

**BETTING ON THE RAIN.**

The Queerest Gambling Game in the World is Played at Calcutta.

One of the most curious forms of gambling in the world is "rain gambling," which at this season of the year is at its height in Calcutta. The principal rain gambling den is in Cotton street, Burra Bazaar.

No one who has not visited the place can have any conception of the vast crowds which at every hour of the day and far into night pass in and out.

The great majority are Mawaris, who are born speculators, but there are as well plenty of well to do Europeans, Eurasians, Jews, Armenians and Greeks, and women, too. All swarm into the small courtyard where this strange form of gambling is carried on, through a narrow entrance barely three feet wide. The courtyard is about two hundred feet square. The far-famed tank with a spout falling into the courtyard is the one spot where all eyes are fixed. The tank stands at the edge of a second floor roof. It is about six feet long by four feet wide and nine inches deep, with the spout opening inward, some three or four inches from the bottom. From this it will be seen that it requires a pretty heavy downpour for at least ten minutes to cause the spout to flow. Intermittent drizzles, which partly fill this tank, do not count, as the shower to fill it must pour down uninterruptedly, and then the bets are won or lost.

Chances are taken either for or against the spout running. A gray-haired, wizened old man is the owner of the den, and there is another similar place across the road, only smaller. On the roof, over the fifth floor, there is a small, square watch tower, in which are stationed five or six men, whose duty is to scan the horizon closely and report on the formation of rain clouds. On these reports the odds rise or fall.

A bet made and won one day is always paid the following morning. Everything seems to be "on the square," and, indeed, there is little chance for cheating. The odds range as high as 1 to 75 on some days, even in the rainy season. Many have made a fortune in a single day. One person recently won over \$5,000 in the course of a few weeks. But he worked the system on scientific methods.

**FORGOTTEN WEALTH.**

In one of the old London banks a box was recently found, containing money and valuables, which had not been opened or called for in 160 years, and which now remains without a claimant. Incidents of like sort are not infrequent in banking history, though there is no other recorded instance of a package held in trust remaining so long unexamined. Some years ago the Merchants' National Bank, of Baltimore, discovered a box containing \$10,000 in bonds of the Pennsylvania Railroad, the ownership of which could not be at first traced. The coupons for the preceding 15 years were still attached. It was finally discovered that the bonds belonged to the Hagerstown Maryland, Bank, and had been deposited as collateral.

**OUT OF THE TOILS**

Physicians Failed Cure—Alls Failed—But the Great South American Kidney Cure, a Specific Remedy for a Specific Trouble, Cured Mrs. A. E. Young of Barnston, P.Q., Quickly and Permanently.

This is her testimony: "I was taken sick in January, 1893. I employed several of the best local physicians and was treated by them for kidney disease until the autumn of the same year without receiving much benefit. I then began using your South American Kidney Cure, and derived great benefit almost immediately. I feel now that I am quite cured. I have taken no medicine for some length of time and have not had a return of the slightest symptom of the disease."

**A COMIC AFFAIR.**

Did you get a valentine this year, Miss Elderly?  
Yes I did! she snapped, and now I'm just lying low to see if I can't find out who sent it. Then she gave her hair an extra twist that brought one ear nearly to the crown of her head.

**FOR BIG EATERS.**

Dr. Agnew's Liver Pills Are a Pleasant and Safe Liver Regulator—They Stimulate Digestion, and Counteract the too Common Error of Over-Eating.

Take One After Dinner—No Inconvenience—They Act Pleasantly—40 Doses in a Vial, 20 Cents.

Never have that tired feeling if you keep your liver active, and Dr. Agnew's Liver Pills are a liver specific.

**MR. GRATEBAR TO PHILIP.**

It is unquestionably true, Philip, said Mr. Gratebar, that it is better to be a live dog than a dead lion; but that doesn't mean, Philip, that you should be satisfied to remain a dog.

