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TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

HERE IS THE NEWS IN SHORT ORDER.

Tidings from all Parts of the Globe, Condensed and Arranged for Busy Readers.

CANADIAN.

Manitoba has a third case of leprosy.

The battle over telephone rates goes merrily on.

Another severe earthquake has been felt at Montreal.

Oshawa proposes to build a hospital to celebrate jubilee year.

The building season is expected to be a very busy one in Ottawa.

There are forty cases of measles in one school section in Lobo township.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen will attend Queen's University convocation ceremonies.

Mr. Daniel McLean, once a well-known leather merchant of Toronto, died Saturday.

The opinion at Ottawa is that the Government will support Mr. Cowan's alien labor bill.

Mgr. Merry del Val, the Papal Ablegate, arrived at New York on the steamship Umbria.

Archbishop Langevin has arrived at Montreal to meet Mgr. Merry del Val, the Papal Ablegate.

Dr. Louis Van Camp, who had been a dentist in Berlin, Ont., for 33 years, died there Friday, aged 67.

Philippe Lecours, of St. Octave de Metic, is on trial at Rimouski for the murder of his brother.

A. B. Laplante, barrister, of Valleyfield, Que., has been appointed assistant clerk of the House of Commons.

James Scott, of Dundas, hanged himself in the cells at the Brantford Police Station, using his coat for a noose.

Recent census gives Middlesex county a population of 26,112, a decrease of 51 as compared with the census of 1896.

At Comber a boy named David Wesley was shot and seriously wounded by a companion who was shooting sparrows.

William Hurd, a seventeen-year-old son of Mr. H. S. Hurd, of Burlington, committed suicide by shooting himself with a pistol.

There is a movement on foot for the appointment of a second Judge of the Exchequer Court to assist Mr. Justice Burbridge.

Canadian shipping companies have been advised by cable that prepaid steerage rates had been reduced $3.50, the same to go into effect at once.

The boiler of a thresher engine exploded on the farm of Mr. McGavin in Harwich, killing James McGarvin, the engineer, and badly injuring John Houston.

Quite a scene occurred in the Manitoba Legislative Assembly on Saturday between Premier Greenway, Mr. Roblin, leader of the Opposition, and Mr. Fisher.

Thorold Town Council has petitioned the Government to protect wood pulp manufacturers by an export duty on wood and taking the duty off their machinery.

It is reported that the Furness line, now running between Boston and Manchester, will establish a route during the coming season between Montreal and Liverpool.

Mr. Cowan, M.P. for South Essex, has given notice of bills respecting alien labor, providing for changes of the immigration law, and regarding the wrecking laws.

It is understood that the management of the Hamilton & Dundas Railway has made arrangements to handle freight in connection with the C. P. R. and Michigan Central.

Albert Redd, a Sandwich negro, was, it is stated, struck with an axe by a hotelkeeper named James Ouellette. The negro died and the case is now being investigated.

After investigating the death of Albert Redd at Sandwich, who, it was alleged, was hit with an axe by James Ouelette, the Coroner's jury found that death was due to natural causes.

The parties in the present House of Commons stand as follows: Liberals, 119; Conservatives, 80; Independent Conservatives, 8; Patrons, 6; vacant, 5; Speaker, 1; total, 214.

While George Frost and Ephraim Convey were working together in a barn near Princeton trouble arose between them, and Convey hit Frost on the head with a shovel, killing the young man.

It is understood that the official organizers of the diamond jubilee celebration will be instructed to give special distinction to Mr. Laurier, as the Premier of England's only confederated colony.

The inquest on the body of George Frost, killed on Friday last near Princeton, brought out the fact that he had been shot through the heart. Ephraim Convey was committed for trial on a charge of having murdered him.

General Manager Hays, in behalf of the Grand Trunk Railway, has lodged a petition at Ottawa for permission to capitalize the revenue overdraft and to increase the borrowing powers of the company by an issue of a further sum of 4 per cent. consolidated debenture stock, the interest on which shall not exceed £50,000 yearly.

UNITED STATES.

The New York Senate passed the Greater New York bill by a vote of 39 to 9.

Butler, the alleged Australian murderer, sails for Australia from San Francisco next week.

At Portland, Oregon, the wind gained a velocity of 57 miles an hour and did great damage.

A terrible storm lashed Puget Sound Friday. Buildings were blown down and a score of persons injured, but none fatally.

William T. Adams, better known as Oliver Optic, the writer of stories for boys, died on Saturday morning in Boston, in his seventy-fifth year.

A bill has been introduced in Congress to so amend the United States constitution that Congress shall have exclusive power to regulate marriage and divorce.

The Colorado State Senate has passed the bill providing for the abolition of capital punishment. The measure now awaits the Governor's signature to become a law.

The Rev. Homer N. Dunning, one of the best known Congregational minister in the State of Connecticut, died on Saturday morning. He was seventy-two years of age.

The announcement that the United States tariff will not be retractive has resulted in an inevitble rush of exports to America from England, and for the moment every industry is pushing this work.

Mr. Payne, of New York, a member of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, says the Dingley bill is not framed in a spirit of hostility towards Canada. Its provisions will undoubtedly injure the Canadians, but that cannot be helped.

FOREIGN.

Europeans are being attacked by the plague in Bombay.

Prince Bismarck is still confined to his bed with cold and rheumatism.

