

HON. A. S. HARDY DEAD.

Died at Toronto General Hospital of Appendicitis.

A despatch from Toronto says:—For almost a week Mr. Hardy has lain between life and death, following upon an operation for appendicitis performed early Sunday morning of last week. He had been perfectly conscious during the greater part of the time, and has borne his sufferings with the greatest fortitude and cheerfulness. There had been several rallies in his condition, and in the early part of last week there was even a faint hope of recovery, but this was quickly overcast. On Thursday Mr. Hardy sank rapidly, and was unconscious for some time before the end, which came at 10:08. The cause of death was given as paralysis of the heart, following upon the operation.

Mr. Hardy was born December 14, 1837, called to the bar 1865; created Queen's Counsel 1876; first returned to Parliament in April, 1875; entered the Montreal Government as Provincial Secretary and Registrar March 1877; became Commissioner of Crown Lands in January, 1889; became Premier of Ontario, July 1, 1896; retired October 18, 1899.



THE LATE MR. HARDY.

THE HARDY FAMILY.
The Hardy family, according to the traditions preserved, were originally west country Scots, who followed the blue and silver banner of the Covenanters. During the "killing times" they found a refuge from persecution, like many others, in the North of Ireland, where there was a strong Scotch colony. Almost a century later Captain John Hardy left the Irish home of the family and settled in the colony of Pennsylvania just before the outbreak of the revolutionary war. He was a Loyalist, and when the fortune of war went against the Crown he determined to remove to Canada. With him came Alexander Hardy, grandfather of the ex-premier, then a boy. For a century, therefore, Mr. Hardy's ancestors have been residents of Ontario. On his mother's side his ancestry also is of Loyalist stock. His maternal great-grandfather was Thomas Hardy, who in 1802 came from Pennsylvania and settled near Mount Pleasant, when Brant was still a wilderness, peopled chiefly by the Indians of the Six Nations. The Hardys, who came in the first wave of settlement after the close of the war, received a grant of land from the Government near Queenston Heights, and their home was an hospital on the historic day of Brock's death. Mr. Russel Hardy, father of the ex-premier, was born in Brant County in 1812, his father removed there shortly after the battle of Queenston. Russell Hardy was a merchant and storekeeper at Mount Pleasant, and there in 1837, on December 14, the day when Sir Allan MacNab's column marched through the village to attack the force of "rebels" gathered at Scotland, his son Armand, was born. There was a large family, and the store, although commodious, scarcely afforded room enough for the upbringing of six girls and four boys.

A FARMER'S SON.
The store was exchanged for a farm and the future premier got his early training there. He went to school at Mount Pleasant, with boys like George Bryce, afterwards principal of Manitoba College, and one of Canada's great Presbyterian divines. Then he passed through Rockwood Academy and began the study of law in the office of his uncle, H. A. Hardy, of Brantford, and later in Toronto, with the firm of the late Chief Justice Harrison.

Thomas Hodgins, K. C., the present Master-in-Ordinary, was also at the time a member. It is interesting to note that Mr. Hodgins was subsequently for several years Mr. Hardy's desk mate in the Legislature. Mr. Hardy passed as a solicitor in 1861. His first taste of political work was on the committees of Hon. George Brown in Toronto during his student days. He kept up this interest on his return to Brantford to practise, but for a time it seemed as if the attractions of law were stronger than those of politics. He entered the lists against Hon. E. B. Wood, the leading counsel of the Brant district, and beat him in some famous cases, matching with his humor and exact knowledge of the facts the more ponderous eloquence of his rival.

TRiumPHS AT THE BAR.
Later he met Hillyard Cameron, Crooks Cameron, the Blake, B. D. Osler, Thomas Moss and others of the most famous pleaders of the Ontario bar. His reputation in western Ontario was great, and between 1865 and 1877 he defended no less than sixteen persons accused of mur-

der. On one occasion he held 43 briefs, civil and criminal, at one Assize. During the years from 1873, when he was elected to the Legislature, he performed a keener contest against Mr. J. J. Hawkins, to 1877, when he entered the Government. Mr. Hardy continued his practice, but after that he seldom appeared in court. It can hardly be doubted, judging from the phenomenal success as a counsel which he had achieved while yet under forty, that had he remained at the bar he would not only have secured a greater financial return for his labor than he did as a Minister, but he would have ranked with Blake, Osler and McCarthy as a leader of the bar.

