and that cannons were fired, but the event was less exciting than an afternoon tea.

Most of the members of the Legislature were far away, busy with the spring seeding and the other private affairs which have had to take pot luck during the session. It was with difficulty that a quorum could be mustered. But finally, with the Cabinet ministers, the members for Toronto, a few others who reside here and an odd one who was detained for some special reason, the legal requirements were fulfilled.

The lack of interest on the part of the members was in striking contrast to the busy days of the concluding week of actual work when the Legislature, as is the way of all Parliaments under governments of all parties, forced through a month's business in six days. At the beginning of a session scant fifteen minute sittings were not uncommon. At the end the House met at ten o'clock in the morn cussion on contentious matters being ing and continued far into the night, dis shortened or eliminated by mere physical weariness.

THE CEREMONY.

Prayers over, enters the Lieutenant Governor, attended by his aides. The Lieutenant Governor symbolizes his Majesty the King, and the moment is duly impressive. His Honor mounts the Speaker's dais. The Clerk of the House, Mr. A. H. Sydere, a veteran of many years' service, reads a list of the bills that have been passed during the session. His Honor nods assent.

"In His Majesty's name," announces the Clerk, "his Honor doth assent to these bills." A similar ceremony in regard to the supply bills or votes of money for the carrying on of government takes but a moment.

Next his Honor reads the Speech from the Throne, a brief review of the more important legislation with thanks to the members for their attendance and efforts.

It is always a mystery as to who writes the Speech from the Throne. The Provincial Secretary, Hon. W. J. Hanna, is credited by some with preparing it, but a Lieutenant Governor, like Sir John Gibson, who has himself been through the mill, might write it himself, perhaps consulting with the Premier as to its contents.

Finally, the speech concluded, his Honor glances at Mr. Hanna, who announced that "it is his Honor's will and pleasure that this Legislative Assembly be prorogued, and this Legislative Assembly is accordingly prorogued."

Exit the Lieutenant Governor, and the session is at an end.

THE BILINGUAL PROBLEM.

Of the pronouncement of Sir James Whitney on the bilingual school question there is satisfaction expressed by his supporters, while his opponents say that while his professions seem all right it is only energy and sincerity in carrying out those professions that can remedy the evil. There is no doubt that the conditions of inefficiency and consequent growing illiteracy revealed by the Government's Commission, Dr. F. W. Merchant, came as a surprise and a shock to nearly everybody. When that report is read in conjunction with the official census figures shortly to be announced, showing the increase in the French population of Ontario it will be fully realized what a tremendous educational problem the Province has on its hands.

The issue lies principally in the eastern counties and in New Ontario. In Essex and Kent, where the French colony dates back to the earliest times, the population is not increasing so rapidly, possibly because Detroit helps draw off the surplus population. But in Glengarry, Stormont, Prescott and Carleton counties there is a steady exodus of Anglo Saxons and a steady increase in French, while along the C. P. R. in Nipissing and Algoma the French settlers largely predominate in many townships. It is estimated that as compared with 150,000 in 1900, the census figures for 1910 will show 250,000 French-Canadians in Ontario. This is in marked contrast to the figures comparing the Anglo Saxon rural population of Ontario at the same dates.

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Toronto General Trusts Building
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TRAGEDY OF OLD AGE.

Pathetic Stories of Suffering in the Evening of Life.

Under the heading "The Sin of Old Age" a writer in the London Daily Graphic describes a peculiarly painful case of poverty and wretchedness due to no fault of the victim, but merely to the fact that he is regarded by employers as too old to be of use. Its "Special Commissioner" says:

In a dreary alley off the main track and far from the roaring roads and seething streets of the city there lives a fragment of "broken earthenware," an old man, who is near the "alloted span." The evening of his life, up to yesterday, at any rate, has so far been an oppression and a misery to him. For years now he has been laid aside. He has committed one unpardonable sin, the sin of growing old, not too old to work, but too old to be employed. His physique and morale have been ruined by a long period of economic stress. Health and hope had practically left him when I met him. Kind-hearted neighbors told me about him. He would never have appealed himself, for he is full of stern resolve to maintain his self-respect, and plots and plans against poverty and makes all sorts of shifts to keep from the clutches of Bumble. The serious, physiological effects of living under the pressure of chronic want are writ all over the little man.

