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THE MARKDALE STANDARD

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 1908

PROVINCIAL CONSTABULARY SYSTEM.

The announcement that the Whitney Government is contemplating the formation of a new and comprehenside provincial constabulary system will be welcome news to Ontario generally. It has long been felt that such a system was urgently needed, and that a number of bloody crimes had been committed and had gone unpunished for lack of it. As matters stand now there is no comprehensive system of police communication between the police of adjoining municipalities, with the result that criminals have plenty of opportunity for escape and for moving about undetected. Ontario has now grown to such an extent that it is high time some net-work of police was devised which would be almost sure to enmesh offenders against the law with no loss of time. There should be a number of mounted men also embodied in the system for mounted police are invaluable in the detection of criminals and the prevention of crime. Recommendations have been placed before the Attorney-General by the officers of his department for the abolition of the system of paying constables by fee, and the substitution of a regular force of paid constables. The establishment of regular patrols throughout the more thickly populated districts of the Province has also been recommended. Regulation of automobile traffic would be an important part of their duties.

Another excellent aid in the police system would be the newspapers. Every year more and more people are taking papers, and if, whenever possible, the police authorities would send out detailed descriptions and pictures of the criminals for publication in the press it would make escape well nigh impossible.

HOLLAND COUNCIL.

Council met on Thursday, July 9, for transaction of township business.

Present, all the members.

The reeve reported favorably on condition of the collector's sureties. Report adopted.

The Board of Health presented a report recommending payment of several accounts amounting in all to $25.43. Accounts paid.

W. J. Jackson presented petition of himself and 30 others asking a grant to improve sideroad between con. 2 E.G.R. and con. 2 W.T.S.R. and offering to perform gratis work equivalent to the amount. Commissioner for ward 4 was instructed to expend an amount equal to that given by petitioners.

The following persons were exempt from performance of Statute Labor for 1908: M. Dillan, Ruth King, Elizabeth Hannah and Sidney Burnside.

On application of R. McKay a grant of $10.00 was made to improve road opposite lot 38 con. 2. The commissioner promised to expend a like amount from his ward appropriation.

The commissioner for ward 2 was instructed to do one day's grading on sideroad 18, con. 12.

Orders were issued on Treasurer, principally for road work and gravel bills, amounting to $948.70.

Council meets again on Monday, the 10th August.

James P. Hare, Clerk.

LIBBY PRISON DIARRHOEA RELIEVED.

Mr. Edward E. Henry, with the United States Express Company, Chicago, writes: "Our General Superintendent, Mr. Quick, handed me a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy some time ago to check an attack of the old Libby Prison Diarrhoea. I have used it since that time and cured many on our trains who have been sick. I am an old soldier who served with Rutherford B. Hayes and William McKinley four years in the 23rd Ohio Regiment, and have no ailment except Libby Prison diarrhoea, which this remedy stops at once." For sale by R. L. Stephens.

RUSE WAS SUCCESSFUL

SOUTH AFRICAN FARMER PLANTED DIAMONDS.

When Engineers Found Pocket the Price of His Farm Soared Until He Got $150,000 For It—Then He Slipped Away and Left the Company Looking For More of the Brilliant Stones.

A few years ago a man purchased a small farm in an adjacent colony of Johannesburg, and built himself a nice house and stables on the property. He did very little in the farming line, but as he was supposed to be rich, people assumed he had only gone in for farming for his own amusement. But if he was rich enough to play at farming, it did not concern his neighbors.

This farmer had a small parcel of rough and uncut diamonds which he had brought with him, and whether from anxiety for their safety or his own, he buried them on his farm, carefully locating the spot. After they had been hidden a year or more, a bright thought struck him. What was the use of going in for farming unless he had a good water supply? Of course he must have water, and that at once.

Accordingly he started next day for Johannesburg, and consulted a firm of eminent engineers, and they agreed to send out a man with the necessary apparatus and machinery and start boring at once. The man duly arrived, fixed his gear up, and set to work on the spot indicated by the farmer as the one on which he was most likely to be successful.