The volcano near Colima, in Mexico, is now in a state of active eruption.

Gen. Oscar has assumed command of the Government forces against the fanatics in Brazil.

The Swiss Bundesrath has made a proposal to purchase the principal railways in the country.

The Earl of Ranfurly has been appointed Governor of New Zealand, to succeed the Earl of Glasgow.

The fleets of the powers have resumed their shelling of the Christian insurgents in the vicinity of Canea.

The Panama scandals have been thoroughly revived in Paris, and startling revelations are promised.

There will be a congress of Greek women in Athens in April, to discuss the reform of the Greek dress.

The Education bill passed the third reading in the British House of Commons by a vote of 331 to 181.

The German Reichstag, by a vote of 179 to 49, adopted the proposal for the payment of the members of that body.

Mrs. Wedgewood, the sister-in-law of Lord Farrer of Abingen, has started in Piccadilly as a clairvoyant and psychometrist.

Sixteen other survivors of the French steamer St. Nazaire have been picked up by the steamship Yanariva and landed at Greenock.

Mr. Chamberlain is said to have sent a sharp letter to President Kruger, rebuking him for violating the London convention.

A special loan exhibition of painting will soon be opened in London, to illustrate the progress of art during the Victorian reign.

The Australian Confederation Convention met in Adelaide last week, when a plan was drawn up, to be submitted to the several colonies.

The Newfoundland seal fishing is reported to be a complete failure this season, and great distress is feared during the coming summer.

It is stated that the Duke of Fife, son-in-law of the Prince of Wales, will be made a Prince upon the occasion of the jubilee celebration.

Lord Salisbury on his way to Cimiez stayed over in Paris, and had an interview with M. Hanotaux, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Queen, on her return from the south of France, will pay a visit to William Waldorf Astor at Cleveden, in recognition of his munificence.

Dr. Jameson, the leader of the raid in the Transvaal, gave evidence before the Parliamentary Committee appointed to inquire into South African affairs.

There is a rush of exports from England to the United States as a result of the announcement that the new United States tariff will not be retroactive.

A French newspaper says the Government will ask a credit of 800,000,000 francs to build 45 large warships and 175 torpedo boats in the next eight years.

There are seven hundred men of the British fleet now at Simonstown, South Africa, suffering from malarial fever, contracted during the recent expedition to Benin.

The London Times, referring to the gift of the original log of the Mayflower to the United States, says it is no light thing to part with a document of national interest.

In London diplomatic circles a war with the Transvaal Republic is regarded as almost inevitable, but it will be delayed if possible until after the jubilee celebrations.

According to a cable despatch to a New York paper, the Czar is neglecting his wife and lavishing his attention on Miss Sybil Sanderson, the American prima donna.

All the judges of the High Court were Friday, for the first time in 17 years, summoned by the House of Lords to rehear a case upon which the House of Lords had divided.

Mr. Gladstone, notwithstanding his great age, has joined the ranks of the wheelmen. He has written to a friend in London, saying that he has fairly mastered the machine.

John Van Der Stadt has adopted a novel method of punishing his wife. He places her in the drawer of a capacious bureau, turns the key, and leaves her there for hours at a time.

It is announced at Copenhagen that Prince Christian, the heir of Crown Prince Frederick of Denmark, has been betrothed to the Duchess Alexandrina of Mecklenburg-Schwerin.

A despatch from Vienna states that all the powers have now accepted the project to blockade the entire Greek coast, beginning with the ports of Piraeus, Volo, Corinth and Arta.

It is thought that Sir William Harcourt's attack of influenza will prevent his participating in the forthcoming debate on Foreign Office estimates when the Cretan matter is likely to be discussed.

Janos Rigo and the ex-Princess de Chimay were summoned before a magistrate in Paris in connection with Rigo's wife's divorce proceedings. But Rigo and the Princess are in Cologne out of the jurisdiction of the French court.

It is understood that Lord Salisbury had a very satisfactory interview with M. Hanotaux, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, after which the Premier left for the south of Europe, where he will recuperate for some four or five weeks.

The English Radicals are heckling Lord Salisbury for not keeping the nation informed of the progress of the Cretan negotiations, but it is pointed out that while the game is being played it would be contrary to all diplomatic etiquette to proclaim the moves.

Ancient and Modern Clothing.

Ancient wearing apparel was not cut to fit, as is our modern clothing. Having no definite shape of its own, it did not disguise the wearer's figure, and the grace and beauty of Greek drapery are dependent almost entirely on the perfect proportions of the figure beneath. The tunic worn by both Greeks and Romans was little, if at all, fitted to the wearer, and, when ungirded, hung in folds all around, while the toga was little more than a sheet and was worn in all sorts of ways according to the prevailing fashion. The Jews of old seem to have worn breeches, but the rest of their clothing seems to have been simply wrapped around them, for it was difficult for them to run or even walk fast without first "girding up their loins." The clothing of the northern races was probably always more of a fit than that of the southern, for they used leather, which does not lend itself to simple draping, but our ancestors probably wore an almost shapeless tunic belted at the waist. Another striking difference is found in the gradual monopoly by women of the ornamental element in dress. Once masculine dress was by far the most splendid, and woman, holding an absolutely subordinate social position, had to content herself with humbler attire. As she has won her way to freedom and equality she has annexed, not only the beautiful, but the extravagant elements of costume and left man to content himself with a condition of colorless utility.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Reflections of a Bachelor.

