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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.

Mr. James Keays, Registrar of Russell County, is dead.

Hog cholera is still rampant in Kingsville, near Windsor.

Work on the Canadian power tunnel at Niagara began Friday.

There was a large increase of immigration in Manitoba for April.

Mr. Charles Neihaus has been appointed postmaster at Berlin.

Fred Norton fell off the dock at Penetanguishene while fishing and was drowned.

A freshet in the Restigouche, in the vicinity of Campbelton, N.B., has done much damage.

Prairie fires near Calgary destroyed House & Hull's abattoir and stables and Leech's granary.

The recount in the Colchester County bye-election gives Mr. McClure, Liberal, a majority of 6.

The strike of cotton operatives at Cornwall has ended, the men accepting the company's rates.

Mr. Nelson Ruby, a highly-esteemed and respected resident of Berlin, Ont., died there Friday, aged 63.

J. & C. Bridgson's iron pipe factory at St. Henri will re-open in a few weeks as a result of the new tariff.

Joseph Peloquin, caretaker of the Star Brewery, Montreal, was burned to death in a small fire in the brewery.

The Belgian Consul has protested against an different rate of duty being levied on British and Belgian goods.

The Quebec Provincial campaign is growing warm, and stories of boodling and corruption funds are multiplying.

Four survivors of a boat load of 21 men from the brig Valliant arrived at St. Pierre. They sustained life by eating the flesh of a dog.

General Manager Hays of the Grand Trunk was in Hamilton and denied the statement that the shops there are to be moved to London.

Storage in Manitoba, except in Red River valley, is expected to be finished in ten days. There is a large increase in the acreage this year.

At the meeting of the trustees of Queen's University Chancellor Fleming announced his intention of giving four scholarships to the University.

At the annual meeting of the Woodstock Rifle Association, held on Tuesday, it was decided to enter a team of ten for the Canadian Rifle League matches.

Commissioner Seager delivered his finding on the charges preferred against Postmaster Campbell, of Goderich, Ont. He found that most of the charges were sustained.

The Government, taking into consideration the complaints which have been made respecting ammunition, have decided to try a new lot of ammunition, manufactured by a Canadian firm.

During the month of April the value of the cattle exported from Toronto aminoints to $85,223. The shipments to Great Britain were valued at $67,080, and the balance was sent to Buffalo market.

Mrs. Elizabeth Falls, of London, aged 50, is suing her husband, aged 82, to enforce a contract made before marriage by which the husband is said to have signed over to her $1,500 in notes in consideration of marriage.

It is announced here that work on the Lake St. Charles railway will begin at once, and that the Quebec Government had guaranteed the interest on some $3,000,000 bonds which have been floated in London to carry on the operations.

K. R. Berdue, station and express agent at St. Jovite, Que., has been jailed on charges of theft and forgery. He got up a sensational story of the robbing of the express office, and afterwards confessed that he took the money—$1,000.

The Supreme Court at Ottawa on Saturday decided that a British subject resident in Canada who goes to another country to secure a divorce, remarries and returns to Canada, is guilty of bigamy, Chief Justice Strong dissenting.

Several disasters are reported as a result of the storm on the St. Lawrence. The big steamer Rosedale went on the rocks near the Rock Island Light and knocked a hole in her hull; The M. T. Company's barges also suffered heavily.

George Newton and Charles Noble are the names of the two men charged with highway robbery at Chatham, and of the attempted murder of Provincial Detective Mahoney. Newton is a negro, and is wanted in Adrian, Mich., for the murder of Lafayette Ladd.

Charles Schurcer, Manager of the defunct Carrick Banking Company of Midland, has been committed for trial for fraudulently entering in the bank's books a sum of $356.88 to the credit of A. Kramer & Company, a firm in which he was financially interested.

The Supreme Court at Ottawa has dismissed the appeal of the Gas Company against the assessment of their mains, also the appeal of Mr. Elias Rogers in the $5,700 damage suit for the loss of his brother Benjamin by an accident at one of the public schools.

Arthur Stenge, who was arrested a week ago for forging the names of Sir Alexander Lacoste, Administrator in the absence of the Lieutenant-Governor; Hon. A. W. Atwater, and A. M. Beaudin, to a liquor license was given five years in the St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary.

