

WHAT IS INTERESTING THE PEOPLE AT THE HUB.

The Titanic Catastrophe—Dr. Nesbitt Again—Legislature Prorogued—Bilingual School Question.

Not since the days of the South African war has the city spent such sombre days as the week following the foundering of the Titanic. This, in spite of the fact that the personal touch was almost entirely lacking because with one or two exceptions Toronto citizens were not in danger. In Montreal and in Winnipeg it was different.

But the announcement of the almost inconceivable catastrophe, the days of suspense, and at last the harrowing details sobered and oppressed the whole population. In the clubs men talked and acted as though there was a funeral in the premises. Everywhere that people met little else was discussed. Even the amusement places lost much of their spontaneity and gaiety. And such evidences of feeling are not to be wondered at, for history contains few more pitiable events than the wreck of the Titanic.

DR. NESBITT AGAIN IN LIMELIGHT.

After a total eclipse of some sixteen months, Dr. Beattie Nesbitt is back in the limelight. The marvel is that he was able to keep in the background so long. For while there are many things about the rotund doctor that are difficult to understand, the one thing that is patent about his character to everyone is that he dearly loves publicity.

The doctor has always been somewhat of an enigma, even in Toronto, where he is known best. Opinions as to his ability vary all the way from that which believes him to be a genius under an unlucky star to that which dubs him as a vastly overrated mediocrity. But Nesbitt knew how to keep in the public eye. He managed to make friends among the newspaper men. He could whet curiosity by a sphinx-like silence, and could rush into print with some pronouncement just at the moment when it would get him the most attention. Some people who came in contact with him describe him as disagreeable and offensive. To others he appeared as something of a buffoon. And it must be said that many of his actions both in the past and in the present chapter of his autobiography resemble the acts of a character out of a comic opera.

THE LEGISLATURE PROROGUED.

Prorogation comes as a sort of anticlimax to the excitement of the session, this year furnishing no exception. True, a function of state it was with all the trappings. The Lieutenant Governor attended in state, which means that he wore a cocked hat, and his most brilliant uniform, and that he was attended by a military escort, and that cannons were fired, but the event was less exciting than an afternoon tea.

Most of the members of the Legislature were far away with the spring seeding and the other private affairs which have had to take pot luck during the session. It was with difficulty that a quorum could be mustered. But finally, with the Cabinet ministers, the members for Toronto, a few others who reside here and an odd one who was detained for

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64, which is practically the middle of Saskatchewan, the Province has been divided for statistical purposes into nine crop districts, as nearly as possible uniform in size. The area of these districts is 86,826,240 acres, and the crop area in them in 1911 was 8,602,455, or 9.8 per cent. of their total area. The area of arable land in the nine crop districts is estimated to be not less than 57,884,160 acres. The total area under cultivation is 13,169,235, or 15.16 per cent. of the area of the districts referred to.

In Alberta there are approximately 100,000,000 acres of arable land, and of this area about 2,250,000 acres are under cultivation and occupied by farm buildings.

There are thus immense crop possibilities, and the recent estimate that in 1920 we shall grow in Western Canada over 500,000,000 bushels of wheat, does not seem to be exaggerated. Last year more than 9,000,000 acres were sown to wheat in the West. These facts and figures show to some extent why the railroads are laying down steel as fast as labor conditions will allow.

SPRING BLOOD IS WATERY BLOOD

How to Get New Health and New Strength at This Season

Spring ailments are not imaginary. Even the most robust find the winter months most trying to their health. Confinement indoors, often in overheated and nearly always badly ventilated rooms—in the home, the office, the shop and the school—taxes the vitality of even the strongest. The blood becomes thin and watery and is clogged with impurities. Some people have headaches and a feeling of languor. Others are low-spirited and nervous. Still others are troubled with disfiguring pimples and skin eruptions, while some get up in the morning feeling just as tired as when they went to bed. These are all spring symptoms that the blood is out of order and that a medicine is needed. Many people take purgative medicines in the spring. This is a serious mistake. You cannot cure yourself with a medicine that gallops through your system and leaves you weaker still. This is all that a purgative does. What you need to give you health and strength in the spring is a tonic medicine that will enrich the blood and soothe the jangled nerves. And the one always reliable tonic and blood builder is Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. These pills not only banish spring weakness, but guard you against the more serious ailments that follow, such as anaemia, nervous debility, indigestion, rheumatism, and other diseases due to bad blood. In proof of this Mrs. Emma Duck, Carleton Place, Ont., says: "I was greatly troubled with weak spells, dizziness and extreme nervousness, and did not find anything to help me until acting on the advice of an aunt I began the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. After using five boxes I found my health fully restored, and cheerfully recommend the pills to others."