There never was a married woman who would admit that no other man ever asked her.

The reason why there is no trouble in heaven among the women angels is because they all belong to the choir.

Half of the female suffrage women you meet once had husbands, and the other half never will have.

A girl is never really in love with a man until she thinks of him when she says her prayers at night.

A woman can never be very bad after she has once learned that her little child measures its ideas of God by her.

When you see a girl on the street car with a music roll with closed ends, it generally contains an old newspaper or her lunch.

With most men marriage is the means and the woman is the end, but with most women the man is the means and the marriage is the end.—New York Press.

Words and Their Uses.

Editor—This joke of yours is capital!

Artist—Yes; but how much capital?

OUR OTTAWA LETTER

THE GOVERNMENT SILENT ON THE ALIEN LABOR LAW.

The Debate on the Speech from the Throne—Rowing Like Kilkenny Cats—No Tariff Yet in Sight—The Papal Delegate—Mr. Hardy and the Temperance People.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Ottawa, March 30.—With boom of cannon and beat of drum the second session of this Parliament has commenced. Already have the Ministers commenced to make plans for prorogation early in June. When Mr. Laurier was addressing the House on Friday last he threw out a feeler in this direction, only to find that the Conservatives, while in no wise determined to render factious opposition, were ready to perform their full duty as critics. Mr. Laurier, in the Speech from the Throne, which he and his colleagues prepared for His Excellency, touched on many topics, but was completely silent on some important questions. Last session, for instance, the Prime Minister assured Parliament that he would ask for retaliatory measures concerning alien labor if the American Congress did not so amend its present laws as to make it bear less heavily on Canadians. The Speech from the Throne made no reference to this subject. Gentlemen like Inspector DeBarry, of Buffalo, continue to harass Canadian workmen, while in Windsor, St. Stephens and in the mining districts of British Columbia and Ontario hundreds of Americans are coining money that will be spent in the States. If Mr. Laurier should fail to ask Parliament to pass a retaliatory measure the indignation in the Dominion will be widespread. Mahlon K. Cowan, the Liberal who sits for South Essex, has made it his business to introduce an alien labor law. If it should pass the Government will be in no way deserving of the credit for it. Why should a private member be compelled to discharge a duty which his leaders neglect and which the vast majority of the Canadian people consider necessary? The Congressmen and Senators at Washington lose no opportunity of assuring Canadians that this country is not considered by them when passing tariff laws. "Revenue is what we need," says Representative Payne, of New York, "there is no unfriendliness to the Canadian people. We seek revenue and protection, that is all." And still Liberal speakers and Liberal writers hold that Canada will be showing herself to be unworthy the rank of a nation if she continues to protect herself against foreign competition. Of course, the more clear-headed Liberals are coming to see that the Conservatives were right in adopting the protective principle. Even Mr. Fielding has promised the coal miners of Nova Scotia that the protective tariff on soft coal will be maintained. A provincial election will shortly come off in Nova Scotia and the Minister of Finance seeks to make his party solid with the Blue Noses. After the election the Government cannot afford to do away with the fifty cents a ton protection, for the owners of the bituminous coal fields of the United States, I hear, are ready to meet any reductions by cheapening the soft coal sold by them to the dealers of Ontario and Quebec. Sir Richard Cartwright has had much to do with the work of tariff revision and has come to the conclusion that interference with the great majority of the schedules would result in nothing but a tremendous deficit next fiscal year. Already the Government has a large discrepancy between receipts and expenditures, a discrepancy which all the cheese-paring of Messrs. Mulock, Paterson et al will do little to diminish.

The Debate on the Speech From the Throne

The debate on the Speech from the Throne was characterized by the delivery of three able speeches. The Premier was as skilful as usual in talking much and saying nothing. Sir Charles Tupper showed that his vacation in England had given him new youth and fire. I have seldom seen the old gentleman in better form. In a most masterly manner did he arraign the Government for its action on the school question. The French Liberals listened attentively to the former Premier, and I saw many a smile on their faces when he remarked that Mr. Laurier had told the electors of Wright that the Remedial bill would not give as much to the Catholics of Manitoba as they would secure under the Laurier-Greenway compact. But it was concerning the wholesale dismissals of Conservative civil servants that Sir Charles was most denunciatory. He showed how the Government had sent out spies and emissaries to work up cases against reputable men; how the places held by these civil servants had been filled by Liberal workers, and how in many cases the dismissed ones had no idea why they had been discharged. Mr. Foster was also very effective in his speech, so effective that the Government, though desirous that the debate should close on Friday, protracted it in order that Sir Richard might do his best to reply to the well put arguments of the former Minister of Finance.

Rowing Like Kilkenny Cats.

While in the broad light of day the Administration's members show little sign of acrimony toward each other, the fact is, that the Quebec contingent are enjoying a regular Kilkenny cats' row. Tarte, as you have read before, is determined to get Dobell out of the Cabinet, and Dobell is by no means anxious to go. The millionaire lumberman from Quebec must know that he has no aptitude for politics. Whenever he has had an opportunity he has put his foot in it, but, as he doubtless considers, his liberality to the party atones for a multitude of sins. Tarte would like to see Choquette with a portfolio, for Choquette has done much for the Minister of Public Works in the past. In the last few days "Charley" Mackintosh, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Northwest Territories, has resigned his post. Our friend Israel suggests that Sir Henri Joly succeed him and that Choquette be given the Inland Revenue portfolio. Gibson, Lister and other Ontario members are making a tremendous kick against this plan. Sir Henri Joly is a Protestant, and they say the division of Roman Catholics and Protestants in the Cabinet must be maintained. From what I have heard, I judge that our friend Tarte is likely to come out victor.