On Sunday last more than 100 persons left Detroit to settle on Government lands at Lake St. John, in the Province of Quebec, the Ottawa and Quebec Governments having consented to assist them in doing so. This is expected to be only the prelude to a strong and healthy movement from Michigan towards Quebec and the Canadian Northwest.

How to Cure Headache.—Some people suffer an old misery day after day with Headache. There is rest neither day or night, and the nerves are all unstrung. The cause is generally a disordered stomach, and a cure can be effected by using Parmelee's Vegetable Pills, containing Mandrake and Dandelion. Mr. Finlay Ward, Lessender, P. Q., writes: "I find Parmelee's Pills a first-class article for Bilious Headache."

The great demand for a pleasant, safe and reliable antidote for all affections of the throat and lungs is fully met with in Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup. It is a purely Vegetable Compound, and acts promptly and magically in subduing all coughs, colds, bronchitis, inflammation of the lungs, etc. It is so palatable that a child will not refuse it, and it is put at a price that will not exclude the poor from its benefits.

The following Provincial appointments have been made by the Administrator of the Government: Bernard Louis Doyle, of Goderich, Junior Judge of the County Court of the County of Huron, to be Local Master of the Supreme Court of Judicature for Huron, in consequence of the absence on leave of Sutherland Malcolmson; Edward Mitchell Copeland, of Arkona, to be an associate Coroner for the County of Lambton; John Burnett Laing, of Toronto, to be Provincial Municipal Auditor, the appointment to take effect on May 1st; John Frazer Taylor, of the Village of West Lorne, to be a Notary Public for Ontario.

UNITED STATES.

Twenty-three lines have signed the agreement at Chicago which is to take the place of the Western Passenger Association.

Frederick Crowberger, a fourteen-year-old boy, of Maspeth, L.I., died on Saturday from a blow with a ruler said to have been inflicted by his teacher, Miss Johanna E. Scouler.

The sewer-pipe manufacturers have completed, in Cleveland, the formation of a National Association. A company has been incorporated under the laws of Ohio, with a capital stock of $7,500,000. Forty-four factories are embraced, and the name of the organization is the Central Union Sewer-pipe Company.

No family living in a bilious country should be without Parmelee's Vegetable Pills. A few doses taken now and then will keep the Liver active, cleanse the stomach and bowels from all bilious matter, and prevent Ague. Mr. J. L. Price, Shoals, Martin Co., Ind., writes: "I have tried a box of Parmelee's Pills and find them the best medicine for Fever and Ague I have ever used."

FOREIGN.

The Queen Regent of Spain is said to be suffering from nervous prostration.

The British Cape squadron will remain at Delagoa Bay until the middle of June.

The Queen, on her arrival and departure in jubilee week, will be escorted by colonial troops.

The decree granting reforms in Cuba has been signed at Madrid and will take effect immediately.

Emil Sohlern, a saloon-keeper on Wells street, Chicago, was killed by burglars last night.

During the recent trip of Emperor William to Dresden an attempt was made to wreck the Imperial train.

Earthquakes in the Leeward Islands have killed a number of persons and caused great destruction to property.

May day passed quietly in London and on the Continent, and was not observed as much as formerly by the Socialists.

Despatches from Athens state that the war is generally regarded as ended, the Greeks having no more fight in them.

Lord Salisbury has replied to the request from Washington, refusing to reopen the Behring Sea case, as requested.

The British cruiser Talbot, which took part in the ceremonies of the dedication of the Grant monument, left New York Friday.

At Shanghai, on April 5, one thousand striking coolies precipitated a riot and started to burn the city and assault the local militia.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his recent budget speech, stated that the cost of the monarchy is less now than it was sixty years ago.

Mr Joseph Chamberlain testified before the Transvaal Commission, and stated that the Colonial Office had no intimation of the Jameson raid.

Twenty-six Anarchists, in addition to those already sentenced, have been condemned to death at Barcelona for complicity in the bomb outrage of June.

The French language is now finally forbidden to be used in public speeches in Alsace-Lorraine and several meetings have been dissolved on that account.

Ismail Pasha, Governor of the Island of Crete, has protested against the decision of the Admirals allowing food to be supplied to inhabitants in the interior.

James Brooks shot and probably fatally injured his sweetheart, Lulu Quail and her mother at Fresno, Cal., then set fire to their house and killed himself.

Twenty-six more of the Barcelona anarchists who exploded a bomb in a Corpus Christi procession, with fatal results, have been condemned to death.