**Every Woman** No. 1  
Should Enjoy Life.  
How Many do?  
Many are miserable, weak and sickly, and suffer untold miseries through ailments peculiar to their sex.  
**IT IS WRONG.** The cause of most all these ills is easily reached, and effectively removed by the great woman's medicine.  
**COMPOUND**  
MILES' (Can.) VEGETABLE COMPOUND and Miles' Sanative Wash.  
Prices 75c and 25c. They impart vitality and energy, and make the life of the "Mother Sex" worth living. For sale by all Druggists.  
Explanatory pamphlet, "Woman's Triumph," sent free on application.  
"A. M. C." MEDICINE CO.,  
378 St. Paul St., Montreal.

**WESTERN ASSURANCE CO.'Y**

**FORTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS.**

The annual meeting of shareholders of the above company was held at its offices in this city on Thursday, the 25th inst. The Hon. Geo. A. Cox, President, occupied the chair, and Mr. C. C. Foster, having been appointed to act as Secretary to the meeting, read the following annual report:—

In presenting the annual report of the business of the company for the year ending 31st December, 1896, the directors have pleasure in stating that, while there has been a falling off in the premium receipts, the revenue account shows a profit on the year's transactions of \$119,708.43. Out of this two half-yearly dividends, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, have been declared; \$5,752.38 has been written off for depreciation in securities, and the balance added to reserve fund, which now amounts to \$1,086,908.21.

Owing to the reduction in the volume of business transacted, the amount necessary to provide for running off the liability on unexpired policies is \$23,804.88 less than at the close of 1895. After making provision for this and all other liabilities, the net surplus has been increased to \$316,252.34.

The directors have pleasure in acknowledging the efficient services of the officers and agents of the company during the past year.

**SUMMARY OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT.**

Total cash income .....	\$2,336,727.93
Total expenditure, including appropriation for losses under adjustment.	2,217,019.52
Balance .....	\$ 119,708.43
Dividends on stock .....	\$ 100,000.00
Total assets .....	2,324,427.14
Reserve fund .....	1,086,908.21
Cash capital .....	1,000,000.00
Subscribed capital .....	1,000,000.00

Security to policyholders. 3,086,908.21

The annual report of the directors having been read, the President, in moving its adoption, stated that he was pleased to be able to say that the year had not been marked by any serious individual losses such as he had had to refer to at the last annual meeting. The business of the company had been carried on upon the same lines as had been followed in the past, and the results, as shown in the statements submitted, were, he thought, upon the whole, as favorable as the most sanguine shareholder could have anticipated, bearing in mind the prevailing condition of general business throughout the continent during the year 1896. The comparatively small falling off in the premium income of the company was such as might naturally have been looked for under the circumstances. An amount of \$5,752.38 had been written off for depreciation in securities, which was necessary to bring them to their market value at the close of the year, and which must be regarded as a very moderate shrinkage on total assets of upwards of two and a quarter millions. Briefly speaking, he said that the figures in the report submitted showed that while the country had done a somewhat reduced volume of business, there had been a fair margin of profit on the year's transactions—as shown in the revenue account—and, after paying the usual dividend of 10 per cent., and making allowance for depreciation in securities, there was an increase in the reserve fund of \$14,000, while the gain of close upon \$38,000 was shown in the net surplus, after making full provision to cover the liability on outstanding risks. These results, he thought, might be taken, without further comment from him, as satisfactory proof that the business was on a sound footing, and that the officers and agents of the company were conducting its affairs with due regard to the interests of shareholders, and at the same time maintaining for the "Western" the position it has long held in the estimation of the insuring public.

The Vice-President, Mr. J. J. Kenny, seconded the adoption of the report, which was carried unanimously.

The election of directors for the ensuing year was then proceeded with, and resulted in the unanimous re-election of the following gentlemen, viz., Hon. Geo. A. Cox, Hon. S. C. Wood, Messrs. Robert Beaty, G. R. R. Cockburn, George MacMurrich, H. N. Baird, W. R. Brock, J. K. Osborne and J. J. Kenny.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors, held subsequently, Hon. George A. Cox was re-elected President, and Mr. J. J. Kenny Vice-President for the ensuing year.