His story was very simple and undramatic. Wife and children had all preceded him to the great beyond, and this lonely man has struggled on, his meagre earnings barely sufficing to pay the rent of the little attic he occupies. His dull eyes shone and a gracious sweetness irradiated his haggard and wrinkled face when he was made to realize what my advent meant. There was light in the darkness of that little abode and that man's life before I left him.

Another brave struggle has been going on in another poor home near Ilford. An elderly widower and his grown-up daughter have fought together against overwhelming odds. Within the last two years the father, chiefly through inadequate food, has been unable to contribute much to the weekly budget. Since then the daughter has worked doubly hard, notwithstanding which they found themselves practically at their last gasp. Months ago the man wanted to ease the burden of his daughter by going into the workhouse. She would not hear of this, her excuse to me being that father "has been always such a model father and was so good to dear mother."

Not a pennypiece was owing on rent. Pride had kept up the payments at all costs, their fear being that the landlord, who lives in the same house, would know of their particularly hard straits. But pitiful pretense was no match for poverty.

While the mother of a family was in hospital, the husband lost his situation and on the day of the woman's return home the landlord seized the furniture for rent, sold nearly everything at a great sacrifice, and told them to clear out by the end of the week.

Let "Dick" Choose

Fill your bird's seed dish afresh with the seed you have been using, then put some of BROCK'S within reach, and see how quickly Dick picks out "Brock's".

Feed him for a month on

Brock's Bird Seed

—let him enjoy the cake of Brock's Bird Treat that comes in every box—and notice the improvement in his plumage, health and song.

Let "Dick" try this Bird Tonic at our expense. Mail us the coupon below, filled in, and we will send you, absolutely free, two full-size cakes of Brock's Bird Treat. 45

NICHOLSON & BROCK
9-11 Francis St., Toronto.

For this coupon please send me, free of charge or obligation on my part, two full size cakes of Brock's Bird Treat, and oblige.

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TO
ADDRESS.....

A WILFUL PRINCESS.

Crown Princess Cecilie of Germany has given another proof that she has inherited the wilful, imperious spirit of her mother, Grand-duchess Anastasia, which, as is well known, overrides all obstacles.

A few evenings ago the Princess desired to attend the final popular evening concert of the Philharmonic Orchestra, and she instructed her master of ceremonies to reserve for her the royal box.

The directors sent her the programme, as etiquette requires. The Princess returned it with the comment that as all the selections were from Wagner, and as she did not care to hear Wagner music, she would arrange the programme herself, and send it along later. To this the directors replied politely that the concert was already advertised as a Wagner evening, and they regretted that on this account the programme could not be altered.

The Princess replied: "I shall arrive at the Philharmonic (the concert hall) at eight o'clock. Your programme will be Beethoven's seventh symphony, Schubert's unfinished B minor symphony, and Brahms' first symphony."

On receiving this word the directors shrugged their shoulders, and

Crown Princess Cecile.

the orchestra played according to the Princess' dictation to a house crowded with music lovers assembled to hear Wagner.

The Crown Princess' autocratic manner is discussed with headshakings by politicians, who fear that characteristic, combined with the Crown Prince's impetuosity, may land Germany in trouble.

TO SAFEGUARD POISONS.

One woman has had an inspiration and has practically put the "sting of death" upon all bottles holding poisons that for domestic reasons are required to be kept in the house. Two common pins are run sidewise through the cork, opposite each other, with the pin points extending past the heads of the pin about one-eighth of an inch. The pins give warning immediately of its deadly contents if the bottle is touched day or night, so no "taken by mistake" tragedies are apt to occur in that household. Of course, all of the members of the household are told of this safeguard, and the bottles are kept on a high shelf out of the reach of children who have not yet reached the age of understanding.

Itching and Burning on Face and Throat

Sores Disfigured So He Dreaded to Appear in Public. No Rest Night or Day. Cuticura Ointment Cured.

