

**BORN.**  
Mrs. J. H. ...  
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**The Acton Free Press,**  
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 10, 1903  
NOTES AND COMMENTS.

One of the four Toronto robbers, who have been committed for trial, has now been brought to the city. While this is no cause for rejoicing, it is a warning to the public that the lack of a means of livelihood is a strong temptation to crime.

The Central Farmers' Institute brought its proceedings to a close on Thursday, after passing resolutions favoring free trade with Great Britain and the teaching of agriculture in the schools, and asserting that it believed there was no pleuro-pneumonia in Canada; that the duty on corn should be abolished, and that a uniform duty should be placed on all pork coming from the United States.

A bill just passed by the United States Senate prohibits the use of hand brakes of old style on passenger cars, and on January 1, 1903. This legislation will force the railways to have more regard for the lives of brakemen and yardmen. The one defect of the legislation just enacted is that it provides for the hasty extermination of cars that should have been abolished years ago. Still the act is a step in advance, and the Canadian roads will probably find it cheaper to apply its provisions to Canada than to have their cars stopped at the boundary.

Blatant report says—Prison generally are firm in Ontario and the outlook for spring trade is good. Mercantile collections have been more promptly met than expected. In the Province of Quebec boots and shoes and leather are more active, although travellers are sending in fair spring orders for dry goods. Collections are not generally prompt. Bank collections at Toronto, Montreal, Hamilton and Halifax aggregate \$10,200,000 this week, 19 per cent more than last week, or 15 per cent more than in the like week one year ago. There were 45 business failures in the Dominion of Canada as compared with 54 last week, 69 in the like week of 1902.

Queen Victoria, "going to send a number of paintings," to the Chicago Fair, some of which will come from the walls of the private dining room of Windsor Castle. The pictures will include a water color of her Indian secretary, one of her favorite dogs, and some Balmoral sketches. She will also send a sketch which she worked also "with her own hands" from a piece of crape. Princess Louise and Princess Beatrice will also send pictures, while Princess Christy will send some pictures of needlework, in this case "executed with the most consummate skill and industry."

The announcement made at Ottawa last week that the Government intended revoking the voters' lists this year is countered by many to mean only one thing, and that is that the country will soon be in the throes of another general election. There will probably be no other such revocations. House after this one, so we may look to see the fight come on about a year from next June. The signs in the political sky indicate that there will be a good many changes in the position of affairs before then. The Democrats will have a strong office and the Dominion Government will have trimmed its sails to the breeze as usual.

The "White City," as the World's Fair grounds and buildings are termed, has the equipment of a model municipality. It has a combined water capacity of 50,000, 600 gallons a day, and will soon have 100,000,000. It has 25 miles of water mains and 221 hydrants. A hundred more will be provided. There are 3 steam fire engines, 4 chemical engines, a ladder truck, water tower, 10 hose carts, 25,750 feet of hose, 1,600 hand fire extinguishers, 2,500 fire pails, a steam fire boat, 55 firemen, 100 alarm boxes, 120 patrol telephones, 500 gas lamps, complete electric light and sewerage systems, etc. By the time the time the Fair opens many of these facilities and equipments will be greatly increased and perfected.

"What, in your opinion, is the effect of the liquor traffic as at present conducted?" is one of the crucial questions asked by Mr. Foster's Royal Commission. The Government report for the last fiscal year furnishes a partial answer. It shows that the sort of liquor traffic during the year for consumption were valued at \$1,613,700, the small imported, \$507,338, a total of over two million dollars sent out of the country by Canadian liquor drinkers for that which, when consumed, led nothing of value but on the contrary, had injured the community. If our politicians desired to build up a country, what better could they do as a preliminary step than to stop such a leak by the enactment of prohibition.—Windsor.

The House Bill was introduced in the British House of Commons on Monday by Mr. Gladstone in a masterly speech. In his great speech he did himself justice and the empire took upon him with pride for his statesmanlike presentation upon this great question and his unqualified faith in it as a national duty. The central provision of the bill, which all the others take positions of support or opposition, is that British members will have seats in the British Parliament—the idea is to make the unity of Great Britain as strong as possible. The premier's special plea for the passage of the bill is that the heritage of discord may cease as soon as possible and forever. He appears to have restricted himself to an elaboration of the principle governing the measure, and to have reserved the discussion of the smaller details for a later date. The bill differs a good deal from that of 1866, and is palpably a compromise designed to quiet the House of Commons who have demanded so much, without the suggestion of Liberals who detect the weakness of the bill. Mr. Gladstone has undoubtedly tried in vain to overcome opposition from his own friends, and to remove the difficulties that criticism and close examination of the effects and intentions of the bill would have made apparent.