**MIGHT BE OVERLOOKED.**

I would not marry a woman who did not know how to cook.  
Oh, I might overlook a little thing like that, if she had money enough to pay my board.

**THE BEST REMEDY FOR CORNS**

Is Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor. Rapid, painless, its action is a marvel to all who have tried it. Fancy getting rid of painful corns in twenty-four hours. "Putnam's" does it.

Herr Zschille's collection of armor, which was exhibited at the Chicago's World's Fair, is to be sold by auction in London.

**A POPULAR C. P. R. OFFICER**

Adds His Testimony to the Merits of Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder for Catarrh and Gout in the Head—He says it is Peerless.

Mr. John McEdwards, the genial purser of the C.P.R. liner "Athabasca," says: "I used Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder for G.C. in the head. It is very effective, easy to apply, mild and pleasant. For catarrh it has no equal. I have tested nearly every catarrh cure made, and found none to compare with it. I recommend it first, last and always."

Do you know where the bad people who do not go to church go, Johnnie? My pop goes fishing.

**WHAT DR. A. E. SALTER SAYS.**

Buffalo, N.Y.—Gents:—From my personal knowledge, gained in observing the effect of your Shiloh's Cure in cases of advanced Consumption, I am prepared to say it is the most remarkable Remedy that has ever been brought to my attention. It has certainly saved many from Consumption.

**TWO MONTHS TO LIVE.**

**THAT WAS WHAT A DOCTOR TOLD MR. DAVID MOORE.**

The Remarkable Experience at One Who Was an Invalid For Years—Six Doctors Treated Him Without Benefit—He Owes His Renewed Health to Following a Friend's Advice.

From the Ottawa Journal.

Mr. David Moore is a well known and much esteemed farmer living in the county of Carleton, some six miles from the village of Richmond. Mr. Moore has been an invalid for some years, and physicians failed to agree as to his ailment. Not only this but their treatment failed to restore him to health. Mr. Moore gives the following account of his illness and eventual restoration to health. He says:—"My first sickness came on me when I was 69 years of age. Prior to that I had always been a strong healthy man. I had a bad cough and was growing weak and in bad health generally. I went to North Gower to consult a doctor, who after examining me said, 'Mr. Moore I am very sorry to tell you that your case is very serious, so much so that I doubt if you can live two months.' He said my trouble was a combination of asthma and bronchitis, and he gave me some medicine and some leaves to smoke which he said might relieve me. I took neither because I felt sure I had neither trouble he said, and that he did not understand my case. Two days later I went to Ottawa and consulted one of the most prominent physicians there. He gave a thorough examination and pronounced my ailment heart trouble, and said I was liable in my present condition to drop dead at any moment. I decided to remain in the city for some time and undergo his treatment. He wrote a few lines on a piece of paper giving my name and place of residence and trouble, to carry in my pocket in case I should die suddenly. I did not seem to be getting any better under the treatment and finally left the city determined to consult a doctor nearer home. I was again examined and the idea that I had heart disease was scouted, the doctor saying there was many a man following the plow whose heart was in a worse shape than mine. I remained under the treatment of this doctor for a long time, but got no better. Then my case was made worse by an attack of la grippe, which left behind it a terrible pain in my neck and shoulders. This became so severe that I could not raise my head from my pillow without putting my hand to it and lifting it up. I doctored on until I was trying my sixth doctor, and instead of getting better was getting worse. The last doctor I had advised me to wait until the heat of summer was over when he would blister me for the pains in my neck and shoulders, which he felt sure would relieve it. I was on my way to Richmond to undergo this blistering when I met Mr. Geo. Argue, of North Gower, who told me of the wonderful cure Dr. Williams' Pink Pills had wrought in him, and advised me strongly to try them. I went on to Richmond, but instead of going to the doctor's I bought began using them. Before I had finished my second box there was no room to doubt that they were helping me. I kept on taking the Pink Pills, and my malady, which the doctors had failed to successfully diagnose, was rapidly leaving me. The pain also left my neck and shoulders, and after a couple of months treatment I became strong and healthy. I am now in my 77th year and thank God that I am able to go about with a feeling of good health. I still continue taking the pills occasionally, feeling sure that for a person of my age they are an excellent tonic. After the failure of so much medical treatment I feel sure that nothing else than Pink Pills could have restored me to my present condition."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills create new blood, build up the nerves, and thus drive disease from the system. In hundreds of cases they have cured after all other medicines had failed, thus establishing the claim that they are a marvel among the triumphs of modern medical science. The genuine Pink Pills are sold only in boxes, bearing the full trade mark, "Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People." Protect yourself from imposition by refusing any pill that does not bear the registered trade mark around the box.

