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I wish to notify the Public that I have taken out an Auctioneer's License for the County of Grey, and am prepared to accept calls for Sales at any place in the County.

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DURHAM ONT.

Spring Time is House-cleaning Time

Cleaning time being with us again we have made a special effort to have all your requirements for the spring cleaning.

We have a complete stock of

- Brooms
 - Self Ringing Mops
 - Cloth and Brush Mops
 - Gillett's Lye
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 - Old Dutch Cleanser
 - Household Ammonia
 - Chloride of Lime
- In Carpet Sweepers and Vacuum Cleaners our stock excels. We have the
- Ball Bearing Combination Vacuum Cleaner and Sweeper
- It takes the place of ordinary Carpet Sweeper and Broom, lasts a lifetime, no parts to get out of order, built low in order to get under beds and other furniture, and low cost makes it within the reach of everyone.
- We also have Bissell's Sweepers in different styles and very low prices.

O'Cedar Polish Mops

In round and triangle shapes, they make those hard to get at places accessible without straining or reaching.

They enable you to keep the floors bright and shining with but a few minutes of your time.

O'Cedar Oil also on hand at

The "Red Front" Hardware

W. Black

VARNEY.

We are glad to see Master Percy Barber around again, after being laid up with a severe attack of quinsy.

Mr. John Bogle's mother is on the sick list.

Mr. and Mrs. John Morie entertained a number of friends and relatives at their home on Wednesday of last week, it being their crystal wedding day.

The funeral of the late Ned Bogle, of Berlin, Ontario, brother of Mr. John Bogle of this village, will take place on Friday afternoon at two o'clock, from Mr. R. Nelson's, in Egremont. Interment will be made in Maplewood.

NO PLACE FOR FIDO.

Mrs. Nexo-door—I want you to keep your dog out of my house; it's full of fleas.

Mrs. Naybor—Your house is? Mercy! I certainly shan't let Fido go in there again.—Boston Transcript.

The Keystone State.

There are several theories as to how Pennsylvania came to be called the Keystone State. The one most generally accepted and the one most dear to all who own Pennsylvania is their native state. It is that Pennsylvania decided the great issue of American independence.

At the meeting of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia July 4, 1776, the vote adopting the Declaration was taken by states. Of the thirteen original states six had already voted in the affirmative and six in the negative. When the delegation from Pennsylvania came in John Morton casting the deciding vote in the affirmative. Thus Pennsylvania, by her vote, decided and was named the Keystone State.

Another reason advanced is that in constructing a bridge between Pennsylvania avenue and Georgetown, Washington, a single arch was erected of stone left from building the walls of the capitol. On the thirteen "voussoirs" or arch stones, the names of the thirteen states were engraved. Pennsylvania, falling in the keystone of the arch, became still more widely known as the Keystone State. Philadelphia Press.

Lubbock and the Bees.

In "Ants, Bees and Wasps" it is related that one summer some fifty years ago Sir John Lubbock became interested in a curious parasite of the bumblebee. He wished to complete his investigations, but as the winter came on did not know where to get the bees, so he advertised.

In reply to his advertisement a man wrote offering him a supply of bees at one and six pence. The price was high, but in the cause of science Lubbock did not demur, only when he had bought all the bees he required he wrote to the man and said, "Now that I have had the bees, for which I am greatly obliged, would you kindly tell me, to satisfy my curiosity, how you are able to procure them at this time of year?" The man wrote back quite courteously, but quite firmly, saying: "No. Since I can sell the bees at eight-pence each, I think it pays me better to go on doing so than to tell anybody else how to procure them."

The Alaskans.

According to the government statistics, the natives of Alaska are about 26,000 in number, and they are spread over more than 350,000 of the 590,000 square miles of the territory. Their small settlements extend along 10,000 miles of coast and on both sides of the Yukon river and its tributaries, for a distance of more than 2,500 miles. One of the supervision districts contains a full 100,000 square miles. The others average more than 65,000 square miles each. Of the natives of Alaska approximately 11,000 belong to six tribes of Indians in southeastern and southern Alaska and in the valley of the Yukon. About 11,000 are Eskimos on the western and northwestern coasts, along the Bering sea, the Bering strait and the Arctic ocean. Something more than 3,000 are Aleuts and mixed races through the Aleutian Islands.—Christian Herald.

The Admirable Towser.

"I've got the most wonderful dog in the world—the smartest, I mean," said one of a party camping in Canada last fall. "When I bring out my rifle he knows I'm going after deer, and he never offers to follow me, but if he sees me reach for my shotgun he knows that means partridges, and when I get to the woods I find him there waiting for me. Actually that dog knows the difference between a rifle and a shotgun."