On the second day he was astonished on withdrawing his tube to find several diamonds. The next day the same thing occurred—a few more diamonds. These he carefully pocketed, never mentioning the matter to the farmer. On the Saturday he had to return to Johannesburg, and showed his find to his employers. They were equally astonished, and told the man not to open his mouth about the discovery he had made until such time as they could have them thoroughly tested, meanwhile rewarding him with an extra $25 for his smartness.

Now during the engineer's visit to Johannesburg the farmer must also have been busy, for the man found a few more stones the next day he resumed work, and these he also took to town the next Saturday and handed them over to his employers, who informed him that the stones had been declared by experts to be undoubted diamonds and of the best quality. He was again cautioned to remain dumb until such time as his employers were prepared to move in the matter.

Under the pretence of seeing how the water-boring operations were progressing, one of the partners proceeded to the farm, and, in company with the farmer, went to inspect the work. Everything appearing satisfactory, they left, the farmer invited the gentleman to his house, and over a drink and a smoke they began speaking of farms, and what a drawback a short water supply was to farming operations.

"Now, look here," said the gentleman, "I have a fancy to go in for farming myself, and I have taken quite a liking to your place. Do you wish to sell?" "To tell you the truth," said the farmer, "I don't understand much about the business myself, but I have taken a great liking to this place, and so has my wife; then it is convenient to the town for the children going to school, and I was thinking of going in for fruit-raising, and I know it would break my wife's heart to leave this lovely place. No, I don't think I will part with the place."

So the matter ended for the moment, and the gentleman returned to town to think over a plan for purchasing the farm, the farmer no doubt chuckling to himself at the success of his scheme. Meantime the diamonds had been shown round Johannesburg, and attracted great attention, the gentleman keeping it a profound secret whereabout the farm lay. During the week he got a number of his friends and some financiers to guarantee $250,000 for the purchase of the farm, but the farmer to be paid the smallest possible sum he would accept.

Together with one of his friends he again visited the farm, and again critically examined the work in progress, and after carefully inspecting all over the estate, expressed his opinion to the farmer that he did not think they would be successful in finding water, at any rate on that particular spot where they had been at work, and suggested trying another place.

"No," said the farmer, "if you do not find water there I will give it up as a bad job; this experiment will cost me quite enough as it is."

Here the offer to purchase was renewed, but the farmer would not hear of $100,000. "Well," said the financier, "would $125,000 be an inducement? You know there are no minerals or anything else on your farm, and $125,000 is a big price." "I never said there was anything on my farm," said the farmer, "but I will consult my wife about selling, and let you know." "Very well," said they, "just think the matter over; but you must give us a decided answer this day week, as we have another farm in view, and the price is much less."

The farmer promised to do so, and his visitors departed. A few days after he called upon the engineers and paid the expenses of his unsuccessful boring experiment. He then said he had talked the matter over fully with his wife, and he was prepared to sell if he got $150,000, but not for a cent less. The gentleman asked to be allowed an hour to consult his friends and see if he could raise that amount.

On his return to the office he found the farmer waiting for him, and he explained to him if he would bring in his title-deeds next day he would take him to his solicitors and complete the sale.

"Oh," said the 'cute farmer, "here they are," pulling the documents from his inner pocket. "We can settle the whole affair now; it will save me coming to Johannesburg again over the matter."

The two proceeded to one of the best-known legal firms in South Africa, the contract was drawn up, duly signed by both contracting parties, witnessed, stamped, and sealed, the title-deeds of the farm handed over to the solicitors, who had to add a clause to the agreement "that in the event of minerals, diamonds, etc., being found on his farm, the seller was to receive an additional bonus of 10 per cent. per annum" on the purchase over.

A check for $150,000 was drawn and handed to the farmer, who departed, assuming a very sad expression of countenance at the loss of his beloved farm. The little syndicate quickly floated a limited liability company with a capital of $1,250,000, which was taken up several times over by the public. The "mine" has been working now for over two years. They are still boring.