On October 18, 1899, Mr. Hardy was forced by ill-health to retire from the Premiership, which he had held since the retirement of Sir Oliver Mowat in July, 1896. Mr. Hardy left public life a poor man, and accepted the office of Clerk of the Process and Surrogate Registrar in Osgoode Hall.

FROM THE KING'S HAND.

Presentation of Medals to African Veterans at Horse Guards.
A despatch from London says:—London seldom had a finer spectacle than was witnessed on the Horse Guards parade Wednesday morning, when King Edward presented medals to three thousand soldiers, ex-participants in the South African campaign. The great square was lined with Guards, drawn from the various regiments.

In the centre of the ground was a purple-covered dais surmounted by an Indian tent, with silver corner poles. In the spaces between the dais and St. James' park were drawn up three thousand officers and men of the Guards, Household Cavalry and City Imperial Volunteers, all of whom had served in the campaign. The Admiralty, Horse Guards, and other official buildings fronting the parade were all decorated with flags. The Lord Mayor, Frank Green, attended in State, and the members of the special Moorish Embassy, in picturesque costumes were interested spectators.

Promptly at 11 o'clock the King, in a field-marshal's uniform, the Queen, Princess Victoria, and other members of the Royal family, arrived and took up places on the dais and the ceremony began. The recipients of the medals in a long line marched past the King, received the decoration from his Majesty, saluted and passed on.

Lord Roberts came first, followed by Lord Milner, while behind them came crowds of generals and lesser officers, whose names have become familiar owing to the war, Buller, Ian Hamilton, and a host of others. Among the members of Lord Roberts' South African staff who received the medal was Captain, the Duke of Marlborough.

The procession as a whole was most inconspicuous. The officers of the Guards, Lancers, Hussars, and Highlanders, in dazzling uniforms; groups of solemnly garbed men in frock coats (doctors who had served at the front), and half a dozen foreign attaches in uniform. There were also groups of time-expired men in civilian clothing, policemen, and wounded soldiers, limping along in hospital clothes.

The ceremony lasted nearly three hours, the King standing beside the King throughout.

TRAGEDY OF THE SEA.

Chinese Cook Murders Mate, and is Then Killed by Steam.
A despatch from Honolulu, via San Francisco, says:—Details of a sensational tragedy at sea were brought last Sunday by the American schooner J. A. Campbell (Captain A. L. Smith), from Port Blakely with lumber. The mate of the vessel, Adam Huber, was murdered by the Chinese cook, and the latter, after the seizing of the whole crew, holding possession of the galley for nearly 24 hours, during which it was every moment feared he would set fire to the vessel, was subjected to a steaming process to bring him out, but he shot himself rather than come forth and be captured. When the crew finally entered the galley they found the Chinaman's body literally cooked by steam.

NO PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

Statement by Government Leader in British House of Commons.
A despatch from London says:—A. J. Balfour, the Government leader, answering a questioner in the House of Commons on Thursday, said there was no foundation for the rumours afloat of peace negotiations with the Boers. The Boer strength in the field was estimated to be 17,000 men.

Mr. Balfour added that the Government had no information with which, at any rate in general outlines, the public was not already acquainted. The war was no longer a contest between large organized bodies. The Boer forces were scattered in the Orange River Colony and the Transvaal and parts of the Cape Colony. Their commandos were small, generally consisting of from 100 to 200 men. The largest known numbered about 600.

MARKETS OF THE WORLD

Prices of Cattle, Cheeses, Grain, &c. in the Leading Markets.

Toronto, June 18.—Wheat—The wheat market continues quiet, with the feeling irregular. Sales are reported of No. 2 white and red winter at 66c, middle and west at 65c, and 65c, north and west. No. 2 grade is nominal at 64c. 64c, middle freights, and No. 1 spring at 69c, on Midland. Manitoba hard wheat dull. No. 1 white at 99c, grinding in transit. No. 2 quoted at 87c, g.t., and No. 3 hard at 78c. For Toronto and west prices of No. 1 hard are 87c, and of No. 2, 84c.