**A COMBINATION.**

I wonder why Slimson had so many kinds of cheese at his Welsh rarebit party?  
He probably believes that in union there is strength.



For the Kidneys, Liver and Urinary Organs.

The Old Reliable.

There is only one way by which any disease can be cured, and that is by removing the cause, whatever it may be. The great medical authorities of the day declare that nearly every disease is caused by deranged kidneys or liver. To restore these, therefore, is the only way by which health can be secured. Here is where

**Safe Cure**

has achieved its great reputation. It acts directly upon the kidneys and liver and by placing them in a healthy condition, drives disease and pain from the system.

Its reputation—"Twenty years of success," in four continents. Warner's Safe Cure Co., London, Rochester, Frankfurt, Melbourne, Toronto.

**Scott's Emulsion**

of Cod-liver Oil, with Hypophosphites gives immediate aid by soothing a stubborn cough and supplying tonic remedies to the weakened system. It prevents consumption by promptly curing colds and supplying the preventive power by which the system can withstand disease.

**NEURALGIA'S PERSISTENT AGONY**

Has but one source of relief. Nerviline—nerve pain cure—penetrates to the irritated nerves, soothes them into repose, and affords relief almost instantly. The whole range of medicine affords no parallel to Nerviline as a pain reliever.

Jose Echegaray, Spain's great playwright, is 64 years old. He is an engineer and a mathematician. He was once a minister of state. He has written fifty-two plays.

**THEY WORKED WONDERS.**

Two Years of Bladder Torment—Had Attacks of Inflammation—Cured by a Few Boxes of Dodd's Kidney Pills.

Owen Sound, March 1 (Special)—The people of this town are talking again of another cure credited to Dodd's Kidney Pills. This is the case of Mr. W. Cruse, caretaker of town buildings, who when seen had this to say of the matter:—"For over two years I have been an intense sufferer from kidney disease with occasional acute attacks of inflammation of the bladder." "Was under doctor's treatment and have been compelled to resort to instrumental relief many times." "I have taken eighteen boxes of Dodd's Kidney Pills and am satisfied with results being perfectly relieved of all suffering."

**TO BE PASSED OVER.**

He—Holding a girl's hand is like a preface to the book of flirtation.  
She—I never read prefaces.

Stop that Cough! Take warning. It may lead to Consumption. A 25c. bottle of Shiloh's Care may save your life.

**STEAMSHIP FOR INVALIDS.**

One of the steamship companies of England has ordered a steamship to be built for the "sole use of invalids."

**CATARRH CANNOT BE CURED**

With LOCAL APPLICATIONS, as they can not reach the seat of the disease. Catarrh is a blood or constitutional disease, and in order to cure it you must take internal remedies. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces. Hall's Catarrh Cure is not a quick medicine. It was prescribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years, and is a regular prescription. It is composed of the best tonics known, combined with the best blood purifiers, acting directly on the mucous surfaces. The perfect combination of the two ingredients is what produces such wonderful results in curing Catarrh. Send for testimonials free.