No Tariff Yet in Sight.

The members of the Administration who have contributed to the debate of the past week have had much to do in the direction of defending their sins of omission. In place of giving the country some information concerning the tariff, Sir Richard put the subject on the shelf for another month or so, with the highly original remark that the Government would exercise its best judgment in drafting the new measure. Meanwhile there is a distinct feeling of unrest in the country. I do not suppose there are a dozen members of Parliament who have not received since the opening of the session one or more letters concerning the tariff question. They are implored to find out how soon the new measure will be ready, and, if they be Liberals, to impress upon the Government the great necessity of acting with all expedition. Importers all over Canada are in a state of indecision as to what is to be done by the Government. Trade is much interfered with. And, with all this before them, the Ministers are not prepared to make any announcement before Easter at the earliest. It is evident that the travels of the Ministers have had the effect only of making them the victims of many doubts and fears in respect of the new schedules. And, in addition to this, it must be remembered that the country's bills must be paid. With this in mind the Premier and his aides cannot hope to make many changes in the Customs law. The cotton and sugar interests will be the first to feel the effects of the new measure, for the gentlemen who are large holders of stock in the various companies engaged in the manufacture of these commodities have the reputation of not having been unfriendly to the late Government. Of course, it is the veriest nonsense to say that the "combines," as the Liberal editors call them, have waxed fat at the expense of the people of Canada. The Acadia sugar refinery lost many thousands of dollars last year. The Redpaths of Montreal, by a clever business deal, made as many thousand dollars, but it was brains and not the tariff that put the Redpaths on the right side of the ledger. As for the cotton men, they have a poor year's business and the mills at Valleyfield, Que., were running only three-quarter time for the greater part of the winter. One of the gentlemen interested in this mill told me the other day that if the Government saw fit to alter the tariff so as to make it impossible to compete with the foreign producer, the company would wind up. The cotton men have not made money for more than four years, and two of the largest manufacturers are anxious to get out of the business. They say that they don't care how the tariff goes, that there is nothing in it for them at any rate.

The Papal Delegate.

Monsignor Mery del Val is in Canada. To the numberless newspapermen who have essayed to interview him Mgr. Del Val has been courteous and reticent. Mr. Laurier has seen fit to assure Sir Charles Tupper that the delegate from the Court of Rome has come to Canada without the invitation of the Government. Mr. Laurier is hardly ingenious in his statements. He asks us to believe that Mr. Fitzpatrick, the Solicitor-General, went to Rome of his own accord and asked Mgr. del Val to come to Canada to quell the rebellious bishops. Mr. Fitzpatrick's expenses must have been heavy. Did he pay them himself? The public accounts will show—but at a distant date—whether the country paid Mr. Fitzpatrick's expenses or not. It is hardly probable that Mr. Laurier will permit his lieutenant to cover the amount up under a lump sum for "Minister's travelling expenses." If the money was spent on the mission to Rome, the country should know it. The necessity for the visit of Mgr. del Val is hardly apparent to us of Ontario, but, for that matter, if his mission be non-political, it is none of our business. It is with the Government that invited him that Canadians have the quarrel. Think of Greenway, Laurier and del Val sitting down to settle the school question! Yet that is what they are going to do. For months Mr. Laurier has been assuring us that the question has been settled once for all. But now he is going to settle it again, this time with the aid of a gentleman from Rome. The Monsignor is expected to spend some time in Ottawa, and is likely to be the guest of the Prime Minister.

Mr. Hardy and the Temperance People.

In Toronto the Legislature has been quietly attending to business, municipal legislation having occupied much of its time. The temperance people are not yet recovered from their indignation at the signal rebuff which Mr. Hardy gave them in respect of his alleged liquor bill. The changes which the new measure has made are so infinitesimal as to make them not worth talking about. Mr. Hardy never has had a high opinion of the prohibitionists as a body, for he says that they have no politics except at election times, and then they are rabid partisans, either Liberal or Conservative as the case may be. In other words, the Wicked Premier does not believe in the existence of a temperance vote, and does not propose to consider it. He may meet with a rude awakening some day.

ROYAL GIFTS.

Queen Victoria and Her Family Keep Track of the Birthdays.