GAVE HERSELF AWAY.

Miss Five O'clock Tea—"Have you heard the latest on Alice? She goes to church so seldom that last Sunday when the contribution plate was passed, she said to the usher: 'Not any more, thank you.'"

some special reason, the legal requirements were fulfilled.

The lack of interest on the part of the members was in striking contrast to the busy days of the concluding week of actual work when the Legislature, as is the way of all Parliaments under governments of all parties forced through a month's business in six days. At the beginning of a session scant fifteen minute sittings were not uncommon. At the end the House met at ten o'clock in the morning on contentious matters being ing and continued far into the night, disshortened or eliminated by mere physical weariness.

THE CEREMONY.

Prayers over, enters the Lieutenant Governor, attended by his aides. The Lieutenant Governor symbolizes his Majesty, the King, and the moment is duly impressive. His Honor mounts the Speaker's dais. The Clerk of the House, Mr. A. H. Sydere, a veteran of many years' service, reads a list of the bills that have been passed during the session. His Honor nods assent. "In His Majesty's name," announces the Clerk, "his Honor doth assent to these bills." A similar ceremony in regard to the supply bills or votes of money for the carrying on of government takes but a moment.

Next his Honor reads the Speech from the Throne, a brief review of the more important legislation with thanks to the members for their attendance and efforts.

It is always a mystery as to who writes the Speech from the Throne. The Provincial Secretary, Hon. W. J. Hanna, is credited by some with preparing it, but a Lieutenant Governor, like Sir John Gibson, who has himself been through the mill, might write it himself, perhaps consulting with the Premier as to its contents.

Finally, the speech concluded, his Honor glances at Mr. Hanna, who announced that "it is his Honor's will and pleasure that this Legislative Assembly be prorogued, and this Legislative Assembly is accordingly prorogued."

THE BILINGUAL PROBLEM.

Of the pronouncement of Sir James Whitney on the bilingual school question there is satisfaction expressed by his supporters, while his opponents say that while his professions seem all right it is only energy and sincerity in carrying out those professions that can remedy the evil. There is no doubt that the conditions of inefficiency and consequent growing illiteracy revealed by the Government's Commission, Dr. F. W. Merchant, came as a surprise and a shock to nearly everybody. When that report is read in conjunction with the official census figures shortly to be announced, showing the increase in the French population of Ontario it will be fully realized what a tremendous educational problem the Province has on its hands.

The issue lies principally in the eastern counties and in New Ontario. In Essex and Kent, where the French colony dates back to the earliest times, the population is not increasing so rapidly, possibly because Detroit helps draw off the surplus population. But in Glengarry, Stormont, Prescott and Carleton counties there is a steady exodus of Anglo Saxons and a steady increase in French, while along the C. P. R. in Nipissing and Algoma the French settlers largely predominate in many townships. It is estimated that as compared with 150,000 in 1900, the census figures for 1910 will show 250,000 French-Canadians in Ontario. This is in marked contrast to the figures comparing the Anglo Saxon rural population of Ontario at the same dates.

200,000,000 BUSHELS.

Canada's Immense Wheat Crop Will Tax Railways.

If the bankers are able during the next few years to keep pace with the enormous growth of the Western wheat crop the railroads are still likely to have a problem upon their steel. Many thousands of miles of new track are being built this year in order to help relieve the congestion each fall in carting the crop to the seaboard. A prominent official of the Canadian Pacific Railway states that in due time that road will be double-tracked from Winnipeg to the coast to lessen the Eastern traffic. The Canadian Northern and the Grand Trunk Railways are also doing much to cope with the big crops to come—200,000,000 bushels are anticipated this fall. This is a reasonable estimate in view of the fact that, despite bad weather, 180,000,000 bushels were grown last year, although much of it was of the lower grades.