**OUR CAPITOL LETTER.**

The Budget Brought Down on Tuesday by the Finance Minister.  
NEWS OF THE LOBBIES.

OTTAWA, Feb. 10.—The interest of the present week was centered entirely in the budget which was presented by the Finance Minister yesterday afternoon. The budget speech took up the whole afternoon from the morning before the orders of the day, until the House rose for dinner. It was followed by the most attentive interest to the close. Mr. Foster kept the expectation of his hearers keenly aroused until the last word, but when he had closed it was found that no startling changes had been announced. He dealt in figures to show that by the going away of the sugar duties there was being done in taxes the sum of four and three-quarter millions, or ninety cents per head of the total population of the Dominion. The total saving in taxes gained by remission of duties on coffee, tea, and sugar, placed at more than five and a half millions. His estimate of expenditure, made beforehand for the year, fell four hundred thousand dollars short. That increase was due to the cost of legislation which was seven hundred thousand dollars. The increase of \$3,222,000 in the public debt of which the total now is \$241,131,000, Mr. Foster explained. Coming to the tariff, he prefaced his announcements with a long preface of disparagement of the current agitation for tariff reform. Mr. Cleveland's election, he said, was unwarrantably magnified by the leaders of the Opposition into a victory for free trade, pure and simple. The present low price of cereal products was taken advantage of by the demagogues in a propaganda throughout Canada and the United States, the result of which was to make the people of the country, he added, the Government would make no sweeping changes, but keep the old landmarks set up in 1879 well in sight. The Finance Minister then announced the reduction of duty on binder twine from 25 per cent to 15 per cent, and the abolition of the transportation tax on oil, which amount to about two cents per gallon. Coal oil may now be imported in bulk in tanks, and the total tax on it is a duty of seven and one-half cents per gallon. Mr. Foster also announced that mining machinery, the free entry of which expires next month, will be placed on the free list for three years more.

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Mrs. Mary Kitt, of Carleton township, is dead at the great age of 102 years.  
William Tower was killed while coasting at St. John's, N.B., on Saturday night.  
The Queen's speech was approved in the British house of commons on Saturday.  
William Waldorf Astor proposes to bring a party of English noblemen to the World's Fair, to an exhibit of Canadian cattle at Chicago.  
Terrible poverty conditions in Chicago where 3,500 families are being fed by charity.  
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Winnipeg capitalists are organizing a stock company to manufacture binding twine there.  
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**A GUELPH MAN SUICIDES.**

While an inmate of the Provincial Penitentiary at Kingston.  
Kingston, Feb. 10.—A shocking scene was enacted at the Kingston penitentiary yesterday afternoon, by a prisoner named Thomas Kenny, of Guelph, cutting his throat with a bread-knife. He died an hour afterwards, suffering great pain before he expired. He was 40 years of age, and sentenced to the penitentiary on Dec. 19, 1890, to serve ten years, having been found guilty of stealing. He was serving his fourth term, and was made a criminal through his fondness for liquor. In the penitentiary he was a quiet, easy-going inmate, his conduct was good, and the officials had no trouble with him.

**ANCIENT ORDER OF FORESTERS.**  
At the last regular meeting of Court Star, 7874 A. O. F., nine propositions were received and six persons initiated into the Order. With a number of propositions already received for next meeting, Monday, Feb. 23, it is fair to shortly become one of the strongest and most popular lodges in town.  
It is a benevolent society, having courts established throughout the world and claims to be the oldest and strongest society of its kind in the world.  
Should a member fall sick he is entitled to sick benefits so long as he remains in the Order, or if a member's wife dies, the family receives funeral benefits.  
Any member wishing to take out a policy in the life department may do so by passing a medical examination at a very reasonable premium. As there is a large reserve fund, it is a first-class investment and absolutely safe.  
Special rates for one more meeting, after which the charter rates will be reduced. For particulars apply to.  
A. E. NICKLAV, Sec.