"That's nothing," said another of the party from his place at the other side of the fire. "You fellows have seen my little Towser, haven't you? Well, when I begin to get out my fishing kit Towser runs up behind the barn and begins digging worms."—Saturday Evening Post.

Postal Service.

The beginning of the postal service in what is now the United States dates from 1639, when a house in Boston was employed for the receipt of letters for and from the old world. In 1672 the government of New York colony established a post to go monthly from New York to Boston. A general post-office was established in Virginia in 1692 and in Philadelphia in 1693. In 1789, when the federal government went into operation, the number of offices in the thirteen states was only about seventy-five.—New York American.

Chinese Language.

Where the Chinese language, written or spoken, came from nobody knows any more than they know where the original Chinese themselves came from. But it is probable that the primary Chinese characters existed 5,000 years ago pretty much as they do today.

A Gentle Reminder.

He—Have you decided what you will wear at the next german? She—That depends somewhat on the flowers that are sent me. I have a perfectly dear gown that, with a dozen jack roses, would be just too sweet for anything.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

What We Remember.

The will covers the memory. We forget what does not concern us; we remember what is of lasting importance to the will.—Friedrich Schlegel in "Introduction to Philosophy."

Ennui perhaps has made more gamblers than avarice, more drunkards than thirst and perhaps as many suicides as despair.

CANADA'S FIRE LOSSES.

More Stringent Buildings Laws and Closer Inspection Required.

During 1914 Canada's total of fire losses showed a considerable reduction over 1913; yet it was in excess of that of 1912.

From an analysis of the causes of fires for 1914 some encouragement may be obtained in the belief that progress is being made in education along fire prevention lines. Carelessness has always been a prolific cause of fire loss, and a reduction of fires attributable to this cause from 183 in 1913 to 127 in 1914 is appreciated. Attention must still be directed, however, to the 30 losses caused by cigarette-smoking and cigar and cigarette stubs carelessly thrown away.

One feature of the year's fire record which requires immediate attention is the large increase in the number of apartment house fires. No doubt part of this increase may be attributed to the proportionate growth in the number of apartment blocks being erected, but there is a serious danger arising in our cities from the number of one-family houses or old buildings which are being converted into apartment blocks, without corresponding protection from fire or of the lives of the inmates from fire danger. Stringent building laws should be provided covering this transformation process, and thorough inspection should be insisted upon both during the progress of reconstruction and at least annually by both the municipality and the insurance companies interested.

Too little attention is paid to the matter of building inspection, with the result that overheated pipes and heating apparatus is a common cause of fires. With proper inspection this could not be, as legal power is given to prosecute for maintaining dangerous fire conditions and all insurance policies are based upon the safe condition of heating and lighting equipment. It is a question whether fire insurance companies are not making it too easy for applicants to obtain insurance, and whether, as in the case of life insurance companies, thorough examination of the risk involved and the remedying of any dangerous or abnormal fire conditions should not be insisted upon before a fire insurance policy could be legally issued.

More attention should also be paid to the interior construction and heating of residential buildings. During 1914, no less than 750 dwellings were destroyed by fire, and of these a large proportion through forcing of the heating equipment.

During January, 1915, no less than 66 fires were reported as caused by defective heating apparatus, 11 by defective wiring, and 19 from carelessness with matches.—Conservation.

United For Canada.

An interesting fact at the opening of the Dominion House recently was that the address in reply to the speech from the throne was moved and seconded by a German and a Frenchman respectively.

W. G. Weichel, M.P. for North Waterloo, a German by birth, was mover of the speech in reply. He is a thorough loyalist to Great Britain and the Empire and spoke for the vast majority of the German population of Canada, who are among the best and most respected citizens and loyal to British institutions, notwithstanding their love for the fatherland. Most of them left Germany on account of the war spirit that fills the military element there and especially the Prussian Junkers.

The seconder of the address was Honore Achin, representative of the constituency of Labelle, which formerly sent the Nationalist leader, Henri Bourassa, to the House of Commons. Mr. Achin is an advocate and was born in Montreal and educated at Ste. Therese and practices his profession at Nominique, Quebec. He was elected to the House of Commons for Labelle in 1911 in the Conservative interest.

The mover, Mr. Weichel, lives at Waterloo, Ont., in the heart of the German part of the province, and is a hardware merchant. He was educated at the Elmira public schools and was first returned to the House of Commons in 1911 in the Conservative interest. He has been mayor of Waterloo and is one of its most patriotic and progressive citizens.