"Six months ago my face and throat all broke out and turned into a running sore. I did not bother about it at first, but in one week's time the disease had spread so rapidly over my face and throat and the burning itching sores became so painful that I began to seek relief in different medicines, but none seemed to give me any relief. The sores disfigured my face to such an extent that I dreaded to appear in public.

"I suffered terribly and could get no rest night or day. At last a friend advised me to try the Cuticura Remedies. I had about given up hope, but thought I would have one more try, and so I used a little Cuticura Ointment, and it helped me from the start. I continued using it and in six weeks' time was completely cured, and can say I would advise anyone suffering from skin disease to use Cuticura Ointment, as it is the best healing balm in the world." (Signed) Roscoe Good, Seven Persons, Alta., Feb. 18, 1911.

FOUND RELIEF ONLY FROM CUTICURA SOAP AND OINTMENT

"My little girl when only a few weeks old broke out on the top of her head and it became a solid scab. Then her cheeks became raw and sore and after trying different remedies found relief only from using Cuticura Soap and Ointment. It lasted six months or more, but after a thorough treatment with the Cuticura Soap and Ointment never had any return." (Signed) Mrs. W. S. Owen, Yadkin College, N. C., May 26, 1911.

For more than a generation Cuticura Soap and Ointment have afforded the most successful treatment for skin and scalp troubles of infants, children and adults. A single cake of Cuticura Soap and box of Cuticura Ointment are often sufficient. Although sold by druggists and dealers throughout the world, a liberal sample of each, with 32-p. book on the skin, will be sent free, on application to Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., 54 Columbus Ave., Boston, U. S. A.

BRITAIN'S FASTER SHIPS.

Submarines and Fleet Destroyers of Great Power.

The board of admiralty is paying much attention to the improvement of the smaller units of the British fleet, the submarines and torpedo-boat destroyers, vessels which many experts believe would be of greater use in case of war than even the big modern battleships and battleship cruisers, since some might have a speed of forty knots.

Great Britain has a fleet of more than fifty submarines, some of the latest mounting small guns to repel attacks. Improvements are being effected.

The men of A3, lost off Portsmouth in February, were carrying out tests of new appliances, the secrets of which are known only to the admiralty, one of the reasons that so little was heard of the cause of the accident and such pains were taken to prevent eyes from examining the hull after it was raised.

A foreign salvage company was given the contract to raise the submarine, but as soon as it had attached the necessary chains to the vessel the admiralty took over the work.

The dock in which the vessel was placed after being raised was surrounded with a canvas screen, and no one was allowed aboard. As all the crew lost their lives the public will not be let into the secrets to test which the A3 went out on its fatal mission.

While great advance is being made in the submarine branch, even greater improvements are being made in the destroyers. It is believed that the experts of the admiralty have discovered something that will give Britain another lead in naval affairs. There are being completed twenty vessels provided for in the estimates of last year, but before the naval estimates for 1912-13 had been placed before parliament the government called for tenders for twenty vessels which those estimates provide for.

These new destroyers will be the last word in the smaller type of fighting ships. They will be of 1,200 tons and upward, somewhat smaller than the "Swift," an experimental ship of 1,800 tons, with which the admiralty has been carrying out tests for two years. The "Swift" has engines of 18,000 horse power and attained a speed of more than thirty-five knots in service.

The new ships will be, in size, between the "Swift" and "Tartar" and, having great powers of attack and defence, will be what might be wanted in the rough North Sea. They will be armed with three four-inch guns and fitted with two double twenty-one inch torpedo tubes, as against two single tubes in all recent types. It is said they may have a speed of forty knots and outrun any other ship afloat.

TURKISH ROBIN HOOD.

Famous Brigand of Smyrna is "Officially Reported" Dead.

Tchakirdjali, the famous brigand of Smyrna, is dead. In Europe brigands have ceased to bulk largely on the horizon of the average man; but in Asia Minor the brigand is an institution to be reckoned with as soon as you go outside the town, and the wealthier inhabitants of the province of Smyrna are profoundly relieved to hear that Tchakirdjali, greatest of them all, is dead.