A CREEPY STORY.

Weird Tales Told by Occupants of Haunted House.

A creepy story of a haunted country house has come to light, the circumstances of which are to be investigated by the Psychical Research Society. The house was taken over for a fortnight by a party of wealthy London people. After they had been in the house a week concerts in the form of violent bell ringing commenced and continued until the occupants left. On one occasion a visible hand was seen to pull the bell, but it was not the hand of any human person in the house. At dinner time the concerts began with a violent peal, involving at least four bells, and this was continued at short intervals for quite an hour and a half. The whole household was so upset by the disturbances that it was found necessary to move the children from one room to another where they were at a great distance from the disturbances. The bells rang out at midnight, and pealed for two hours on one or two occasions.

The occupants of the house saw the bell-pulls in the room swaying, heard the tug of the wire in the wall, and from the movements of the handles could tell beforehand which bell was rung. The bells hung in a long row in the kitchen. They would sometimes sway without actually ringing. It was found that it took a violent tug to make the drawing-room bell ring in the ordinary way, yet the sound of it was clear enough when it rang without being touched. The morning after the house was vacated the bells began ringing quite early. The lady who took the house adds the amazing fact that since their departure the bell-ringing has ceased. "It almost looks as if whoever or whatever it was that rang the bells," she says, "was very anxious to get rid of us from the house. More especially did the peal of the bells on the morning we left seem to indicate this. I may mention that for the last three or four years I have been in the habit of taking country houses for short periods, and always, though exactly the same party has been gathered together, we have never before been troubled by anything of the kind.

Debate on Vivisection.

The debate, as a means of public education, which has been employed with so much effect in the campaign for and against Socialism, was turned to a new use when vivisectionists and anti-vivisectionists met in Hanover square recently, and discussed the right of man to use living animals for experimental scientific purposes. Dr. Starling, who spoke in favor of vivisection, maintained that the rights of animals exist only in subordination to the necessities of man. In practice, he stated, we claim an unlimited right to use animals. He mentioned that 42,000 mice were inoculated with cancer last year, and that 31,000 human beings died morally of the disease in England. Miss Lind, of Hageby, in reply maintained that ethical considerations forbade the infliction of suffering upon animals, which are only humble links in the chain of evolution to which human beings belong. She asserted that gross cruelty was practised in the laboratory.

The King Laughed.

A curious court story went the rounds some little time ago about a lovely foreigner, one of whose verbal slips gave King Edward occasion for a hearty laugh. A very lively personage with a delightful accent, she made such a favorable impression upon the King that he asked her to be his partner at bridge. "But, sir," she said, "I really don't know how to play." The King would take no denial, however, and she became rather embarrassed. "I assure you, sir," she said, "I could not think of playing, for I don't know the difference between a king and a knave." There was an awkward silence, and then she realized what she had said and was overwhelmed with confusion. The King, of course, laughed it off, and now tells the story with gusto.

The National Flag.

An official statement has been issued by the Home Office to the effect that the national flag is the Union Jack, and that all British subjects are entitled to display it freely. The statement is intended to set at rest the doubts and queries which have arisen from time to time as to what the national flag really is, the red ensign and other forms of the flag having been suggested as proper for general use by citizens of the Empire. All such suggestions are hereby null and void.

Hear one side and you will be in the dark. Hear both sides and all will be clear.—Halliburton.

NUDE STATUARY

Shocks the Sensibilities of National Vigilance Association.

When the boardings were recently removed from the sculptures on the new British Medical Association building, the Strand and Agar street, passers-by gasped and immediately reported the matter to W. A. Coote, secretary of the Nation Vigilance Association. He took a look at the offending nude statues and informed the police, who at once ordered canvas screens to be put up until the responsible heads of the Medical Association could be communicated with.