Milled—The market is firm, without change in prices. Bran, in car lots, \$11.50 to \$12.50 west; shorts, \$13 to \$14 west.

Corn—Market steady, with Canadian yellow offering at 41c west, with a sale at 40c. Mixed quoted at 40c west. Yellow, on track, 46c. Rye—The market is dull, with prices nominal at 49c middle, and 50c east.

Buckwheat—Prices nominal, with very little offering.

Peas—Market is firm, with few offerings. No. 2 quoted at 68c east.

Barley—Market is quiet, with prices nominally unchanged. No rail lots offering.

Oats—The market is quiet, with prices unchanged. Sales of No. 2 at 30c, high freight for export, while 31c is quoted to local millers. No. 1 quoted at 31c middle freight.

Flour—The market is dull. Millers quote strong bakers at \$2.70, in buyers quote 90 per cent. patents at \$2.60 middle freight. For shipment in bbls. to Lower Provinces \$3.15 and strong bakers, \$3.90 to \$4.15, is quoted. Manitoba patents, \$4.25. Oatmeal—Market unchanged. Car lots at \$3.65 in bags, and at \$3.75 in wood; small lots 20c extra.

MANY "UNCLEAN" PEOPLE.

Hundreds of Cases of Leprosy in the United States.
According to scientific investigations directed from Washington for several months, there are at least 275 cases of leprosy in the United States. That number have been reported, but it is thought probable that the real number is nearer a thousand. For various reasons physicians who have cases of this disease in many instances fail or refuse to report them. But the number reported is sufficiently large to occasion some alarm. Seventy-four of the known cases are in New Orleans, chiefly among the Italian population. There are twenty-three in Minnesota, mostly among Scandinavians in the rural settlements. There are fifteen cases in North Dakota, and two in South Dakota, among the same people. So far as has been ascertained, there are none in Michigan or Indiana; Chicago has five cases, New York six, Boston none.

The figures now compiling represent a great deal of careful work. A circular was sent from Washington to every city and country physician, every health officer, every responsible head of a hospital in the country. It called for volunteer information covering cases of leprosy in the community in question; the name of the leprosy person, his sex, age, social condition, place of residence, whether town or country—and name of attending physician. In all, 8,000 of these letters have gone out; replies have thus far been received from only 2,000 of them. There may be several times 275 cases in the 6,000 districts from which thus far no replies have come.

It is the intention of those who are compiling the figures to make a report to Congress, including such recommendations as may seem warranted. One recommendation will be for the erection of two large Government hospitals for leprosy, one in the south and the other in the north. Eminent physicians have at different times been before committees of Congress on the interest of the erection of leprosy hospitals, but nothing came of these visits, the Government, having no reliable data covering the prevalence of the disease. Next winter, however, with full information on the subject, it is believed that Congress will act promptly.

It is noteworthy that nearly all the 275 reported victims are foreign. The Scandinavians seem peculiarly susceptible to the disease. They either had it when they landed in America, or contracted it soon after landing. Every one of the cases in the Dakotas and Minnesota is in the country, rather remote even from small towns. The disease seems to new, 75c, in carloads; No. 1 Northern, new, c.i.f., 74c; winter, unchanged; No. 2 red, No. 1 white and mixed, 78c on track; State wheat held higher. Corn—Quiet and easy; new billing No. 2 yellow, 45c; No. 3 do., 44c; No. 2 corn, 44c; No. 3 do., 44c. Oats—Dull and weak; No. 2 white, 32c; No. 3 do., 31c; No. 2 mixed, 30c. No. 3 do., 29c; new billing. Barley—Store, quoted at 56c to 59c, for fair to choice. Rye—Dull and weak; No. 1 on canal, 58c; do., in store, 57c asked. Canal freights—Dull and weak.

Chicago, June 18.—Wheat again yielded to favorable crop conditions to-day, and July closed 1/2c lower; July corn closed 1/2c under yesterday's final price, July oats 1/4c lower, and provisions from a shade lower to 7/8c above.