F. J. CHENEY & Co., Props., Toledo, O. Sold by druggists, price 75c.

**CANADIAN PACIFIC RY.**

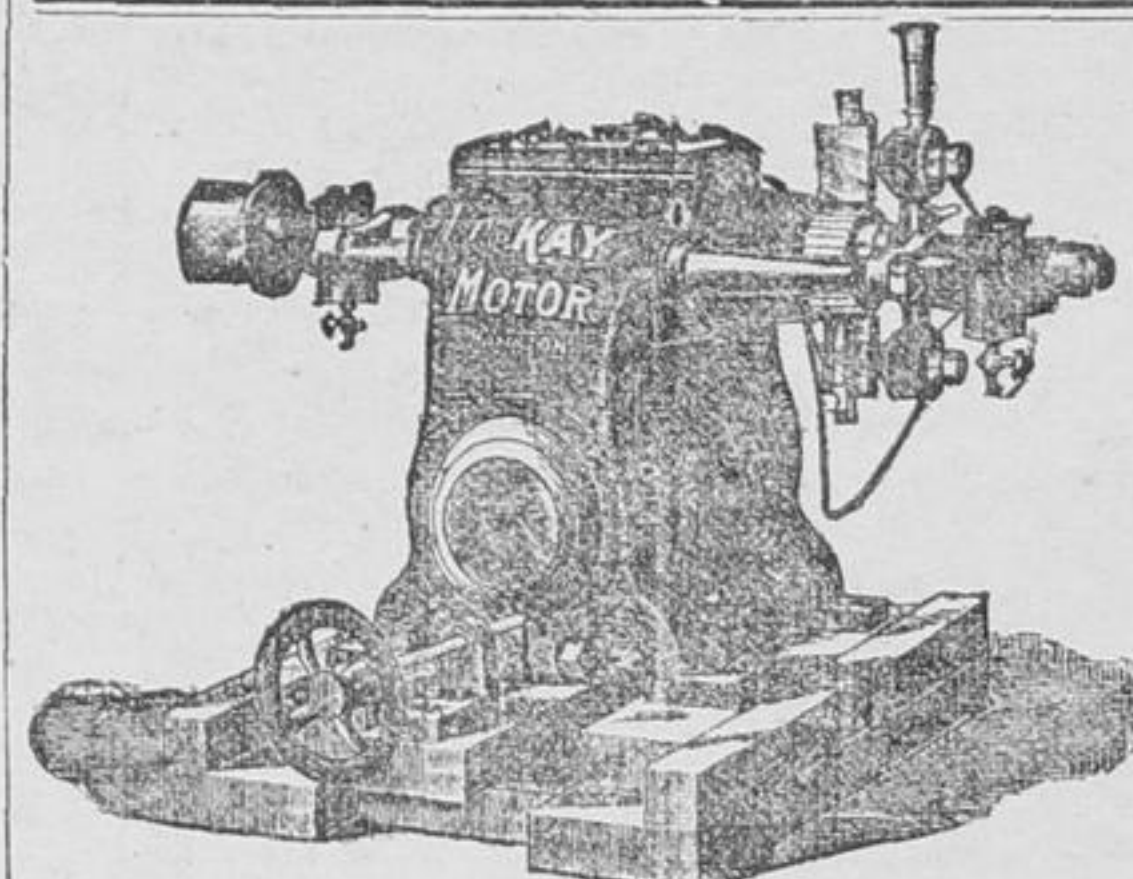
WILL RUN SETTLERS' TRAINS FROM TORONTO EVERY TUESDAY During March and April At 9:00 p.m. (Should sufficient business offer)

TO MANITOBA AND THE CANADIAN NORTH-WEST A Colonist Sleeper will be attached to Pacific Express due to leave Toronto at 12:30 p.m. (noon) on these dates. Ask or write for "SETTLERS' GUIDE."



**A NEVER FAILING REMEDY** For Weak and Inflamed Eyes, or Chronic Granulation of the Lids, Ulceration of the Glands.

Sale by all Druggists.



**DYNAMOS** FOR PLATING, POWER OR LIGHT... MOTORS.

Repairs to all makes of machines. Experimental work carried out.

**KAY Elect' Mfg Co.,** 255 James St. N., Hamilton Phone 383. 68 Adelaide St. W., Toronto Phone 1214.

**Only One Price.**

Equal in every respect to any wheel in the market. It is as good as can be made.

**ONLY ONE GRADE--The Best**



\$85.00.



73 to 81 Adelaide St. W., TORONTO