Emperor William is reported to have a detailed plan by which the interests of Germany, France and Belgium in the Transvaal are to be protected against British interests.

The favorite novelists of the Queen, according to a writer in the Quarterly Review, are Jane Austin Charlotte Bronte, Mrs. Oliphants, George Eliot, and Edna Lyall.

Lieut. Eloff, the grandson of President Kruger, who recently made insulting remarks regarding the Queen, has been reinstated and appointed lieutenant of the Pretoria police.

A member of a Victorian sealing house, at present in London, says the extension of the close season for seal fishing, as proposed by the United States would ruin the Canadian industry.

The Berlin correspondent of The Daily Mail learns that the powers will not consent to the levying of indemnity upon Greece, and that Austria and Germany are trying to induce the Porte to modify its demands.

Prof. Thompson, the British Commissioner, in his report on the Behring Sea seal fishery, says that at the present rate of slaughter there is no chance of the herd increasing, and without extreme care it will diminish.

A telegram received at Athens says that a great battle has been fought at Velestino between a Turkish force of 8,000 and Gen. Smolenski's brigade. The despatch states that the Turks were repulsed with enormous losses.

The Princess of Wales has written to the Lord Mayor urging that in the schemes to commemorate the diamond jubilee of Queen Victoria in June the tenants of the London slums be not overlooked. Her Royal Highness subscribes £100 to provide a treat for them.

The Star Sapphire.

There is on exhibition in London a gem of such remarkable size and beauty that royal and other millionaires are really quite excited about it and await with anxiety the inevitable day when one of their number will enrage the rest and seriously deplete his own bank account by purchasing the dreadfully attractive bit of stone. To mineralogists the jewel is simply a fine specimen of corundum; for others it is a "star sapphire," whose twin may exist in the mines of Ceylon, where this one came from, but as the like has never been seen before the chances of duplication are regarded as decidedly small. As precious stones go, this sapphire is a monster, being 5 inches in circumference and weighing 640 carats as against 106 for the Kohinoor, 136 for the Regent diamond and 194 for the Orloff. The stone, which is said to be flawless, is almost in its natural state, not cut in facets, but polished "en cabochon," to use the lapidary's term. It's shape is that of an irregular cone rounded at the top. The color is pale blue clouded with a delicate white mist or fleeciness. When lighted from above, six quivering, over restless rays meet at the apex, a characteristic which gives this variety of sapphire its name. One observer describes the gem as looking like the pole of a watery blue globe, with varying lines of longitude shooting out in silken flames toward a mythical equator at its base. When a light is placed on each side of it, three distinct stars appear, which change with the movement of the illuminants. The star sapphire is claimed to be impossible of imitation and is next in hardness to the diamond. The ancients ascribed to these stones the power of bringing good luck, and there is a legend that Helen of Troy owed her conquests as much to the possession of a star sapphire as to the celestial brightness of her eyes.—New York Times.

New Helmet for the German Army.

A new helmet has been served out, by way of experiment, to several regiments of the German army. It is very light, being made of aluminium, and is bronzed in order to obviate the drawbacks which might arise from a bright metal headdress. Germany has already tried aluminium horseshoes, buckles and accoutrements, with a view to lightening the weight which the soldier must carry. For horseshoes it has been found too soft, but in other respects it has answered well. There is one drawback which has not been foreseen—namely, that when exposed to the influence of the sun aluminium will store up heat to a remarkable degree, eventually becoming so hot as to blister the skin. Whether bronzing will obviate this defect remains to be seen, but the German experiment is one which is well worth the attention of all military men.—British Army and Navy Gazette.

OUR OTTAWA LETTER.

DARE NOT CONDEMN THE TARIFF, BUT DO NOT LIKE TO PRAISE IT.

What Has Been Done for the Farmer—A Case in Point—The Exigencies of Revenue—The Abolition of the Corn Duty—The Offer of Minimum Duties.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Ottawa, May 4.—The Tory brethren do not quite know what to do about the new tariff. They cannot in logic condemn the Government for not making a clean sweep of the N. P. They cannot in loyalty condemn it for reducing the duties on British exports. All they can do is to tell the farmer that the Liberals have not at any rate given him free trade at one fell swoop. To this the farmer answers: "That may be true. But what have I to gain by putting them out and putting you back?"