In the old portion of Manitoba there are about 47,000,000 acres of land, with 33,000,000 acres good arable land. The area under cultivation is only 6,500,000 acres. Saskatchewan has a land area of 242,332 square miles, or 155,092,480 acres, and a water area of 8,318 square miles. South of township

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(By "Investor.")

Industrial stocks have the name of being particularly unfit and unsafe for investments. Without any qualification whatever a certain type of investor blandly wipes them off the slate of investment possibilities. Of course, this sort of thing is just as foolish as the attitude of the mining stock wild-cat who generously refers to all mining shares as "investments," a thing which in the nature of things is an extremely remote possibility.

In the first place, industrial companies should be carefully classified. For my own purposes I have divided them roughly into the following:

- (1) Companies producing necessities of life, such as flour milling companies.
- (2) Companies producing requirements for our large and essential enterprises, as car factories, locomotive works, coal mining companies, etc.
- (3) Those making machines for use in agriculture, like ploughs, threshers, traction engines and, of course, the small garden tools.
- (4) Iron and steel companies and those fabricating basic iron products into other higher products, such as the Canada Foundry Company, which produces structural steel, etc.
- (5) Companies manufacturing supplies whose product is somewhat of a luxury—for example, those making plumber supplies, asbestos products (used in building), etc.
- (6) Those making semi-luxuries, breakfast foods (or fads) automobiles for pleasure (apparently the commercial motor has come to stay, and may be classed differently), bicycles, etc.
- (7) Companies making luxuries.
- (8) Companies manufacturing patent articles like safety razors, patent medicines, etc.

Now this classification is a decidedly rough-and-ready affair, which any investor can probably improve on without much trouble, but I have found it quite useful. It is arranged so that the first is the most stable, while the last is highly precarious.

Like most rules, however, this one has many exceptions, and one must necessarily look for them carefully. For example, the Shredded Wheat Company would come under (6), but it makes a product which the experience of a long period has shown to be almost as stable as flour.

In examining industrial stocks for investment or speculation one must bear in mind that there is usually a certain amount of chance involved. The company's statement will show whether or not there are any bonds outstanding. If there are it lessens the security behind the stock, but also adds a feeling of confidence, owing to the fact that to make a successful issue of bonds there must be something substantial about the company.

Another thing to note is as to whether there is too much money borrowed from the banks in the business. If this amount less bills receivable is substantial, as compared with the total value of the company's assets, it is not a good sign. In brief, one must watch everything with a jealous eye.

For the investor who wants to take a certain amount of business chance, industrial preferred shares show many attractions. They pay a high rate—usually 7 per cent. They usually sell something above par and they are more protected from the misfortunes of hard times than are the ordinary shares. The history of preferred shares in Canada has been in brief, one most satisfactory, making due allowance, of course, for the Amalgamated and Black Lake Asbestos fiascos.

There is one important point for the industrial stock investor to bear in mind, which is, that he must at all times be vigilant to watch for alterations in business conditions; for on business conditions practically alone does the success of the more precarious companies depend, while on business conditions rests part of the dividend on the common shares of—in many instances—even the most stable companies. A series of bad years may easily conspire to cut off the dividends of not a few of our soundest companies. During 1907, for example, Canadian General Electric found it necessary to cut its dividend from 10 per cent. to 7 per cent. Of course, the products of the General Electric are in some degree luxuries, which people do without during periods of trade depression.

TO SAFEGUARD POISONS.

One woman has had an inspiration and has practically put the "sting of death" upon all bottles holding poisons that for domestic reasons are required to be kept in the house. Two common pins are run sidewise through the cork, opposite each other, with the pin points extending past the heads of the pin about one-eighth of an inch. The pins give warning immediately of its deadly contents if the bottle is touched day or night, so no "taken by mistake" tragedies are apt to occur in that household. Of course, all of the members of the household are told of this safeguard, and the bottles are kept on a high shelf out of the reach of children who have not yet reached the age of understanding.

Coal-mines cannot be worked to a greater depth than 4,000 feet, because of the high temperature that prevails.

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