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TORONTO CORRESPONDENCE

INTERESTING COSSIP FROM ONTARIO'S CAPITAL.

The New Corporation Counsel—New Labor Paper—Down Town Problem—A Big Audience.

After several months' delay the City Council has decided to appoint his Worship Mayor Geary to the Corporation Counselship, made vacant by the elevation of Mr. H. L. Drayton to the chairmanship of the Dominion Railway Board. The salary is to be \$8,000 a year to begin with. This is not much advance over Mr. Geary's income as Mayor, which was \$7,500. But it has the advantage of being permanent. Besides, Mr. Geary has expressed the hope that when he makes good the salary will grow. And it doubtless will. Some aldermen who opposed Mr. Geary's appointment on the ground that he was not a big enough lawyer for the job said they would be prepared to pay \$25,000 a year to the right man. Viewed from this standpoint, it is just a question if the city will not do as well with Mr. Geary on the job as it would with some man with a made reputation at a fancy salary. He has not had much experience in legal work. But this is partly offset by his intimate knowledge of municipal affairs. Besides, he is young, energetic, diplomatic and ardently ambitious.

SOME SORENESS.

The sound criticism of the appointment is on the ground that no member of Council should be appointed to a permanent job during his term of office. In the present instance the Mayor admittedly did not give the subject disinterested consideration, and that is something the public, having elected him to the Chief Magistracy, had a right to expect from him on every issue, particularly on one as important as this one. There is a good deal of underlying soreness about this phase of the matter.

There is some surprise that Mr. Geary, by his action, has expressed a preference for his legal profession as against political life. He could have had a nomination for Parliament any time during the last five years, and with the star of the Conservative party in the ascendant he might have been expected to have had a brilliant career. And he may yet return to the political arena. Meanwhile he is to be known as G. R. Geary, K. C., Corporation Counsel.

A NEW LABOR PAPER.

The appearance of a new labor paper in Toronto is an event of importance, not so much for the immediate effect it will have in politics or in labor affairs, but because of the potentialities for the future. The editor-in-chief is Mr. James Simpson, formerly a typesetter, more recently for many years city hall reporter for one of the local dailies, and always an active labor agitator, as well as temperance lecturer and labor union preacher. He was also a member of the Board of Education for some years and was a member of the Dominion Government's Commission on Technical Education. He will likely this year be a candidate for the Board of Control.

There have been many previous attempts to establish a labor organ in Toronto, but the attempts merely served to help fill the newspaper graveyard. A paper called "The Toiler" was the last victim. There are higher hopes for the latest venture. It starts off with fairly liberal support in the way of stock subscriptions from labor organizations and individuals, so that it is assured of sufficient capital to give it a chance to get on its feet. To prevent control of the publication falling into the hands of any individual or organization, or even group, the number of shares permitted to any one subscriber is strictly limited.

It has yet to be demonstrated that the

labor organizations will support an "organ." The main reason for this publication is that they have been too much "organ," and not enough attention paid to making the paper interesting.

WILL AVOID GENERAL POLITICS.

It is expected that the newspaper will keep away from tariff and other issues of a general character, devoting itself to issues which specifically affect the city laboring man, such as conditions of labor and workmen's compensation. It will, in its general effect, probably emphasize rather than diminish the cleavage between city and country.

Its first political activity will doubtless be in municipal affairs. A labor "slate" for nearly all the civic offices is within the range of possibilities this year. If moderately successful there the next move, no doubt, will be to get into Provincial and Dominion politics. The establishment of the paper foreshadows the first serious attempt to launch a real labor party in Canadian politics.

IN BOND STREET CHURCH.

In my letter last week some reference was made to the down town problem confronting Toronto churches, and the disposition shown in some quarters to shirk it and in others to meet it. The solemn fact is that of the 50,000 persons living south of College street, only a small fraction has been reached by the churches. Both in preaching and in works it is undoubtedly the fact that some of the churches in down town Toronto are out of sympathy with the masses whom they are supposed to serve.

The church perhaps most popular in many ways with the crowd is Bond Street Congregational, whose destinies are presided over by Rev. Byron H. Stauffer, who came here several years ago from Buffalo. His methods are much less sensational than those employed in this pulpit twenty years ago by the late Dr. Wild, but he contrives to make his services interesting, and he always draws full houses. He is a man of considerable personality, a fluent speaker and embellishes his sermons with frequent references to the affairs of the hour. Some might call some of his addresses lectures rather than sermons, meaning that there is less of spirituality about them than is usual. Bond street church is sometimes compared to a business, of which the preacher is the general manager. Bearing out the analogy, he has there an office which he occupies several hours a day. And yet Bond street has no empty pews, and that is one point gained.