What Has Been Done for the Farmer.

The farmer has got a good deal after all. The coal duty is lowered one cent, which, with the tanking arrangement, that amounts to a reduction of one and a half more, is not bad. The duties on woolen goods of the coarser sort are largely reduced. Barbed wire and binding twine are made free. Wagons, buggies, the smaller implements, iron and steel generally and other articles are reduced in duty, while the duty on a still larger variety of goods will be cut by the preferential duties offered to Britain; and, last but not least, the Government has taken power to deal summarily with combines. This is not so bad for a beginning. In England fifteen years elapsed from the practical abolition of the Corn Laws in 1846 till the tariff was placed on a purely revenue basis. Let the Liberals have a chance and in five years they will leave nothing in the tariff that should not be there, regard being had to the fact that we have to raise a revenue of $40,000,000 per annum by means other than direct taxation.

The reductions made by Mr. Fielding have been made at a time when it is no easy thing to reduce. He is a free trader at heart and would, if he could, place the country on that basis without delay. But as a prudent man he has to take existing conditions into account. Times are hard. Many of the protected industries are carried by the banks, and to wipe out their protection would be to force them into bankruptcy and cause grave disturbance in the financial world. Again, another set of industries, while able to stand a considerable reduction under ordinary conditions, would not be able to live under it just now when the American manufacturer is "slaughtering" his surplus stock on every market to which he can obtain access.

A Case in Point.

Take, for instance, spirits. To buy a certain quantity of corn, barley, oats and rye and convert it into a gallon of proof spirits costs the Canadian distiller 30 cents. This is the bare cost of that particular process. But in order to arrive at the true cost, the actual cost to the distillery, we have to add a good many items, such as the enormous expense entailed by the ageing law, which obliges them to keep the stuff in bond two years before disposing of it, interest on plant, including the huge storehouses built expressly to meet the requirements of the ageing law, and interest on capital at 15 per cent. which, allowing for profit and loss, is a moderate return. This brings the cost of a gallon of proof up to 60 cents.

The American distiller can make it for less. First of all, he uses corn almost entirely and pays only 15 or 20 cents per bushel for it. Our distillers have to pay 7½ cents in duty alone besides cost of transportation from the United States. There the distiller gets his coal for 75 cents per ton; here the duty alone is 60 cents. Then the American distiller has no ageing law to trouble him; he can sell the spirits hot from the still and turn his working capital over two or three times a year, whereas the Canadian distiller cannot turn his over more than once in two, really as it works out, not more than once in three years.

It happens that there is an unusually large accumulation of spirits in the States. The census year ending June 30 exceeded 100,000,000 gallons. There are probably 150,000,000 now in stock, and as the old Whiskey Trust has broken down and a new Trust is being organized, comprising something like 25 or 30 distilleries, big and little, this stock is being sold for export in large lots for as low as 10 cents per proof gallon, Canadian measure. I speak of this case not to blame the Canadian distiller but merely to illustrate my point, that the Finance Minister was bound, if he wished to be fair, to take note of the exceptional circumstances now prevailing in the United States, where hard times and reduced consumption have led to the accumulation of an immense surplus of goods that might be thrown into Canada below cost, to the benefit for the time being of the Canadian consumer, it is true, but also to the certain destruction of Canadian industries. In the case of spirits the customs duty had to be advanced to keep step with the increase in the excise duty. It is now $2.40 per proof gallon. That is to say, the American distilleries can sell their surplus here for $2.50. The excise duty in $1.90, manufacturer's cost 60, leaving our distilleries without any margin of protection at all. They only be able to stand it. It is quite certain, however, that very few industries in this country could live under a like state of things. The Americans won't merely have to drop a notch or two to wipe them out and acquire control of our market.

The Exigencies of Revenue.

In 1888 when the Democrats, having control of the House of Representatives, undertook to reduce the tariff by the Mills bill, times were good, or at any rate better than now, yet, relatively speaking, that measure did not go as far in the direction of freer trade as Mr. Fielding proposes to go. Nor was the Wilson bill of 1894, as it passed the Democratic House, before it was tortured to death by the Senate, as drastic, taking it all round, as Mr. Fielding's resolutions. An important point to be remembered in this controversy is that we have to raise $40,000,000 annually. The expenditure per head is larger in Canada than in the States, even with their huge pension bill, partly because our debt with the interest account has gone up like a rocket since 1878 while theirs has been coming down, partly because, as everyone knows, we contribute a large sum every year to the provinces in the form of subsidies, whilst with them the individual States have to pay their own way, and partly because in our vast and thinly peopled country it costs more in proportion to collect the revenue.