Royalties are very fond of present-giving, and it is, perhaps, owing to the German blood which runs in their veins that the English royal family like to celebrate every little family event by the exchange of gifts, says a writer in the "Woman at Home." The Queen has a wonderful memory for the birthdays of all her friends and relatives. But it is also a memory which she cultivates, as, I believe, she refers to her birthday book every day of the year, and gives orders that a trinket, a letter, a telegram or message of congratulation should be sent to any fortunate individual whose name is found written therein. At Christmas a huge assortment of pictures, china, knick-knacks and toys is forwarded to her, and she chooses herself a present for each member of her family down to the third and fourth generation. A "Victoria cake," too, is always baked and sent to every birthday man, woman or child. About sixty of these cakes are baked at a time, and, owing to their richness, they keep well and are always ready for dispatch.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are particularly generous in present-giving, and never forget the friends, however distant or humbly placed in life. Both their Royal Highnesses have original ideas, and are really clever at designing articles of furniture, picture frames, quaint and pretty jewelry, and so forth. The Prince is eager as a boy over the packages which reach him on his birthday, and at Christmas, and insists on opening them all himself, refusing even to have strings untied for him. His sanctum at Marlborough House is as full, I can declare, of statuettes, pictures, photographs and articles of "bigotry and virtue" as the Princess' own boudoir. While the Princess chooses all her Christmas presents from the piles sent her by London tradesmen to Marlborough House the Prince who likes a little independence (aye, and may even be seen slipping his letters into a post-box himself, every now and again), goes about town in his brougham, shopping first here and then there, at Christmas time. The two young Princesses, too, when paying a visit to the Duchess of Fife in Portman Square, used to beg their mother to allow them to walk home sometimes by way of the "mean streets." In one of these stands a little old curiosity shop, where they have discovered many treasures and borne them home in triumph. At Sandringham they are fond of decorating the cottages of the good folks upon the estate with all sorts of pretty and useful things, and never fail to make purchases when they come to town for this kindly purpose. The youthful members of Her Majesty's family are wont to prepare gifts in needle-work for her birthday. And those who have artistic talent offer their drawings or painting in oil and water colors.

Desecration.

Trams! Trams! Trams! Three plasters to the Great pyramid! What a desecration! There is something stupendous and grandiose about that hoary monument of antiquity in its loneliness, hallowed by the past centuries, at once a puzzle and an awe in its magnificent solitude. Now there is to be an electric tram from Kasr-el-Nil bridge to the pyramid. The modern spirit of innovation cares nothing for the solemnity of solitude and nothing for the fitness of things. Next there will be a restaurant on the top of that giant pile and a hydraulic lift to carry one to the top. The times are indeed changed, and we with them. "Drink Cheops bitters." "Pyramid beer is the best." "After visiting Chufu's tomb take Parasyncrater-kolopoulo's brandy." These and others will greet the eyes of visitors to the pyramid next year. The fates forefend and may the Society For the Preservation of Egyptian Antiquities forbid. O Cairenes, if you wish to disgust the best class of visitors, you are going the right way to do it!—Cairo (Egypt) Sphinx.

A Poser.

Willie—Papa, isn't a monarchy the best form of government?

Papa—No. A republic is.

Willie—Then why do they say "the kingdom of heaven?"—New York Tribune.

MEXICAN PEARL-FISHING.

The Annual Yield of the Gulf of California is About $350,000.

The agent of the English proprietors of the concession granted by the Mexican republic for a monopoly of pearl fishing in the gulf of California recently arrived in San Francisco and gave some interesting details of the present methods employed in their industry, which has continued ever since the occupation of the country in the time of Cortes.

The whole coast of the gulf of California abounds in pearls, and the concessions control the entire territory. Until within the last few years native divers were employed, and the depth to which they could descend did not exceed 35 feet. With the introduction of diving apparatus the limit of depth was increased to 30 fathoms. The best divers could formerly remain under water not to exceed two minutes. A modern diver thinks nothing of a two hour stop in water 100 feet in depth, though at greater depths the stay is necessarily shortened on account of the enormous pressure of the superincumbent water. A diver when upon the floor of the ocean looks about for the oyster which he tears from the object to which it is attached, and places it in a small bag hanging to a rope, which is hauled into the boat on a given signal. Sometimes the number of oysters secured is large and at other times only a few are caught.

The diver does not confine himself to the pearl oyster alone, but if he sees a rare specimen of coral or a new species of shell he places it in his bag and sends it to the surface, where it becomes the property of the concession and one source of its large income.

Last year the value of the pearls harvested in Lower California was alone $350,000. In addition 5,000 tons of shells were exported, which were valued at $1,250,000 more. Pearl fishing is the entire occupation of the natives, and La Paz, the headquarters, a city of the peninsula, with about 2,000 inhabitants, is solely dependent upon the industry. The business is one of chance, and the pursuit is a fascinating one to the natives, who are born gamblers.

Every oyster does not contain its pearl, and only at intervals, and rare ones at that, is a really valuable pearl discovered. The largest one ever found was about three-quarters of an inch in diameter, and was sold in Paris to the emperor of Austria for $10,000. Many black pearls are found in Lower California and are valued higher than the pure white. The large majority are seed pearls and are only of moderate value.

San Francisco is not the market for Mexican pearls, though it ought to be. The harvest is exported straight to London and Paris and distributed from those great markets.

The dangers of pearl fishing have always been exaggerated, possibly to give a fictitious value to the beautiful gems. The loss of life in the fisheries in Lower California was undoubtedly larger before the introduction of the diving dress. But it is not an established fact that the deaths were always caused by the shark or octopus, though these marine monsters were without doubt responsible for the loss of many lives. Every diver has plenty of hair raising stories to relate of narrow escapes from death, but as he is the only witness of these affairs it makes the difficulty to substantiate them so much greater.

The occupation at best is a hazardous one, and those who were engaged in it before the introduction of diving apparatus were always short lived. The demand in the world's markets for pearls of extra beauty is always far in excess of the supply.—San Francisco Call.

She Couldn't Smile.