A SPURGEON NEEDED.

What the church in down-town Toronto needs to-day is a Spurgeon. It wants a man with fire and spirituality. The harvest is waiting for him. He could take such a building as the new arena, which will seat 7,000 persons, fill it three times on Sunday and possibly on any other evening in the week, if he had the physical strength. But where is the Spurgeon coming from?

Down town Toronto needs more, of course, in the way of church service than a preacher, even if he were a Spurgeon. It needs a small army of workers. It has a few now loyal and devoted, but their numbers are sadly out of proportion to the work that is to be done. One wonders of the churches really appreciated the work that lies right at their hand.

TORONTO'S BIGGEST AUDIENCE.

Toronto's new amusement showplace, The Arena, has been successfully launched with a week's musical festival. Designed primarily for hockey matches, the promoters hope they can make use of it in the off season for all sorts of special productions. The problem will be to fill it. It will hold eight thousand people, twice as many as any other meeting place in Toronto, and a small city in itself. The sight on the closing night of the opening week, when every seat was filled, was one long to be remembered. The layout of the building is that of an oval amphitheatre, without galleries. All around the oval solid masses of humanity, rising tier upon tier, furnished an impressive sight. It was the most magnificent of men and women ever gathered under one roof in Toronto.

Unless it is filled, however, the effect of the interior is barnlike.

AN EGG 200 YEARS OLD.

Famous Chinese General Ate It and Smiled.

An egg laid 200 years ago in a hen-coop near Pekin and buried shortly after in four feet of black mud was served on a recent evening to Gen. Lan Tien Wei, hero of the new republic of China, at a banquet given in his honor at the Amoy Far Low Cafe by 100 prominent Chinese and city officials, says the Los Angeles (California) Times:

The precious egg was escorted into the brilliantly decorated banquet hall by a retinue of Orientally garbed waiters and carefully placed in front of the guest of honor, who eyed it curiously. While the other diners were waiting for the fifteenth course the General proceeded to make away with the almost priceless delicacy, while scores of Chinese, peering in through the doors and windows on the unusual scene, gazed in admiration and wonderment.

After eating the egg, which was as black as charcoal, the General leaned over to C. F. Yin, his secretary, and whispered in his ear, while a broad smile played over his features. The proprietor of the cafe informed the General before serving the historic hen fruit that he wasn't taking any chances, as it was just as fresh as if laid yesterday.

The banquet was one of the most elaborate, as well as unusual, ever given in Los Angeles, and congeniality reigned supreme from the first to the twenty-eighth or so

course of rare and interesting Chinese edibles.

Following are a few of the viands on the menu:—Rock moss soup, sharks' fins, bundle of wood with mushrooms, duck and bamboo shoots, bird's nest, lotus nuts, broiled squab, chop suey, spring blossom rolls, chicken fried with almonds, smoked oysters stewed with vegetables.

Other dishes highly prized by the Chinese epicures were served. All of them were prepared in true Chinese fashion, but they were served in American style, in courses, instead of Chinese fashion, which is for everything to be placed on the table at once and all be served from large bowls.

The big ban was put on chop sticks, and knives, forks and spoons were used by the diners to make way with the good things to eat. Rare Chinese wines of ancient vintage and of great value were there in abundance. For dessert there was candied ginger, preserved nuts, pickled fruits and various kinds of sweetmeats.

MOTHERS NEED CONSTANT STRENGTH.

To Care for the Growing Family, and Her Household Cares.

When there is a growing family to care for and the mother falls ill, it is a serious matter. Many mothers who are on the go from morning to night whose work, apparently, is never done, heroically try to disguise their sufferings, and keep an appearance of cheerfulness before their family. Only themselves know how they are distressed by headaches and backaches, dragging down pains and nervous weakness; how their nights are often sleepless, and they arise to a new day's work tired, depressed and unrefreshed. Such mothers should know that these sufferings are usually due to a lack of good nourishing blood. They should know that the thing above all others they need to give them new health and strength is rich, red blood, and that among all medicines there is none can equal Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for their blood-making, health restoring qualities. Every suffering woman with a home and family to care for should give these pills a fair trial, for they will keep her in health and strength, and make her work easy. Here is strong proof that these Pills do what is claimed for them. Mrs. Henry Thomas, Dryden, Ont., says: "When my second child was born I was so weak and run down that I could scarcely walk across a room. My baby was small and weak also, and cried and worried night and day until I discovered that the child was starving, as my nurse had turned almost to water. My husband got me a supply of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and I began taking them. The first beneficial effects were noticed in that my child began to thrive, as my nurse began to improve, and baby slept better and naturally. It was not long until I began to feel the improvement myself, and I daily gained new strength, and baby was growing very rosy and fat. I continued using the Pills while I was nursing him and found myself with all the vigor of good health, and able to easily do my housework, which had been so great a drag on me before. I am now never without Dr. Williams' Pink Pills in the house, and take an occasional dose when I feel tired. I can strongly recommend these Pills to all nursing women, especially if weak or run down."