At least, the governor of the province says that he is dead; that he was killed, in fact, by a company of soldiers recently sent after him. But this is not the first time that Tchakirdjali's end has been officially recorded. Tchakirdjali, they say, was wounded in the fight and made his young body-servant kill him to avoid falling alive into the hands of the Turkish soldiers. Brought into Smyrna and hung upside down in the courtyard of the governor's palace, it has been recognized by his wife, who was brought in to identify it.

For nearly twenty years — ever since, as a boy of eighteen, he succeeded his father, treacherously murdered by the Turks under a false amnesty, as the chief brigand leader of Asia Minor—Tchakirdjali has been the terror of the rich, and the idol, at once feared and worshipped, of the poor. Only three months ago he carried off a rich Greek merchant of Smyrna, who has a house in London, and extracted from him as his ransom several thousand pounds.

After such exploits, two or three of which he would carry out each year, Tchakirdjali would disappear, with his band of about a dozen freebooters, into the mountains. Though he was often pursued by troops, he always managed to evade them, the peasants shielding him from motives both of fear and gratitude. For it was the brigand's custom to punish any attempt to betray him in the most ruthless way. He would swoop down unexpectedly upon the village which he suspected of giving information of his movements and shoot dozen of its chief men in their own market-place. On those who helped him with supplies of food—for which he always paid double value—or with warnings of the movements of the troops sent after him, he used to bestow gifts of money which to half-starved Anatolian peasants seemed of fabulous amount.

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SPANISH GYPSIES.

About 55,000 of Them Said to Be in the Country Now.

One of the things to attract the notice of every traveller that visits Spain is that strange race which he finds scattered here and there in small groups in the remote rural districts or near the great centres of population. It presents a type that can be mistaken for no other in the Spanish dominions.

The lips thick, the eyes large, black and piercing, the hair long, black and straight, the complexion olive tinted, the Spanish gipsy, whether encamped in a sheltering ravine or under the arches of an aqueduct or in the shadow of an overhanging cliff, is indeed Spanish because born in Spain, but in all else he is a gypsy.

Time was when Spaniards of the true blue blood called gipsies "New Castilians," or "Egyptians," or "Moorish footpads"; but while their traits have undergone no change their name is now definitely gitanos, or gipsies.

Between fifty and sixty thousand is the number of them now in Spain, says America. Most of them have no fixed abode; but in some parts, and notably in Andalusia, there are several small settlements, for towns they can hardly be called, where these wanderers have taken possession of caves in the mountain sides, whence they sally forth to tell fortunes and to filch. Wherever they are they are inclined to be quarrelsome among themselves and to enforce their arguments by means of wicked looking knives, which they wield with great dexterity.

THANKSGIVING PSALM..

A Rhythmical and Grateful Chant

A teacher in a Terre Haute public school joins in the chorus:

"Teaching is a business which requires a great deal of brain and nerve force. Unless this force is renewed as fast as expended the teacher is exhausted before the close of the year. Many resort to stimulating tonics for relief.

"For 3 years I struggled against almost complete exhaustion, getting what relief I could from doctors' tonics. Then in the spring of 1903 I had an attack of la grippe and malaria, which left me too weak to continue my work. Medicine failed to give me any relief, a change of climate failed. I thought I should never be able to go back in school again.

"I ate enough food, (the ordinary meals—white bread, vegetables, etc.) but was hungry after meals.

"I happened at this time to read an article giving the experience of another teacher who had been helped by Grape-Nuts food. I decided to try Grape-Nuts and cream, as an experiment. It was a delightful experience, and continues so after a year and a half of constant use.

"First, I noticed that I was not hungry after meals.

"In a few days that tired feeling left me, and I felt fresh and bright, instead of dull and sleepy.

"In three months, more than my usual strength returned, and I had gained 15 pounds in weight.

"I finished the year's work without any kind of tonics—was not absent from duty even half a day.

"Am still in the best of health, with all who know me wondering at the improvement.

"I tell them all, 'Try Grape-Nuts!'" Name given by Canadian Postum Co., Windsor, Ont. "There's a reason."

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.

MAKING SAFE INVESTMENTS

HOW INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES MAY BE CLASSIFIED WHEN CONSIDERING THEIR SHARES.

Industrial Shares are Scarcely High Class Investments, and Some are Very Dangerous—Constant Vigilance Price of Such Investment—Preferred Shares Good Business Investment.