The *Charitavon* for March presents the following table of contents: The *Flora* in Art, by Eugene Paterson; Exhibits of the Nations, by Richard Lee Fearn; Very Laws, by President Henry Wade Rogers; The Influence of the Greeks on the English Language, by Professor F. A. March; Sunday Readings, selected by Bishop Vincent; Scientific Phases of Mining, by Albert Williams Jr.; The Navy of the United States, by E. W. Raymond; Boston Ideas for the Last Six Months, by the Rev. Addison P. Foster, D.D.; A Romantic Career—Laurence Oliphant, by W. H. Whitford, D.D.; The Evolution of a Summer Town, by George E. Vincent; A Little American Republic, by Captain George P. Scripps, U.S.A.; Utrecht-Farming, by Marcus Benjamin, Ph.D.; Methods of Teaching a Primary Sunday School Class, by Mrs. James B. Ostrander; Southern Women at Home, by Olive Ruth Jefferson; What Paris is to do, by Irene Hale; "Wood" and "Marbled" Art, by Anna Churchill Carey; A New Departure in Dogs, by Francis E. Russell; The Mother of Napoleon, and other interesting features. The editorial treat of Some Illustrations, Southern Manufacturing Centers, The Catholic Alibi, These are the usual department devoted to the *Charitavon* Literary and Scientific Circle.

**THE PRESS GALLERY.**  
The annual meeting of the parliamentary press gallery was held Saturday, when the officers for this year were elected as follows: President, Mr. Fred Cook, Toronto *Express*; Vice-president, Mr. A. J. Magern, Toronto *Globe*; Secretary, Mr. W. J. Healy, Toronto *Mail*; Executive committee, Messrs. R. A. Payne, St. John *Star*; J. A. Phillips, Toronto *World*; E. M. McLeod, Ottawa *Citizen*; Fred G. M. Williams, Montreal *Herald*; and J. D. Clark, Brantford *Advertiser*. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. T. P. Gorman, editor of the *Free Press*, the retiring president of the gallery, and it was resolved to hold the annual banquet in two or three weeks.

**THE JURY ON SOFT COALS.**  
Mr. John Wallie, ex-M.P., for Halifax, who is in the city to press upon the government the desirability of taking the duty off soft coals that Canadian steamers trading in the West Indies are compelled to pay 60 cents per ton for fuel which they consume while the same vessel can trade from a Canadian port to an American port and have its coal free of duty. This, he says, is discriminating against the Canadian flag and is in favor of trade to American or foreign ports.

**THE FRANCHISE TO BE REVISED.**  
That there will be a revision of the franchise this year was settled on Friday last, when the Government made an announcement to that effect. Meanwhile a *Compromis* bill to amend the Franchise Act, looking towards greater simplicity and economy, will be put through the House, which can be done in ample time for a revision this year. A revision has not taken place since 1891. The next general election will no doubt be fought out on the lists to be revised this year, and both parties may be expected to do their best to have the lists as favorable as possible to their particular view.

**THE DISBURSEMENT ACCOUNTS.**  
When the common estimates were being considered last week, Speaker White made a statement in reference to the recent trouble in the accountant's office. He said that when the accounts were sent to the auditor-general, that official made the discovery that there was a shortage of over \$2,000. He (the speaker) had made an immediate investigation and found that both the accountant and his assistant had been taking money which belonged to the public. He suspended both officials and after further investigation, had discharged them. The total amount of the shortage was \$2,059. The statement that members had withdrawn their indemnity and that they had used their influence over the accountant to secure money to which they were not entitled was untrue. So far as the investigation went, he had no reason to believe that any members of parliament were involved in the shortage. There was only one case where there was any suspicion of such action and it had been proved to be baseless. The amount of the shortage had been made good by the guarantee company and the state suffered no loss.

**LECTURE ON SCHOOL QUESTION.**  
A pretty well-defined rumor is current this evening that the French members have determined upon a system of obstruction to the progress of the estimates of Sir John Thompson shall declare the exact position of the Government upon the Manitoba school question. Their course is said to be well mapped out, and considerable trouble is expected to arise therefrom. The Premier's determination to refer the matter to the Supreme Court is most unsatisfactory to the French Liberals as well as to some others.