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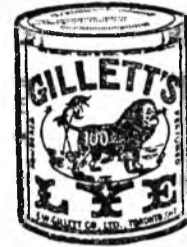
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John Loudon McAdam, Who Gave His Name to a System.

John Loudon McAdam, the road builder, an article which appears in the current issue of Good Roads, is one of considerable interest to the lay reader, as well as to the man whose business is the building of roads.

The article was written by Maurice O. Eldridge, Assoc. M. Am. Soc. C. E., assistant in charge of road management investigations in the United States office of public roads.

John Loudon McAdam was born at Ayr, Scotland, on September 21, 1756. He was the son of James McAdam, a descendant of Adam McGregor, the first baron of Waterhead and one of the Highland clan of McGregors. When James II. of Scotland outlawed the McGregors, Adam settled in the lowlands and changed his name to McAdam. John Loudon McAdam's mother was Susana Cochrane, daughter of John Cochrane of Waterhead, a relative of the Earl of Dundonald.

When John was fourteen years old his father died and he was entrusted to the care of his uncle, William McAdam, a merchant living in New York. He received his business training with his uncle and accumulated a considerable fortune during the revolutionary war as an agent for the sale of prizes. When the war was over, McAdam had lost most of his property, but had enough left to enable him to return to Scotland in 1783, and purchase Sambrie, an estate in Ayrshire, where he lived for thirteen years.

He was married twice, his first wife being the daughter of an American by descent, named DeLancey. He had seven children, four sons and three daughters, all by his first wife.

In Ayrshire, McAdam was magistrate deputy lieutenant of the county and road trustee. At that time the roads throughout Great Britain, especially in Scotland, were very bad, and McAdam interested himself in investigating conditions and conducting experiments in road building.

As a result of his investigations and experiments, he arrived at the conclusion that roads should be constructed of small broken stone. He contended that the earth foundation should be raised slightly above the adjacent land and that suitable ditches should be built at the sides to provide drainage; that the earth foundation should be covered by a series of thin layers of hard stone broken into small angular fragments of a nearly cubical shape, and so nearly as possible of the same size. A piece to weigh over six ounces. The layers of broken stone were to be consolidated gradually by the traffic and would ultimately form a smooth hard crust impervious to water and durable in proportion to the hardness of the stone and the density of traffic. He laid down this principle: That the natural soil really supports the traffic, and that while it is pre-

served in a dry state it will sustain any weight without sinking. The two essential requisites, therefore, were drainage and a waterproof covering.

POISONOUS SNAKES.

Took Over Twenty-Four Thousand Lives in India Last Year.

According to a report just published in Simla, India, the number of wild animals destroyed in India in 1911 was 25,840, as compared with 19,282 in 1910. This total included 1,426 tigers, 5,352 leopards, and 4,251 wolves. Nearly 172,000 snakes were destroyed, as against 91,100.

This increase is largely accounted for by the offering of rewards by the Burma Government. That this action was necessary is proved by the fact that in one area the paddy fields were so snake infested that their cultivation was impossible.

Altogether 1,947 persons were killed by wild animals and 24,284 by snakes, the figures for 1910 being 2,382 and 22,478 respectively. The number of cattle killed by wild animals was 91,709, against 93,070, and by snakes 10,533, as against 10,990.

With regard to snake bite of human beings it is said that in the Bombay Presidency, the United Provinces and Eastern Bengal and Assam the use of Sir Lauder Brunton's lancets is reported in a number of cases to have resulted in a high proportion of cures. As in previous years, however, the statistics relative to the successful use of this instrument can only be accepted with reservations.

Happy Father.

He was the happy father of a very pretty and bright little girl of twelve. "Dad," she said to him one evening while she was reading the paper, "every morning when I am going to school the boys catch hold of me and kiss me." "But, Ethel," he said, "why don't you run away from them?" "Well, dad, if I did, perhaps they wouldn't chase me." He went on reading.

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