Maple Sugar Booming.

That the gift of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught of a box of maple sugar to every member of the first Canadian contingent has resulted in quite an unexpected boom to the industry throughout the Dominion is shown in a cable received from Lord Stamfordham, secretary to His Majesty the King, notifying her royal highness that the Canadian product is to be found, not only on the royal table, but also in every hotel and large store in London.

The Maple Sugar Association, through Hon. Jos. E. Caron, Minister of Agriculture in Quebec, and G. Boyer, M.P., Rigaud, and other manufacturers, have also sent an official communication to the duchess, thanking her for having fostered in this manner the means of this new channel of trade. An engrossed address was presented a few days ago to her royal highness on behalf of the association.

Prisoners of War, 2,177.

A return tabled in the Commons a few days ago by the Minister of Justice shows that since the outbreak of the war 2,177 Germans and Austrians have been taken into custody in Canada as prisoners of war. The detention camps are at Halifax, Quebec, Kingston, Petawawa, Spirit Lake, Kapeeskasung, Brandon, Lethbridge, Vernon and Nanaimo.

A Counsel For Life.

What never ran smooth yet can hardly be expected to change its character for us, so we must take it as we find it and fashion it into the very best shape we can by patience and good humor.—Charles Dickens.

Dictionary Readers.

That the natives of Nigeria are capable of advanced forms of education is apparently proved by this little incident told by Constance Larymore in "A Resident's Wife in Nigeria."

"My husband told me that in the course of the patrol they passed through a valley where the inhabitants of the rocks and hills above apparently made their homes in holes and caves. One member of the party idly asked what was the scientific name for cave dwellers, the word having slipped his memory for the moment. No one appeared to be able to supply the word. But then the native interpreter, plodding along behind, came up, saying: 'Pardon me, sir. Don't you mean troglodytes?'"

"The Englishman, amazed, asked where he had ever heard such a word, and 'George' replied placidly, 'I was reading a dictionary one day and saw it.'"

"I cannot imagine myself reading a German or Italian dictionary for pleasure and storing in my mind for future use conversationally a specially unusual scientific term. I only wish I could."

Spartans Kept in Trim.

The ancient Spartans paid as much attention to the rearing of men as cattle dealers in this country and England in modern times do to the breeding of cattle. They took charge of firmness and looseness of men's flesh, and regulated the degree of fatness to which it was lawful in a free state, for any citizen to extend his body.

Those who dared to grow too fat or too soft for military exercise and the service of Sparta were soundly whipped.

In one particular instance, that of Naucis, the son of Polytus, the offender was brought before the Ephori and a meeting of the whole people of Sparta, at which his unlawful fatness was publicly exposed, and he was threatened with perpetual banishment if he did not bring his body within the regular Spartan compass and give up his culpable mode of living, which was declared to be more worthy of an Ionian than a son of Lacedaemon.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

A Napoleonic Famine Scare.

Britain was on the verge of a bread famine during the Napoleonic wars, and in 1800 a law was enacted prohibiting the sale of bread till it had been out of the oven at least twenty-four hours. "Food was so scarce and dear," writes F. W. Hackwood, "that a portion of the population refused to starve in silence, and rioting broke out in many parts of England. * * * A royal grant of £500 was made to one Thomas Toden to enable him to prosecute a discovery made by him of a 'paste' as a substitute for wheat flour. * * * The unfortunate seamen fighting Great Britain's battle on the high seas had to subsist on biscuits so badly made that when the weevils were knocked out there often remained nothing but empty shells." A plentiful harvest the following year saved the situation.—London Standard.

"Decimation."

A popular error which recurs with unvarying regularity whenever military engagements are reported is the use of the word "decimated" to imply a crushing defeat or something approaching annihilation. Yet, as a moment's consideration of the real meaning of the word suffices to show, the word is so used quite erroneously. "Decimation" means the destruction of one-tenth part of the force involved, and the loss of one in ten, though sufficiently serious, certainly does not mean anything like that wholesale destruction usually meant when "decimation" is talked of. Losses of one in three or one in four have been sustained by forces which still maintained their cohesion and discipline.—Westminster Gazette.

How Dr. Holmes Felt.

Dr. Oliver W. Holmes was small in stature. Upon one occasion he was present at a meeting which happened to be attended by a number of very large men, thus making his diminutive size rather conspicuous in contrast. One of these men—doubtless wishing to make him feel at ease—came up to him and said:

"Well, Dr. Holmes, I should think you would feel rather small among all these fellows."