Direct taxation would be the cheapest way of raising this sum, but it is out of the question. In England they raise a large amount of revenue on tea, coffee, chicory, etc., and by a heavy excise tax on spirits and tobacco with a countervailing customs duty. We are debarred by our proximity to the United States from putting too big a premium on smuggling; the duty on spirits is an excise duty of ten and sixpence per proof gallon, the English figure, would probably add nothing to our revenue over and above what is now obtained from the duty of $1.90, because of the illicit traffic it would be sure to create. So England also levies taxes on the conveyance of railroad passengers, gun and game taxes, taxes on servants and carriages, on dogs, on armorial bearings, on plate, etc., with estate, probate, legacy and succession duties, inhabited house duties, and, last but not least, the income tax whose five schedules yield twice $40,000,000 annually. It is obvious that we cannot follow her example in this respect. The conditions of life are totally different here. For the present at least we must look mainly to customs duties.

Formerly we had a general rate of 17½ per cent. Eighteen years of Tory rule have increased debt and expenditure enormously and in the nature of things the rate has to be advanced. If we keep this in mind we shall be able to see more clearly that all the duties in the new tariff are not, as some extremists say, protection duties. The duty of 20 per cent. on implements, for example, is as much a revenue duty to-day as the duty of 17½ per cent. was in 1878. Those who insist that Mr. Fielding should have given us a free trade tariff ought to tell us how they would raise $40,000,000 a year without resorting to customs duties.

The Abolition of the Corn Duty.

The Tories find fault with the removal of the duty on corn when imported by the farmer. The Patron handbook issued for the elections said on this point: "The cattle-raising and dairy industries, of so much importance to the country, require cheap feed above everything. It is their essential raw material. Corn is relatively the best and most economical of feed. Because we suffer along with the American consumer from the United States tax on our barley, it is of advantage that we should suffer still more by taxing their cheap corn—such is the logic of protection.

"The freeing of corn," cries The Mail and Empire, "is an immense boon to the United States corn-grower," for "when corn was free before we took over four millions of bushels annually for home consumption." The crop in the States in any propitious year amounts to over two thousand million bushels, so that if with corn free again we should use twice four million or even ten times four million the gain to the American grower will scarcely be "immense" enough to make him rich. It will be profitable, as the Patrons said, to the Canadian cattle and dairy interests, and that is what Mr. Fielding has in view. The same journal tries to make the farmers believe that they will lose by the reduction of the duties on wheat and flour. The theory is that the old duties increased the price in Canada and kept out American wheat and flour, which, although enjoying the benefit of still higher protection, were dirt cheap. Contrariwise, the American protectionist argued that the American duties increased the price in the States and kept out Canadian stuff which in spite of the N. P. was dirt cheap. "If," said the Patron handbook, "there were two yellow wagon doctors at a fair vending the same lightning oil and if each declared it to be a humbug in the hands of the other, we should have little difficulty in concluding that both were quacks."

The Offer of Minimum Duties.

The Tories are greatly alarmed at the prospect of our having to admit German and Belgian exports at the same rate as British in consequence of their favored-nation arrangement with Britain and ourselves. They had better not bid this bogey man good morning till they meet him. Since Mr. Fielding submitted his resolutions British goods have been admitted at minimum rates but Belgian and German have not. Whether they are going to be admitted at the minimum is a question to be determined by time and events.

One thing seems to be admitted by the younger Tories, who are Canadians rather than worshippers of the status quo, namely, that it is time for Canada to assume her commercial independence—to become sufficiently independent at any rate to entitle her to grant tariff concessions to the Mother Country, if she wants to, without reference to imperial entanglements with Old World nations. I have no idea what England is likely to say or do about the offer contained in the new tariff. But if the differ has the effect of calling attention to the disability under which we labor in being unable to frame the Canadian tariff as we think best because of these or similar entanglements, it will have served a good purpose even if nothing else is accomplished.