"In no other city in Europe," declared the secretary of the N. V. A., are figures in sculpture of the nature shown on the building in the Strand thrust upon the public gaze. If photographs of the statues were sold in the public streets or exposed for sale in any shop, proceedings would at once be taken. We intend, unless the offending figures are removed, to take action and see whether or not the law is strong enough to deal with such a display."

Said Guy Elliston, secretary of the British Medical Association: "I cannot see anything objectionable in the statuary. Nude figures in themselves constitute no harm. If they were on the ground level, and could be mutilated by ribald people, it would be different. But they are fifty feet from the ground. When a police officer came to me concerning one of the figures on the Strand side, I went to see it. I failed to notice anything wrong, suggestive, or indecent."

George Frampton, R.A., the famous sculptor, said: "I should think the objection is in the suggestion put into the figures by the minds of the persons who complain. There is nothing objectionable in the trade. The indecency is in the minds of the people who are looking at the figures. Many nude figures, some of them in beautiful groups, appear on our public buildings. So long as there is no suggestiveness — why should they be termed indecent?"

Walter Crane, the well-known artist, took a similar view: "I have not seen the statues, and do not know who the sculptor is, and I can, therefore, express no opinion on their artistic merit. So far, however, as the principle involved is concerned, I am entirely in favor of frank sex representation in art."

Ceylon's Land-Leech

It is nearly always the case that exceedingly beautiful countries are overrun by different kinds of pests. Beautiful Ceylon has mosquitoes, said to be the most adroit and audacious in the world, and snakes, and a thousand more plagues of poor human beings, but the worst of them all is a species of leech. The Ceylon land-leech is a thin creature about two inches long, and very nimble and flexible; it will crawl up a man's leg, and traveling underneath the clothing, will climb as high as the chest. They do not crawl like the innocent leech that was known to medicine, but rear themselves up on their tail to watch for prey and walk off to attack it with amazing rapidity. In walking through the jungle hosts of them may be seen by the roadside, where they wait to victimize cattle. Horses, it is said, are driven half wild by them, as also are palanquin-bearers and coolies, whose bare legs are their favorite resort, the men's hands being too engaged to pull them off. The leeches may be seen hanging round their ankles, from which tiny trickles of blood run over the foot.

The Bajus of Borneo

Kina Balu, the highest mountain in Borneo, rises nearly 14,000 feet above the sea level. Among the tribes to be found on the mountain are a very strange race of people called the Bajus. They trade in camphor, wax, gutta-percha, and india-rubber. The great source of their wealth is, however, the edible birds' nests, beloved by Chinese gourmets. One of the most peculiar of their customs is the christening of a child. A feather is inserted up the baby's nostril, to tickle it; if it sneezes it is a good sign, but if not the ceremony is put off until another day. One of their most inhuman customs is that when their women are dying they are taken to the woods, and left in a hastily built hut, where only the meanest of their slaves may wait on them.

Eucharistic Congress.

Following the Pan-Anglican, another great congress is to assemble in London this summer. This is the Eucharistic Congress, which was first held at Avignon in 1882. It will be the greatest gathering of Roman Catholic ecclesiastics ever seen in England. The Duke of Norfolk is president of the reception committee, which is making preparations to provide suitable accommodations for the large number of clergy who will attend. There will be present several cardinals from the United States, Rome, Spain, Germany, France, Belgium and other countries. The special preacher at Westminster Cathedral will be Cardinal Gibbons.

Dawn on the Prairies.

While we ate the eastern sky lightened. The mountains under the dawn looked like silhouettes cut from slate colored paper. Those in the west showed faintly luminous. Objects about us became dimly visible. We could make out the windmill and the adobe of the ranch houses and the corrals. The cowboys arose one by one, dropped their plates into the dishpan and began to hunt out their ropes. Everything was obscure and mysterious in the faint gray light. I watched Windy Bill near his tarpaulin. He stooped to throw over the canvas. When he bent it was before daylight; when he straightened his back daylight had come. It was just like that, as though some one had reached out his hand to turn on the illumination of the world. —Stewart Edward White in Outing Magazine.