Toledo, June 18.—Cloversed—Cash, prime, \$6.50; October, \$5.32 1/2. Milwaukee, Wis., June 18.—Barley—No. 2, 56c; sample, 40 to 54c.

DRESSED HOGS AND PROVISIONS.

Dressed hogs in limited supply, and prices firm at \$9 to \$9.25 for small lots. Hog products firm, as follows: Bacon, long clear, loose, in car lots, 10c; in case lots, 10 1/2 to 10 3/4c. Short cut pork, \$20 to \$20.50; heavy mess pork, \$19 to \$19.50; shoulder mess, \$15.

Smoked Meats—Hams, heavy, 12 1/2; medium, 13 1/2; light, 14c. Rolls 11 1/2 to 12c; hams, 14c to 15c, and shoulders 11c.

Lard—Pails, 11c; tubs, 10 1/2c; tierces, 10 1/2c.

STREET MARKET.

Toronto, June 18.—Following is the range of quotations:—Wheat, white, \$0.70 1/2 to \$0.71. Wheat, red, \$0.70 1/2 to \$0.71. Wheat, goose, \$0.64 to \$0.64 1/2. Wheat, spring, \$0.69 to \$0.70. Peas, \$0.62 to \$0.62. Barley, \$0.46 to \$0.44. Rye, \$0.57 to \$0.57. Oats, \$0.31 to \$0.30 1/2. Hay, choice, per ton, 12.00 to 13.00. Hay, mixed, per ton, 11.00 to 11.00. Straw, per ton, 8.50 to 9.00. Dressed hogs, \$9.00 to 9.25. Butter, in lb. rolls, 0.15 to 0.20. Butter, creamery, 0.18 to 0.21. Chickens, per pair, 0.65 to 0.90. do spring, 1.00 to 1.25. Eggs, per doz., 0.12 to 0.14. Potatoes, per bag, 0.50 to 0.60. Apples, choice, bbl., 4.00 to 5.00. Beef, forequarters, 4.50 to 6.00. Beef, hindquarters, 9.00 to 10.00. Beef, carcass, 7.00 to 7.50. Beef, medium, 5.50 to 6.50. Lamb, yearling, 8.00 to 9.50. Spring lambs, 3.50 to 5.00. Mutton, 5.00 to 6.50. Veal, choice, 7.50 to 8.50.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

Toronto, June 18.—Receipts at the western cattle market this morning were over seventy carloads of live stock, including 1,329 cattle, 1,100 hogs, 300 sheep and lambs, 100 calves, and 15 milch cows. There is no change in hogs, which are steady at current quotations. Small stuff is inclined to be a shade weaker, especially yearlings. Choice export cattle is steady at 4 1/2 to 5 1/2c per lb.; light shipper are worth from 4 1/2 to 4 3/4c per lb. There was a steady demand to-day for the best cattle, and all of it sold early.

Good to choice butcher cattle sold well from 4 to 4 1/2c per lb., with little more for choice lots. For inferior grades the enquiry was slower at weakening prices.

For export bulls, feeders, and

THE NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Interesting Items About Our Own Country, Great Britain, the United States, and All Parts of the Globe, Condensed and Assorted for Easy Reading.

CANADA.
Ottawa census gives the Capital a population of 58,193.
An anti-consumption league is being formed in Hamilton.
Smallpox has again appeared in Hull, brought from Sudbury.
Prohibition is said to be proving effective in Prince Edward Island.
Thomas Watson succeeds Thomas Deazy as chief of police at Victoria, B. C.
Hamilton City Council is paying \$5.50 a ton for grate coal this year. It was \$4.18 last.
St. John, N.B., is seeking Government aid for the construction of a dry dock in that city.
Montreal City Council, has voted \$10,000 to entertain the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York.
The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York will be greeted with a naval pageant while en route up the St. Lawrence.
During the past three months 75,000 acres of land in Winnipeg district have been sold to Minnesota, Dakota and other United States farmers.
The figures at Montreal show that 34 more vessels visited that port up to the 1st of June this year than during that period last year.
Mr. Ewart, architect of the Public Works Department at Ottawa, will leave about the 22nd inst. for England to visit the Royal Mint, for the purpose of getting some new ideas in connection with the plans for the Ottawa branch.
The new rates adopted by the Post-office Department for the sale of money orders, payable either in Canada or the United States, is as follows: Up to \$5, 3c; \$10, 6c; \$20, 10c; \$50, 15c; \$75, 25c, and \$100, 30c. This change has been made necessary to compete with the express companies.
A new scheme to supply Montreal with cheap power and pure water is announced by Mr. James Wilder of H. A. Wilder & Co., who says he is backed up by New York capitalists, and who claims the power will be generated by the compressed air process.
While a civil servant was being paid at an Ottawa bank a sheriff's officer came in behind him and grabbed the money as it left the teller, and claimed that he seized the money for debt. The case will be argued as to whether the money was ever in the civil servant's possession or not.