Tupper seems disposed to insist that we should not grant concessions to England till she gives us preferential treatment in her market, that is, till she reverts to the policy, abandoned with the Corn Laws, of taxing foreign grain and other products and letting colonial in free or at lower rate. If we wait till that is done, we shall have to wait till the millennium or the day after. Tupper is perhaps the only sane man in the Empire, except Colonel G. T. Denison, and what he and Col. Denison think is of little consequence in view of the consensus of opinion among English statesmen, Tories as well as Liberals, that the thing is utterly impossible. What we in Canada want is freer trade, cheaper factory goods, a larger export trade; and as good a way as any to get them is to make the offer Mr. Fielding has inserted in the new tariff, which, on the principle of do at des, I give as thou givest, admits at reduced rates the exports of countries that do the fair thing by ours.

The preliminary spouting on the tariff closed last week and a couple of weeks should suffice to put it through committee. Mr. Laurier is due in England in June, and Parliament will be through, it is thought, in a month more. He will get a warm reception from Englishmen, a warmer one by a long sight than would be accorded if he went with the project of the Denisons and Tuppers for re-establishing the small loaf in the home of the British artisan.

GATINEAU.

His Sunny Disposition.

"Confound you, what are you grinning at?" asked the man who was getting himself held up.

"Oh, well," chuckled the footpad, "I never was a man to take things seriously."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Matrimonial.

Duffins—Oh, I don't believe in long engagements. Why, I didn't know my wife six weeks before I married her.

Muffins—Ah, I didn't know mine until a month after I married her.—Tit-Bits.

Seeking Information.

"John," she began, casting aside her paper, "is that Mayflower log which has just been returned to us a piece of petrified wood or just ordinary oak?"—Philadelphia North American.

To a Girl Upon a Wheel.

One day as I was riding on my wheel in Central park
I heard a silvery ripple gay as thrilling of a lark.
I turned my head a moment, then my head was turned for good,
For there beside a bicycle a girl in bloomers stood.

My heart was lost forever to that maiden with the wheel,
A thing of grace and beauty from her head unto her heel.
Her face it was the sweetest; her costume the completest,
And her ankles were the neatest ever seen upon a wheel.

She smiled and, mounting lightly, sped away at rapid pace.
"You may kiss me if you catch me," she cried as I gave chase.
But from that day unto this day I have never seen her face,
For I was left behind bewildered, fairly distanced in the race.

Last night I took a scorching spin along the boulevard
And caught up with the charmer—almost—within a yard.
She backward glanced, then darted off like the swiftest flying bird.
"You may kiss me if you ca-atch me, ha, ha!" once more I heard:

My heart is lost forever to that maiden on a wheel,
A thing of grace and beauty from her head unto her heel.
Her face it is the sweetest, her ankles are the neatest,
And, confound it! she's the fleetest girl that ever rode a wheel.

—New York Sun.

HE AVOIDS EXPLOSIVES.

Drifter's Experiences Have Led Him to Steer Clear of Them.

"As you say, I am extremely cautious about handling high explosives," admitted Drifter. "And for a man who has mixed in the mining business I confess I am unique. Why, I actually avoid fireworks displays, except at a safe distance, and when the big down town stores blossom out with Fourth of July decorations I pass by on the other side.

"I wasn't so easily scared when you first knew me. That's true. May be I can explain how the scare developed in me. One day while tramping along over a dusty road in Connecticut—there being no stage line to my destination—I was overtaken by a jolly young chap who was driving such a wagon as cigar and candy peddlers in New England affect. He gave me a lift and put the whip to his horses. He went at a hot pace and puffed away at a cigar from my case. I enjoyed my smoke, too—that is, until we reached the village. Then the driver tossed his stump in the road and said:—

"'Young fellow, fig that cheroot. You're riding on a powder wagon, and the boss would bounce me if he caught us smoking. I'm used to taking chances; wasn't born to be blown up.'

"The very next day an explosion shook the country. A powder plant went up in the twinkling of an eye, and that careless driver—well, he was too widely scattered to need a funeral.

"I was rattle brained when I made my first trip to the mining regions now famous as the Lake of the Woods mineral belt. We had to pack all the supplies to our camp, and when we came to a portage I took my share of the work. I picked up a box weighing about 50 pounds and toted it half a mile. I wanted to fill my pipe, so I carelessly tumbled the box—containing canned goods for all I knew—down on the ground. Jack Brown, the foreman of the outfit, lounged back to the trail and said quietly:—

"'Drifter don't be so kittenish with that box. It's full of dynamite. Lucky for you and the lot of us that I filled it at the winter cache near Rat Portage, and its frozen.'