There are those whose power of expression is forever lagging behind their sense of appreciation. They may feel a thing deeply and they may see a thing keenly, but somehow they can't make it manifest. In some cases they can't even look it.

Many a woman has in silence relished a "joke" just as fully as her friend who goes off into perfect guffaws over it. But she gets none of the credit. It's really tragic—this being unable ever to look your sense of humor, almost as bad, indeed, as having no humor at all. A man who is afflicted in this way says that he can imagine no more inconvenient, if not actually torturing, state of things. For instance, he was once traveling on a railway train when a very pretty girl, whom he chanced to face, did a thing that of course no girl ought to do, but which the best of them have been known to, stared straight at the young man and smiled.

It was a very faint smile, but for all that there was no mistaking it. What was more, the girl kept on smiling whenever she had the chance. And the young man? Well, he naturally wanted to smile back. He was, in the first place, appreciative of such favors, and, in the second place, he was at an age when they were most appealing. But smile back he couldn't. Again and again did he try, and again and again did he fail. Never had his affliction so dominated him. At last he made up his mind that crack a smile he would before they reached this city, no matter what it cost. It was no use, though. Smile was just what he couldn't, in that responsive way at least, and he thus reached his journey's end without so much as a flicker of acknowledgment crossing his countenance.—New York Sun.

Noah With a Vengeance.

The rain had been coming down almost in a cloudburst for several days and the gulches were filled with rushing torrents. The Ozark mountains lay in a mist, dense as a fog on the banks of Newfoundland. Word came to town that many of the lowland dwellers were in need of help and rescue parties were organized. In one of the hollows the rescuers met another Noah. He was seated upon the roof of his house, with a pig, hens, roosters, ducks and turkeys.

"Come on. Get into the boat," shouted one of the rescuers.

"Not unless you take the stock."

"Well, pass it along."

The stock was quickly transferred to the boat and then Noah got in. The party were about to leave when the old fellow said:—

"Hold on! I most forgot. There's the old woman!"

"Where is she?"

"Up on the barn yonder. I was so busy getting up the stock that I didn't have time to take keer of her."

They rowed over to the barn, and there, sure enough, was his wife, so overcome with cold that she could hardly speak and had to be almost carried into the large flatboat.

"Any one else around here?" sternly asked one of the rescuers.

"We've got about all the live stock. There's one pig, too heavy for me to carry to the roof. He's around somewhere if he ain't washed out. Don't you think you might look around for him a bit?"

But the party rowed away, paying no heed to the sinful Noah's solicitude for his live stock and thoroughly disgusted with his indifference for his better half, whom he left to look after herself.—Detroit Free Press.

A Peasant Wonder.

Something of a sensation was caused in St. Petersburg a short time ago by the appearance of an old peasant woman, named Irma Andrejewna Fedosova, from Olonecz, 70 years of age, unable to read or write, who could recite by heart 10,000 folk songs and poems. She was brought to the capital by a Russian litterateur, who, with the help of a colleague, wrote down a large quantity of her treasure, with a view to publication. Her collection appears to have ranged over the whole field of folk literature, comprising old legends, old fairy tales, tales of feats of arms and tales of comedy and tragedy.—Household Words.

Shrewd Lassie.

Lightlove—At last, dear Sophia, we are alone, and I can tell you that I lo—

Sophia—Oh, please no, Mr. Lightlove. Don't tell me here.

Lightlove—Why not? There are no witnesses.

Sophia—That's just it.—Chips.

The Week's Commercial Summary.

The stock of wheat at Toronto is 184,286 bushels as against 208,407 bushels a week ago and 80,033 bushels a year ago.

The world's shipment of wheat last week were only 2,957,000 bushels as against 3,687,000 bushels the previous week and 5,408,000 bushels the corresponding week of last year.

The visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada is 40,480,000 bushels as compared with 61,348,000 bushels a year ago and 75,773,000 bushels two years ago. The amount on passage to Europe is 18,960,000 bushels as against 28,480,000 bushes a year ago.

General wholesale trade at Toronto shows no change. In some departments a fair volume of business is reported but there is not that activity that was expected by many. The dullness is likely to be prolonged now that parliament is in session and tariff revision the prominent subject before the House. Business men will watch the progress at Ottawa on this most important matter with the closest attention. The weather has been somewhat unfavorable for fancy goods, millinery and the like, which last week attracted a good deal of interest.

Montreal advices would indicate that general trade in that district is still of a somewhat dull waiting character. It is hoped that the earlier going into effect of spring freight rates next week may help the distribution of certain lines of heavier goods, but no all around improvement seems looked for until some definite understanding of the Government's trade policy is arrived at. In this connection there seems to be a growing feeling that in view of the attitude of the McKinley Government, and the strong representations from business and banking sources, there will be no very general or radical changes made in the tariff as it is, but still the element of uncertainty exists and has its effect on the business of the moment.

The February statement of Canadian banks show a slight increase in note circulation for the month. The total is $30,409,000 as against $30,208,157 in January and $29,819,536 a year ago. Deposits show a decrease of $1,500,000, and the total is $192,032,000 as compared with $193,451,000 in January and $181,865,000 a year ago. Current discounts are $208,732,000 as against $208,433,000 on January 31, and $207,481,000 on February 29 of last year. Call loans $13,764,000 as against $14,083,000 a year ago. The balances due from United States agencies are $16,608,000 as compared with $18,662,000 a year ago. Specie holdings decreased $300,000 for the month while Dominion note holdings increased $230,000 during February.