"I do," replied the doctor; "I feel like a 3 cent piece among a lot of pennies."

Suicides in China.

The Chinese look upon all suicides with honor except when the suicide is from trouble caused by gambling. Frequently if a Chinaman insults another the quarrel is followed by the suicide of the insulted man who thinks he has cast ignominy on his aggressor by taking his own life.

Good Idea.

Little Margie had watched a man tune the piano and was told it was for the purpose of improving the sound. One day when her infant brother was crying she said, "Mamma, can't I telephone for the baby tuner?"—Chicago News.

Passing Judgment.

Producer—The comedians seemed nervous. What they needed was life. Critic—You're too severe! Twenty years would be enough.—Judge.

The Bible.

The Bible has been so called only for the last 700 years. It was formerly called "The Books" or the "Divine Library."

Frugality, when all is spent, comes too late.—Seneca.

Interesting Bible Point.

Commentators cannot fix the date of Joseph the carpenter's death, says the Christian Herald. Some hold that it must have taken place before Jesus began his public ministry. In support of this they point to the fact that Joseph is not mentioned in connection with the wedding feast at Cana. Others believe that Joseph must have passed away before the crucifixion; otherwise he would have been at the cross with Mary. Under the circumstances nothing definite can be stated on the matter. Christian tradition asserts that Joseph was over eighty when espoused and that he lived to be a very old man. The "upper room" mentioned in Acts I, where the first gathering of disciples and converts was held after the ascension, may have been in the house of one of the apostles (of John or Mark, as some suppose, but the general view is that it was probably the upper chamber in a house the owners of which made it a custom to hire out such rooms for meeting purposes. This custom, it is claimed, was known in Jerusalem long before Christ.

Waters of the Nile.

The waters of the upper Nile start to rise about June 15, reaching the greatest height at the autumnal equinox, and then gradually subsiding until the following April. That the Nile should thus save the country from total barrenness and make it one of the most fertile lands of the earth is reason sufficient for the bestowal on the mighty stream of the name of "the most holy river" and that the good Mussulmans of Egypt should believe that it has its source in paradise. In ancient times the river had its appointed priests, festivals and sacrifices, and if its rising were delayed a single day they took the most beautiful girl they could find, dressed her richly and drowned her in the waters as a sacrifice to turn away the wrath of the river god and merit his favor. The quality of the Nile water has been highly extolled. Some have said that it is to other waters what champagne is among wines. The priest of Aps would not give it to the sacred bull lest he should become too fat.

As Good as a Clock.

When Rossini the Italian composer, who was noted for his punctuality, was director of the Theatre Italien in Paris he used to attend the rehearsals every morning. Precisely as the clock struck 9 he came out of his house and hailed the nearest cab. Eventually a certain cabman noticed it and was at the master's door each morning. As soon as Rossini entered the cab the driver would look at his watch and then drive off at a good pace. This proceeding was repeated every day. Rossini often wondered whether the driver looked at his watch to see how much time he had to get to the theater. Finally one day he said, "My friend, why do you always look at your watch as soon as I enter your cab?"

"Monsieur will pardon me," replied the cabman, laughing, "but I do it to see whether my watch is right."—Novellen Schatz.

Won a Title.

December, 1854, when Napoleon III. offered to send re-enforcements of 20,000 men to the Crimea if the British would convey them, the government was on the point of declining on the ground that no transports were available for such work. It was eventually decided to ask some of the great steamship companies for assistance, and at the next cabinet Sir James Graham announced that this had been done. "Mr. Cunard," he added, "can provide immediate transport for 8,000 men, leaving the question of payment to be decided subsequently by arbitration."

"What is Mr. Cunard's Christian name?" asked Palmerston. "Samuel," replied Graham. "Sir Samuel," said Palmerston, with emphasis on the "Sir." And at the close of the war the ship owner was created a baronet.—London Chronicle.

A Card Problem.

Can any reader, asks a writer in the Strand Magazine, verify and explain the following, brought to my notice recently? Deal out four whist hands, purposely making a misdeal—1 e. two cards to one hand. Pick up the hands, shuffle to any extent and then deal—properly this time. It will be found in nine cases out of ten that one of the hands contains either a singleton (one card of a suit) or lacks a suit altogether. I have tried this repeatedly and nearly always with the same result.

Got Rid of Him.

"I understand your wife is doing her own cooking."

"You are mistaken."

"But Jinx told me she was."