"I didn't talk above a whisper during the rest of the trip. The next summer I went to the mine and did my turn on one of the drifts. One day I proposed a fishing trip. Mike, the day engineer, laid off and went with me in our canoe. The pickerel didn't show up to suit Mike. So, paddling to a rock entirely bare of vegetation he stretched himself, and said:—

"'Now, Mr. Drifter, I'll show you how to catch fish.' He had a dynamite cartridge in a bottle. He inserted a fuse, packed the dangerous stuff tightly in the neck of the bottle and said, 'I'll touch this off, toss it in the lake and heaven help the fishes.' I argued against such unsportsmanlike slaughter, and Mike got rattled. We were standing on a naked rock. Mike's foot slipped, that infernal bottle dropped from his hand, and we—

"No, we were not blown to kingdom come, for Mike just grabbed the bottle an inch or so from the rock. He threw it out to the lake. There was a convulsion, a vast jet of water shot up in the air and hundreds of fluttering dead and dying fish lay on the surface. I couldn't have touched one to save me from hanging, and though Mike simply said, 'That was close enough,' he suggested returning to the camp, and he was the quietest man in the outfit for the next month.

"From that day to this I have been just a trifle discreet, as you might say. I don't nose around powder mills or try to investigate chemical works, and when I go back to mining the miner who tires to throw out a dynamite cartridge by the fire in our shack will get out of camp before he's a minute older if I catch him!"—New York Sun.

The Greeley Colony.

In considering the net results of Greeley colony it is first important to note that it has been thoroughly successful. It presents a striking contrast to the Fourier experiments from which it may be said to have descended. Each man prospered according to his merit, and what the community undertook to do by means of co-operation it accomplished. It cannot be said that the latter principle was applied extensively.

The capital realized from the sale of property was so largely absorbed in the construction of canals as to leave little surplus for other industrial and commercial enterprises. If one-half of this capital had been available for stores, banks and small industries, it is likely that much which was necessarily left to private initiative would have been undertaken by the colony. In that case we should find broader lessons in co-operative effort than we do now.

It is also important to note that the community owed its prosperity to its high ideal and uncompromising public spirit. There was here no common religious tie, as in the early New England colonies; no shadow of persecution such as that which bound the Mormon pioneers together in an indissoluble brotherhood. The nearest approach to this influence was the prohibition sentiment and this formed but a small part of the original plan. These cities were earnest men and women who had gone forth to make homes where they could combine industrial independence with social equality and intellectual opportunity. They were grimly determined to accomplish what they had undertaken. This spirit and this alone kept them from going to pieces during the first five years and laid the foundation for their permanent prosperity.—William E. Smythe in Atlantic.

The Vices and Virtues of Chinatown.

If you made with me a complete tour of Chinatown, visiting every place where a Chinaman dwells, when you had returned you would sum up what you had seen about as follows:—

Places where opium was smoked by Chinese in their own private apartments; about one-fourth of the whole.

Places where opium was sold to white visitors who smoke and slept on the premises, and which is commonly called an "opium joint" possibly three in your whole tour.

Places where gambling was in progress; about one-twentieth of the whole. Places where men were pursuing the ordinary vocations of life; nearly three-fourths.—"The Chinese of New York," by Helen F. Clark in the Century.

Everybody Should.

Satan—Sonny, what kind of a boy were you on earth?

Sonny—An office boy.

Satan (opening the gate)—Come right along, sonny, there are lots of people who will be tickled to death to know you are here.

His Modest Request.

Ragged Reube—Can I care to ask yer for alms, fair lady. No, I merely seeks de aid of yer skillful needle. May I rely on yer assistance?

Housewife—Certainly, my poor man. What can I do for you with my needle?

Ragged Reube—I has here a button, mum, and I hopes yo will be kind enough to sew a shirt on it for me.—New York Sunday Journal.

Not In His Business.

"Here are the eggs, mum."

"Lay them on the table."

"I'm not the hen, mum. I'm the grocer's boy."—Yonkers Statesman.

Development.

"When I was young," said Jagsby, "folks used to say I was a caution. Now they refer to me as a warning."—New York Journal.

Thankful.