**ALREADY IN ACTION.**  
Although Mr. Tarte took his seat in the House only yesterday afternoon, he has a notice on the order paper already. It is for copies of the correspondence between Sir John Thompson and Judge Bessé, of the Court of Queen's Bench of Quebec, re-

**THE TRADER'S BANK.**  
Elsewhere in today's issue of the *Free Press* is presented the half yearly statement of the Trader's Bank of Canada, taken from the Government return for November 30, last. It will be seen that the deposits since last June have increased \$530,000, amounting now to \$3,190,000. The cash reserves of this institution are very strong, amounting to \$1,750,483, while the total assets amount to \$1,714,089, as against \$1,055,000 six months ago—evidence as to how the stable management and steady progress of the bank. It is highly commendable in this institution to maintain as it does a cash reserve over 50 per cent of its deposits, and it is well entitled to the public confidence which it enjoys.

**EDITOR'S TABLE.**  
PENTECOST'S BIBLE STUDIES—The International Sunday School Lessons have been issued by Dr. Pentecost's Bible Studies for 1903. The treatment of the lesson differs from that of other lesson Bibles. It does not take the lesson verse by verse, but enlarges upon the salient points. The ripe scholarship and wide experience of Dr. Pentecost admirably qualify him for such work. His sense is sufficient guarantee of the interest, spiritual and thoroughly evangelistic character of the exposition. Any teacher or student will find them very instructive and helpful. In speaking with one of our ministers the other day, he said to the writer, "I have no general comment on any library which treats the portions selected for the Sunday School lessons as thoroughly and satisfactorily as Dr. Pentecost's Bible Studies." Paper 60 cents, cloth \$1.00. *WILLIAM BRADEN WEAVER BUILDING, TORONTO.*

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Haskell's forfeit of \$1000 was covered by Gaudreau on Saturday, and a race is now started for July 22.  
President Harrison formerly accepted the credentials of the Hawaiian representatives on Saturday.  
Hon. Arthur Stanley, second son of the governor-general, is still in London that his record is good.  
Dr. Norris Green, president of the Western Union Telegraph Company, died in Louisville, Ky., Sunday.  
Miss Maggie Scott, of Marinton, a graduate of Queen's university and a missionary to China, is dead.  
An attempt was made on Friday night to burglarize the post-office in Simcoe. The night clerk awoke and scared the thief off.  
Mrs. Mary Boyer, aged 91, slipped on an icy walk in St. Catharines a few days ago and sustained injuries which caused death.  
The betrothal of Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria and the Princess Marie Louise, daughter of the Duke of Parma, is announced officially.  
Benjamin F. Plimard, of Richmond, Ind., aged 47, recently celebrated his ninth marriage. He has been divorced from each of his former wives.  
Another effort was made in Hamilton City council last night to have the number of liquor licenses reduced, but the aldermen voted the other way.  
The city of Montreal has at present two mayors, Mr. Dewar has been sworn in to fill the office, but Mr. McSheehy declines that there is a vacancy.  
Canadian apples arriving in England last week were of excellent quality and condition. Prices were higher, and the market was completely cleared.  
The railway across the Mexican Isthmus is nearly completed. It is expected will be ready for traffic within three months. The line is 250 miles long.  
The Government of New Zealand has telegraphed to the Marquis of Ripon, Secretary of State for the Colonies, protesting against the annexation of Hawaii by the United States.  
The Canadian Order of Foresters is a Fraternal Beneficial Society, incorporated in 1879 and registered under the Insurance Corporations Act, 1872, of Ontario. The objects of the Society are to furnish its members with Sick and Funeral Benefits and an insurance of one or two thousand dollars. The payments for these benefits range from about one dollar to one dollar and fifty cents per month, according to the age of the member, and the amount of the insurance carried. The membership is composed of men only, and when admitted they must be taken up with the ages of eighteen and forty-five. The present number of members is over 16,000, and the Society has a cash surplus on hand for the payment of the Insurance of over \$215,000, \$50,000 of which is in Dominion of Canada Bonds, and the balance is invested in the best monetary institutions of the Dominion. In addition to this, the local Courts have about a half a million of dollars in their treasuries for the payment of the Sick and Funeral Benefits. The High Secretary of the Society is Mr. Thomas White, of Brantford, and it is expected that a Court of the order will be organized here.  
At the annual meeting of the directors of the Industrial exhibition Tuesday the report stated that the total receipts from admissions last year amounted to \$70,175. Mr. J. J. Withrow was re-elected president.

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