"Oh, that was just for a little while! Jinx was making us a visit, and I guess she thought he had stayed long enough."—Houston Post.

An Unfair Example.

Professor—If I fail to give a correct answer to any problem in mathematics that any one present offers me I agree to forfeit the sum of \$10. Voice in Audience—Make the date of my wife's birth agree with her present age.—Life.

Romance Versus Reality.

For about three months she regards her wedding day as the greatest day in history, but later on she gets so that she regards pay day as the greatest day in history.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

They who know not how to act greatly, though they have learned many things, are still ignorant.—Coral.

PERSONAL

Miss Irene Latimer is home from Owen Sound for Easter.

Miss Zeta Black is spending Easter at her home in Paisley.

Miss Harvey, of the teaching staff, is holidaying at her home in Fergus.

Mrs. (Rev.) Prudham, and son, Merrill, are spending Easter with friends in Hamilton.

Mrs. John McKechnie and daughter, Mary, are spending the holiday in Toronto.

Mrs. E. A. Hay and daughter are visiting friends in Harrison over Easter.

Miss Lennox, of the cement staff, is spending Easter at her home in Wiarton.

Miss Nan Gun of Toronto is spending a week at her home here.

Mrs. John Torry and daughter, Edith, have returned from a visit at Southampton.

Miss Amy Kelly is spending Easter with her brother, Eric, at Blenheim.

Mr. H. C. McKechnie is spending a week with his brother, Donald, in Holland township.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Brown, and Miss Edna Browning, left this morning to visit friends in Hamilton over the holiday.

Miss Bertha Matthews of Markdale, spent Sunday and Monday with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Wright.

Mr. Albert Arrowsmith of Niagara Falls, a section foreman on the Grand Trunk Railway between the Falls and Hamilton for many years, is spending a week with his brother, and other relatives in this locality.

Mr. G. F. Matthews (Gabe), of Markdale, is spending a couple of weeks with his sister, Mrs. H. C. McKechnie, before leaving for Tacoma, Wash., his former home before coming to Markdale two and a half years ago. Mr. Matthews spent a year's apprenticeship in The Durham Standard. That was away back in 1861-2, under the management of its founder, the late S. L. M. Luke, of whom he entertains a most exalted opinion.

HOBANOBED WITH ROYALTY

Blackheath, England, Mar. 19, 1915.

Dear People at Home:

I received one of your letters to-day, dated March 1, so you see it takes some time for a letter to come from home to me here, and when I move out of here tomorrow or Sunday to go to the East, as I told you in my last letter written a couple of days ago, it will take even longer for mail to reach me, but I hope you will keep on writing and I will do the same, and I will get your letters sooner or later. Keep on addressing them to the Aldershot address and before I embark I will try and write you a few lines, telling you a more definite address, if possible. In my last letter I think I told you I was going on Wednesday, but since then it has been changed and I expect to go on Saturday night, or possibly Sunday. We or rather, I should say the 23rd Divisional Staff, are going in two sections, on two transport ships, and I am going with the second ship, not with the first, as I was previously informed.

I inspected all our riding horses and sent them off to go on the first ship, where a transport veterinary officer I think will have his hands full looking over strangles and pneumonia cases, as they have been standing outside, and a few have slight colds, which, I think possibly will develop into more on board ship. I am only having under my care some 700 mules, and as they are hardy beasts, I hope I will get them all safely out there. I have all my Eastern kit ready packed which seems, according to the list given me, to consist of the very lightest clothes you can buy, and sun helmets, etc., so it must be some warm climate we are going to. I think I shall like the change of air, as the climate here is most frightfully damp at times.

Oh, by the way, I don't think I mentioned it before. I had the pleasure of going to church with and saluting afterwards, the King and Queen, before I left Aldershot. They were there inspecting the troops stationed there, and on Sunday morning a number of officers in my corps, including myself, went to the English church, where he was attending service, and although we didn't sit in the same pew, we had a very good view of them from our pew. After service, we all lined up outside, on either side of the avenue, and saluted him as he walked down, accompanied by the Queen. The salutes he acknowledged very graciously by lifting his hat.

I hardly know what more I can write about in this letter, as just as soon as I seal one letter I think of something more I might have written. Possibly when I get out East things will be so strange and different that I may find lots of material to write about.

Cecil E. Wolfe.

CROWD ALWAYS READY.

I tell you, sir, the great benefit of a college education lies in the friends you make.

That's so. No matter how old you are, if you have been through college you can always find some one to play poker, or bet on the races or go on a spree with.—Life.