GREAT BRITAIN.

It is reported that the British crops this year will be irregular.
General Booth, of the Salvation Army, is coming to America in September and will make a tour of the country.
By a vote of 159 to 60, the House of Commons voted the sum of £17,779,000 for transports and equipments.
A convention of four thousand tenant farmers of Ulster, passed a resolution in favor of the compulsory sale of land.
Lord James Hereford, arbiter between Scotch coal masters and men, has decided that wages must be reduced 6d a day.
English census returns show that the age at marriage is now about two years more than it was in 1876, and the tendency is still to go higher.
In London the district railway sanctioned Charles T. Yerkes' plan for the introduction of electricity as the motive power of the road.
It was only after considerable discussion that the Common Council at the Guild Hall, London, agreed to confer the freedom of the city on Lord Milner of Cape Town.
Add States
In the English court circular's announcement of His Majesty's reception of the American delegates at Windsor, a graceful departure from custom is noticeable in the omission of the usual intimation that an "honour" was conferred upon the visitors by the royal reception.

UNITED STATES.

An Annapolis cadet caught hazing a junior was dismissed.
Kansas City Police Board refuses to close saloons on Sunday.
The Pere Marquette Railroad will install the wireless telegraph system on their ferry boat lines.
John Stevenson, for threatening a fellow-stevenson who would not strike must stand trial at New York.
The great Portland gold mine at Victor, Col., is reported to have been sold to Londoners for \$21,000,000.
Mrs. Louisa Canfield, of Chicago, while riding a bicycle, with her baby before her, dropped dead from heart failure.
President and trustees of Monmouth College resigned their places to end two years' fight concerning the management.
Dr. Barbour, a Columbus, Ohio, Baptist minister, styled modern evening dress as "indelicacy" and censured punch servers of swiftdom.
Mrs. Botha, wife of the famous Boer General, has arrived in England, presumably to try and secure terms of peace acceptable to the Boers.
Sir John Blundell Maple, Conservative, charges that British officers who purchased horses on the Continent for the South African campaign had a plan whereby they made large personal profits. The Government has promised an enquiry.
The coldest June weather for a period of 29 years has been recorded at Baker City Oregon.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR WOOL.

Artificial wool made from turf fibers is now employed at Dusseldorf, Germany, for manufacturing cloth, bandages, hats, rugs, and so forth. Ten years have elapsed since the first attempts to make turf wool, and it is averred that recent improvements in the processes have resulted in the production of a soft fibrous material, which can be spun as readily as sheep's wool, and which, besides possessing excellent absorbent properties, is capable of being bleached and colored for use in various textile industries.

ECONOMIC VALUE OF BIRDS.

It is averred that the destruction of birds in France has produced disastrous effects upon agriculture, horticulture and the grape industry. In the Department of Herault alone, it has been calculated, the destruction of birds accustomed to feed upon insects costs a loss of more than 2,000,000 gallons of wine every year. Some birds consume about 600 insects each daily, and a single insect-eating species, Monsieur Levat estimates, may be the means of saving 3,200 grains of wheat and 1,150 grapes per day.

Great damage has been done by hail lightning and cloudburats in various parts of Germany.

THE EVIL OF EATING ALONE.

Talk and Companionship Are Essential to Proper Digestion.