I remember, I remember
That when I was a boy
My father used a shingle broad
To stroke his willful boy,
And now when's er I look around
And see the changes great
I'm glad that they used shingles then
Instead of using slate.

—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The Week's Commercial Summary.

The stocks of wheat at Toronto are 189,978 bushels as against 30,033 bushels a year ago.

The earnings of the Grand Trunk Railway for the week ended April 21 were $348,265, an increase of $6,779.

Stocks of wheat at Fort William and Port Arthur are 3,882,666 bushels as compared with 3,436,224 bushels a year ago.

There has been some improvement in cotton securities since the changes in the tariff have been announced. Dominion cotton has, however, re-acted some from the best prices.

The visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada decreased 778,000 bushels last week, and the total is now 36,201,000 as compared with 57,946,000 bushels a year ago. The amount afloat to Europe increased 800,000 bushels and the total is 17,520,000 bushels as against 27,680,000 bushels a year ago. The visible and amount afloat combined aggregate 23,721,000 bushels, which is nearly 30,000,000 bushels less than a year ago.

The note circulation of Canadian banks increased slightly during the month of March, and the total is $31,083,500, which is about half a million in excess of a year ago. Deposits on demand increased over $2,300,000 last month and the total is $67,455,000. Time deposits are practically unchanged at $126,191,000. The discounts of Canadian banks are heavy; the total at the end of March being $213,232,000, an increase of $5,500,000 for the month. Over due debts are $8,869,000. Cash assets show an increase. Species held now amounts to $8,847,000, and Dominion notes $16,956,000. The amount due our banks by agents in Great Britain is $7,965,000, and the amount due from United States is $15,284,000. Railway securities held amount to over $12,500,000.

The Strangest Books.

The first anthology was a collection of Greek poems, epigrams and other small pieces by Archilochus, Sappho Simonides, Melenger, Plato and others, between 680 and 95 B.C.

In 1471 a French bacon offered a pledge of 10 marks of silver that a copy of Avicenna, which he desired to read, could be returned, and even with this security, equal in our money to over $60, his request was refused.

It is asserted by typographical authorities that the first Bible printed in America was "John Eliot's Indian Bible," in 1663. The language into which this Bible translated is extinct, and it is said only one or two persons are able to read it.

The "Book of Common Prayer" was prepared by the command of Henry VIII., in 1540. It underwent several revisions, but the second, made in the reign of Edward VI., very nearly approaches the prayer book as used to-day in the Church of England. The prayer for the royal family was introduced by James I.

Most of the chapters of Livy, as well as some of the entire compositions of Cicero and other ancient authors, have been recovered from the palimpsests, the original writing having been partially effaced in order that the monkish transcribers might use the parchment for their homilies.

The largest work on one subject is the "Acta Sanctorum," or "Deeds of the Saints," most commonly called "Lives of the Saints." It was begun by the Bollandists, a community of the Society of Jesus. The first volume was completed in 1643, and sixty-nine volumes have altogether been issued. Other volumes are still in preparation.

"The Gold and Silver Gospels" is the name of a very peculiar book now preserved in the Upsala Library, in Sweden. It is printed with metal type, on violet colored vellum, the letters being silver and the initials gold. When it was printed, by whom or what were the methods employed are questions which have great interest for the curious, but have never been answered.

TWO MONTANA EDITORS.

Have a Fraternal Time Together and Go in for a Brotherly Shave.

In attendance upon the recent inaugural ball at Helena, Mon., was E. H. Becker of the Billings Gazette and A. K. Yerkes of the Bozeman Chronicle, two men who would reflect credit upon journalism anywhere. They roomed together. During the evening of the ball Orpheus P. Goddard was sent out to buy some white necktie, but returned with the information that, while he found a store open, the proprietor could not sell him a thing, as it was after hours and he was afraid of a boycott.

This announcement caused more or less defamation, especially when Goddard pulled out a necktie and quietly remarked that he took it when the proprietor wasn't looking and would pay him for it in the morning. It was not until Goddard had fished out two more, similarly abstracted from the store, that Becker agreed to attend the ball. Then he discovered that he needed a shave.

"Oh, that's all right," said Yerkes. "I have a safety with me, and I'll give you a shave that'll make you think I ought to have been a barber."

"What in the name of heaven is a safety?" said Becker.

"Never you mind," said Yerkes. "