If the plans now under way are carried out as anticipated the great work of widening and deepening the River Thames will before long be an accomplished fact, and the commercial importance of that river greatly increased. It being clear to the authorities on extended examination and consultation with engineering experts, that a 26 foot channel was required for at least nine-tenths of the shipping, it was decided that the work should be prosecuted to be done solely by dredging. According to this plan, there will be from Gravesend up the river as far as Erayfold Ness, opposite Harbet, a channel width of 1,000 feet at lowwater, spring tide, while from Bayford Ness to the Albert docks the width is to be 500 feet and the depth 22, and the latter to the Millwall docks there will be a channel at least 300 feet wide and 18 feet deep.

Here and There.

Homer would be proud of Greece if he were alive to-day.

By the way, are you eating strawberries now, or [illegible]?

It is about time for the amateur gardener to buy some lettuce seed and get that hot-bed ready.

Most people are not yearning for any more "beautiful snow" in theirs, especially when it is dropped into the lap of spring.

The Detroit Free Press publishes a sketch of a professional politician. At least, it is headed: "Story of a Life of Crime."

Bob Ingersoll's daughter denies the statement that she is a Presbyterian. As a matter of fact, she is a New Yorker, which is very different.

"I would marry good standing lady," declares an advertiser in one of the New York Sunday papers. No sitting ladies, good or otherwise, will answer his personal, of course.

Blessed is the man who does not take up room enough in the world to get in anybody's way and whose commissions and omissions have no interest for anybody. For him the camera fiend has no terrors.

The last occupation for convicts at Sing Sing is printing. Orders are coming in fast since the passage of the law requiring all printing for public officials to be done in the prison. But what becomes of the poor typesetter outside, whose only crime is want of work?

A package of bills in a Chicago man's pocket saved his life the other night. He was held up by footpads, one of whom fired a pistol point blank at his heart. The bullet penetrated, but did not pierce the bills. The Chicago papers do not say whether they were receipted bills or not.

This is the week for the annual publication of that inspired quatrain, by some talented representatives of her sex:—

The devil sends the wicked wind
That blows our skirts knee-high;
But God is good, and he sends the dust
That blow in the bad man's eye.

Thousands Like Her—Tena McLeod, Severn Bridge, writes: "I owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil for curing me of a severe cold that troubled me nearly all last winter." In order to give a quietus to a hacking cough, take a dose of Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil thrice a day, or oftener if the cough spells render it necessary.

Chicago's inlet tunnel has a capacity of 12,000,000 [illegible] day.

The Clairvoyant Operator.

An odd sight is to be witnessed daily on the Consolidated Exchange. Visitors for some time have noted a little group of women who stand all day long in the gallery at the Broadway end of the building. They also notice one particular broker on the floor who is continually craning his neck and glancing at one of the women in that group. Every once in awhile, after a glance, he jumps into the wheat pit, which is just under the edge of the gallery and makes a transaction.

Only the observing will notice, however, any connection between his operations and the woman whom he watches. From 10.30 o'clock till 3 o'clock she stands there with one hand resting over the railing. With slight movements of this hand she gives orders to buy and sell wheat to the broker. The number of fingers extended indicate the number of thousands of bushels to be done, and a twist up or down of the whole hand tells the broker whether to buy or sell.

But that is not the queer part of it. A stranger asked one of the brokers, a friend of his, who the woman was.

"Why," was the reply, "that's the clairvoyant operator. She's a real clairvoyant all right, and she reads the future turns in the market and buys and sells accordingly. Or at least she thinks she reads the future, and maybe she does, for she has lasted longer than the ordinary woman speculator. She has been at it for months."—New York Mail and Express.

Explained.

Mrs. Benham—I don't see how you can look me in the face!

Benham—A man can get used to anything.

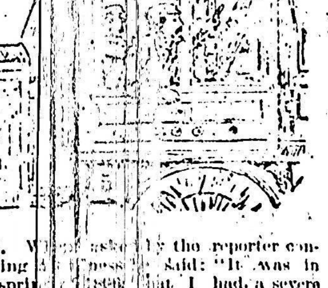
AN ENGINEER'S STORY.

LIFE ON A RAILROAD CONDUCIVE TO DISEASE.

Mr. Wm. Taylor, of Kentville, Attacked With Kidney Trouble—So-Called Cures Proved Useless, But Dr. Williams' Pink Pills Restored His Health.

From the Kentville Advertiser.

There are very few employments more trying to the health than that of a railway engineer. The hours of labor are frequently long, meals irregular, and rest and sleep [illegible] snatched "between runs." [illegible] the troubles which very frequently attack railway trainmen is kidney [illegible], which up to a late period has been looked upon as a disease difficult, if not impossible, to totally cure. Although there exist numerous remedies claimed to be cures, the truth is that nothing has been found to successfully cope with this terrible disease until the advent of the now world-famed Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Chancing to hear one day that Mr. Wm. Taylor, a resident of this town, had been cured of kidney trouble through the agency of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, a reporter called upon him at his home to hear from him personally of his cure. Mr. Taylor [illegible] on the Dominion Atlantic Railway, his run being between Halifax and Kentville, and he is one of the most popular drivers on the road.