At a time like the present, when the marrying age of the average man of the middle classes is being more and more postponed, the physical ills of bachelorhood come increasing under the notice of the medical man. It is not good for man or woman to live alone. Indeed, it has been well said that for solitude to be successful a man must be either angel or devil. This refers, perhaps, mainly to the moral aspects of isolation, and with these we have now no concern.

There are certain physical ills, however, which are not the least among the disadvantages of loneliness. Of these there is many a clerk in London, many a young barrister, rising, perhaps, but not yet far enough risen, many a business man or journalist who will say that one of the most trying features of his unmarried life is to have to eat alone. And a premature dyspepsia to his medical man. There are some few happily disposed individuals who can dine alone and not eat too fast, nor too much nor too little. With the majority it is different. The average man puts his novel or his paper before him and thinks that he will

LENGTHEN OUT THE MEAL.

with due deliberation by reading a little with, and more between, the courses. He will just employ his mind enough to help, and too little to interfere with, digestion. In fact, he will provide that gentle mental accompaniment which with happier people conversation gives to a meal. This is your solitary's excellent idea. In reality he becomes engrossed in what he is reading till suddenly finding his chop cold he demoralizes it in a few mouthfuls; or else he finds that he is hungry and paying no attention to the book, which he flings aside, he rushes through his food as fast as possible, to plunge into his armchair and literature afterwards. In either case the lonely man must digest at a disadvantage. For due and easy nutrition food should be slowly taken and the mind should not be intensely exercised during the process. Every one knows that violent bodily exercise is bad just after a meal, and mental exertion is equally so.

Wise people do not even argue during or just after dinner, and observation of after-dinner speeches will convince any one that most speakers neither endure themselves nor excite in their hearers any severe intellectual effort.

In fact, the experience of countless generations, from the red Indian of the woods to the white-shirted diners of a modern party, has perpetuated the lesson that a man should not eat alone, nor think much at this time, but should talk and be talked to while he is feeding. People do not think much when they talk, and talking is a natural accompaniment of eating.

EATING AND DRINKING.

Worst of all, perhaps, is the case of the solitary cook. In the myriads of small flats in London there are thousands of women "doing" their solitary masters or mistresses. These women, whose main occupation is to prepare food for others, find it impossible to enjoy, or even to take, food themselves. As confectioners are said to give their apprentices a free run of the stock of the shop for the first few days, knowing that it will eventually cure their appetite afterwards, so the women who are always occupied with buying and preparing food grow unable to use it for themselves. These people suffer from dyspepsia, which is cured if somebody else manages their kitchen for a week, allowing them to take meat's worth of preparing them. It needs no moralist to declare the evils of "solitude." Man and woman is a gregarious animal. Physically and intellectually we improve with companionship. Certainly it is not good to eat and to drink alone. It is a sad fact of our big cities that they hold hundreds of men and women who in the day are too busy and at night too lonely to feed with profit, much less with any pleasure.

MICROBES FROM THE STARS.

Is it possible for any living creature to pass from one planet to another? Scientists now say that it is not only possible, but that minute living creatures have actually reached this world from other worlds hundreds of millions of miles away. Every year hundreds of tons of matter called star-dust are attracted to the earth. The star-dust consists of small meteoric fragments, which have been hurled through space until they have been drawn toward our planet like iron filings toward a magnet. Many years ago it was suggested that the lowest form of life—bacteria—might have been brought in this way, but it was thought that the intense cold of space would have made it impossible. Experiments with liquid air, however, have shown that the lower forms of life are able to survive the intensest cold. Tests have shown that degrees below zero do not kill them. After exposure to such cold, they begin to multiply again as soon as placed in favorable conditions.

CANADA'S WATERWAYS.

Mr. Schreiber Convinced That There is a 14 Foot Channel.
A despatch from Ottawa says:—Mr. Schreiber, Deputy Minister of Railways, after his recent careful inspection of the St. Lawrence canals works, said he was satisfied that a 14-foot navigation existed throughout the system. The municipalities Messrs. J. T. Davis, of Montreal, and Roger Miller, of Ingersoll, have been awarded the contract for the breakwater at Parry Sound. Their contract price is in the vicinity of \$200,000.

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Talk and Companionship Are Essential to Proper Digestion.