The articles contributed by "Investor" are for the sole purpose of guiding prospective investors, and, if possible, of saving them from losing money through placing it in "wild-cat" enterprises. The impartial and reliable character of the information may be relied upon. The writer of these articles and the publisher of this paper have no interests to serve in connection with this matter other than those of the reader.

(By "Investor.")

Industrial stocks have the name of being particularly unfit and unsafe for investments. Without any qualification whatever a certain type of investor blandly wipes them off the slate of investment possibilities. Of course, this sort of thing is just as foolish as the attitude of the mining stock wild-cat who generously refers to all mining shares as "investments," a thing which in the nature of things is an extremely remote possibility.

In the first place, industrial companies should be carefully classified. For my own purposes I have divided them roughly into the following:

(1.) Companies producing necessaries of life, such as flour milling companies.

(2.) Companies producing requirements for our large and essential enterprises, as car factories, locomotive works, coal mining companies, etc.

(3.) Those making machines for use in agriculture, like ploughs, threshers, traction engines and, of course, the small garden tools.

(4.) Iron and steel companies and those fabricating basic iron products into other higher products, such as the Canada Foundry Company, which produces structural steel, etc.

(5.) Companies manufacturing supplies whose product is somewhat of a luxury—for example, those making plumber supplies, asbestos products (used in building), etc.

(6.) Those making semi-luxuries, breakfast foods (or fads) automobiles for pleasure (apparently the commercial motor has come to stay, and may be classed differently), bicycles, etc.

(7.) Companies making luxuries.

(8.) Companies manufacturing patent articles like safety razors, patent medicines, etc.

Now this classification is a decidedly rough-and-ready affair, which any investor can probably improve on without much trouble, but I have found it quite useful. It is arranged so that the first is the most stable, while the last is highly precarious.

Like most rules, however, this one has many exceptions, and one must necessarily look for them carefully. For example, the Shredded Wheat Company would come under (6), but it makes a product which the experience of a long period has shown to be almost as stable as flour.

In examining industrial stocks for investment or speculation one must bear in mind that there is usually a certain amount of chance involved. The company's statement will show whether or not there are any bonds outstanding. If there are it lessens the security behind the stock, but also adds a feeling of confidence, owing to the fact that to make a successful issue of bonds there must be something substantial about the company.

Another thing to note is as to whether there is too much money borrowed from the banks in the business. If this amount less bills receivable is substantial, as compared with the total value of the companies' assets, it is not a good sign. In brief, one must watch everything with a jealous eye.

For the investor who wants to take a certain amount of business chance, industrial preferred shares show many attractions. They pay a high rate—usually 7 per cent. They usually sell something above par and they are more protected from the misfortunes of hard times than are the ordinary shares. The history of preferred shares in Canada has been in the long run satisfactory, making due allowance, of course, for the Amalgamated and Black Lake Asbestos fiascos.

There is one important point for the industrial stock investor to bear in mind, which is, that he must at all times be vigilant to watch for alterations in business conditions; for on business conditions practically alone does the success of the more precarious companies depend, while on business conditions rests part of the dividend on the commoner shares of—in many instances—even the most stable companies. A series of bad years may easily conspire to cut off the dividends of not a few of our soundest companies. During 1907, for example, Canadian General Electric found it necessary to cut its dividend from 10 per cent. to 7 per cent. Of course, the products of the General Electric are in some degree luxuries, which people do without during periods of trade depression.

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¶ The First Mortgage Bonds of Price Bros. & Company 6 per cent. on the investment---secured by first mortgage on one of the finest paper mills and over four million acres of the best pulp and timber land in America---insured with Lloyds, of London, England, against fire---offer a most attractive investment. The present net earnings of the Company are sufficient to pay the bond interest twice over. The growing demand for pulpwood is yearly increasing the value of the Company's properties. These bonds have been purchased by the best informed financiers in both Canada and England. At their present price they yield 6 per cent interest. Considering security, earnings, assets, and the likelihood of appreciation in value, Price Bros. & Company bonds constitute an exceptional investment.

Write for full description of these bonds.

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