When asked by the reporter concerning his illness he said: "It was in the spring of 1896 that I had a severe attack of kidney trouble, brought on by continuous running on the road, and I suppose it is caused by the oscillation of the locomotive. It affected me but slightly at first, but gradually grew worse. I consulted a doctor and then tried two or three varieties of so-called cures. Some helped me for a time, but after stopping the use of them I grew worse than ever. I had noticed in the papers testimonials in the papers concerning Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and [illegible] one cure that was almost [illegible] my own I decided to give them a trial and purchased four boxes at a cost of $2. But it was $2 well spent for I was completely cured by the use of the pills, and have not been troubled with my kidneys since. I can therefore recommend them to others similarly [illegible]."

The [illegible] years has proved that there [illegible] no disease due to a vitiated condition of the blood or shattered nerves [illegible] Dr. Williams' Pink Pills will not [illegible] cure, and those who are suffering from such troubles would [illegible] misery and save money [illegible] resorting to this treatment. Get the genuine Pink Pills every time [illegible] be persuaded to take a substitute [illegible] some other remedy from a dealer who [illegible] the sake of the extra profit [illegible] may say is "just as good." Dr. Williams' Pink Pills cure when other medicines fail.

[illegible] THEY [illegible] CARRY SAIL.

Wrecked [illegible] of Which Skippers of California [illegible] Were Proud.

The [illegible] in a somewhat pessimistic [illegible] usual, was reminiscent.

"In [illegible] of the American clippers [illegible] the merchants owned the ships [illegible] were responsible to the [illegible]. The go between [illegible] broker, was hardly known [illegible]. The captains were to some extent [illegible] voyages always meant dollars [illegible].

"Looking [illegible] of the newspapers from 1[illegible] I notice the names of California [illegible] up cripples in the ports of [illegible] and Rio de Janeiro. They [illegible] those days on that voyage [illegible] Francisco and south [illegible] times [illegible] felt sore. The enormous [illegible] made it worth every effort [illegible] passage. Some ships got as [illegible] cubic foot for lying [illegible] at goods. Now they can't [illegible].

"I [illegible] first trip of the famous [illegible] Cloud to San Francisco, [illegible] her maiden [illegible] about [illegible]. Captain Cressy [illegible] was [illegible] and [illegible] as the [illegible] station. The ship returned to New [illegible] a wreck aloft, the everything [illegible]. The captain exhibited [illegible] house for some [illegible] the ship [illegible] mast lids. They were made [illegible] pasture cake and plated [illegible] bottom edges were three [illegible] inches thick, and the tremendous [illegible] of the sails and gear on the [illegible] masts downward had crushed [illegible] the iron plates until they [illegible] half moon.

"C[illegible] went to the Astor House and stared [illegible] testimonials of the skipper's nerve [illegible] rigged and sparred for [illegible] San Francisco. 'D[illegible] the [illegible] owners said, and the skipper [illegible] down to his ship every day, [illegible] were fighting to ship [illegible]."—New York Sun.

A Scientific Experiment.

"The [illegible] people who live together get to look [illegible]."

"Is [illegible] so? Well, just in the interest of science [illegible]."—Chicago Record.

[illegible] TEA

MONSOON TEA

THE FINEST [illegible] IN THE WORLD

FROM THE TEA PLANT TO THE TEA CUP IN ITS NATIVE PURITY.

"Monsoon" Tea is put up by the Indian Tea growers as a sample of the best qualities of Indian Teas. Therefore they use the greatest care in the selection of the Tea that goes into Monsoon packages. Put up in ½ lb., 1 lb. and 5 lb packages, and never sold in bulk.

ALL GOOD GROCERS KEEP IT.

If your grocer does not keep it, tell him to write to STEEL, HAYTER & CO. 11 and 13 Front Street East, Toronto.

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PRIDE OF THE VILLAGE.

BY LINCOLN STEFFENS.

Mrs. Silvester Dean Leveen was polishing her brass knocker. Her long, thin hands rubbed and rubbed till the little white curls on her forehead danced like street children. Yet the labor had no perceptible effect. The metal shone like light, but so it did when she began to clean it. [illegible]

[illegible]

"That's right," [illegible]

[illegible]

Percy [illegible]

[illegible]

"Is she cultivated, educated? Come, Percy, tell me all about her."

"She went through the grammar school, I think, but she had to work after that. So she can't play the piano or sing, but she is a nice girl and can tend the house and cook, now that her mother is dead."

"That's right; she ought to be able to manage her husband's house. [illegible] me more about her. Is her [illegible] are her manners gentle, is she modest? Describe her to me, my dear. Is she pretty?"

Percy was encouraged by these few words of approval he had won.

"Aunt, she's a beauty, that's—"

"What do you say, a what?"

"I mean she's a beauty. She's got blue eyes and blond hair and the nicest, biggest, reddest cheeks. She ain't what you would call quiet; she's more lively like. You ought to hear her laugh when we're down on the docks nights with the rest of the crowd. I'll bet you could hear her across the river in Hoboken. And jolly. If she gets a mug as is too fresh she can jolly him along to beat the band. But she's on the level, too. She does a square thing by her old man every [illegible]. The housework has to be done before she's in for the game. And she slaves for her little sisters and brothers—just slaves

for them, and [illegible] But then she's ready to help [illegible] bors are behind and she [illegible] all like that. [illegible]