At a time like the present, when the marrying age of the average man of the middle classes is being more and more postponed, the physical ills of bachelorhood come increasing under the notice of the medical man. It is not good for man or woman to live alone. Indeed, it has been well said that for solitude to be successful a man must be either angel or devil. This refers, perhaps, mainly to the moral aspects of isolation, and with these we have now no concern.

There are certain physical ills, however, which are not the least among the disadvantages of loneliness. Of these there is many a clerk in London, many a young barrister, rising, perhaps, but not yet far enough risen, many a business man or journalist who will say that one of the most trying features of his unmarried life is to have to eat alone. And a premature dyspepsia to his medical man. There are some few happily disposed individuals who can dine alone and not eat too fast, nor too much nor too little. With the majority it is different. The average man puts his novel or his paper before him and thinks that he will

LENGTHEN OUT THE MEAL.

with due deliberation by reading a little with, and more between, the courses. He will just employ his mind enough to help, and too little to interfere with, digestion. In fact, he will provide that gentle mental accompaniment which with happier people conversation gives to a meal. This is your solitary's excellent idea. In reality he becomes engrossed in what he is reading till suddenly finding his chop cold he demoralizes it in a few mouthfuls; or else he finds that he is hungry and paying no attention to the book, which he flings aside, he rushes through his food as fast as possible, to plunge into his armchair and literature afterwards. In either case the lonely man must digest at a disadvantage. For due and easy nutrition food should be slowly taken and the mind should not be intensely exercised during the process. Every one knows that violent bodily exercise is bad just after a meal, and mental exertion is equally so.

Wise people do not even argue during or just after dinner, and observation of after-dinner speeches will convince any one that most speakers neither endure themselves nor excite in their hearers any severe intellectual effort.

In fact, the experience of countless generations, from the red Indian of the woods to the white-shirted diners of a modern party, has perpetuated the lesson that a man should not eat alone, nor think much at this time, but should talk and be talked to while he is feeding. People do not think much when they talk, and talking is a natural accompaniment of eating.

EATING AND DRINKING.

Worst of all, perhaps, is the case of the solitary cook. In the myriads of small flats in London there are thousands of women "doing" their solitary masters or mistresses. These women, whose main occupation is to prepare food for others, find it impossible to enjoy, or even to take, food themselves. As confectioners are said to give their apprentices a free run of the stock of the shop for the first few days, knowing that it will eventually cure their appetite afterwards, so the women who are always occupied with buying and preparing food grow unable to use it for themselves. These people suffer from dyspepsia, which is cured if somebody else manages their kitchen for a week, allowing them to take meat's worth of preparing them. It needs no moralist to declare the evils of "solitude." Man and woman is a gregarious animal. Physically and intellectually we improve with companionship. Certainly it is not good to eat and to drink alone. It is a sad fact of our big cities that they hold hundreds of men and women who in the day are too busy and at night too lonely to feed with profit, much less with any pleasure.

MICROBES FROM THE STARS.

Is it possible for any living creature to pass from one planet to another? Scientists now say that it is not only possible, but that minute living creatures have actually reached this world from other worlds hundreds of millions of miles away. Every year hundreds of tons of matter called star-dust are attracted to the earth. The star-dust consists of small meteoric fragments, which have been hurled through space until they have been drawn toward our planet like iron filings toward a magnet. Many years ago it was suggested that the lowest form of life—bacteria—might have been brought in this way, but it was thought that the intense cold of space would have made it impossible. Experiments with liquid air, however, have shown that the lower forms of life are able to survive the intensest cold. Tests have shown that degrees below zero do not kill them. After exposure to such cold, they begin to multiply again as soon as placed in favorable conditions.

CANADA'S WATERWAYS.

Mr. Schreiber Convinced That There is a 14 Foot Channel.
A despatch from Ottawa says:—Mr. Schreiber, Deputy Minister of Railways, after his recent careful inspection of the St. Lawrence canals works, said he was satisfied that a 14-foot navigation existed throughout the system. The municipalities Messrs. J. T. Davis, of Montreal, and Roger Miller, of Ingersoll, have been awarded the contract for the breakwater at Parry Sound. Their contract price is in the vicinity of \$200,000.