SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON X.—MARCH 7, 1909.

Philip and the Ethiopian.—Acts 8: 26-40.

Commentary.—I. Philip sent to the eunuch (vs. 26-29.) 26. An angel (R. V.)—Not the angel which signifies Christ himself. We do not know how he appeared to Philip, but we know that he was "a real messenger, bringing a real message from God." Unto Philip—The evangelist, or deacon. Go—Philip was probably still in Samaria when he received this command. Gaza—One of the five chief cities of the Philistines. It was situated near the southern boundary of Canaan, less than three miles from the Mediterranean. The way .... which is desert—This is a description of the exact route he was to take. The word "desert" means a wild and thinly settled region. This was the road through Hebron. But some think the word desert refers to the "place" where he was to go.

27. He arose and went—It does not appear that he knew the object of his journey, but still he obeyed God instantly, without a question. Ethiopia—Now called Nubia and Abyssinia. The high land south of Egypt, of which the capital was Meroe, called Sheba in Gen. 10; 7; 1 Kings 10- 1. Its Hebrew name was Cush, from the son of Ham. At this time there were many Jews in Ethiopia. Eunuch—Denoting here a state officer of great authority, similar perhaps to that of Joseph (Gen. 41; 39); sometimes called Chamberlain (Acts 12; 23.)—Binney. Candace—Title of the queen of Meroe, as Caesar of Rome, and Pharaoh of the earlier, and Ptolemy, of the latter dynasties of Egypt. Of all her treasure—Treasure-houses were common in the East, where not only money, but important documents were kept (Ezra 5; 17; Esther 4; 7.) Of these treasure-houses this eunuch was custodian.—Abbott. He was the queen's secretary of the treasury. To Jerusalem—He had come a long distance, at great expense, over rough and dangerous roads, and no doubt was accompanied with a numerous retinue. To worship—This fact implies that he had been taught in his African home to recognize the God of Israel as the true God, and the worship of Jehovah as the true religion; he had now made a pilgrimage in order to offer sacrifices and adore God in the holy city and in the temple itself.—Lange. 28. Was returning—He had come to Jerusalem to keep the recent feast of Pentecost as a Gentile proselyte to the Jewish faith, and having come so far he not only stayed during the festival, but prolonged his stay until now.—J., F. & B. Read Esaias—The Greek form for Isaiah. "He was evidently reading aloud, and this was common among Orientals and was the practise of the Jews."—Cam. Bib. "He may have obtained the expensive manuscript while at Jerusalem, and was now looking over his new-found treasure." 29. The Spirit said—That inward voice which directed Philip to approach the traveller and keep near the chariot, was a command of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him.—Lange. The angel who had given him the first direction had departed, and now the influence of the Holy Spirit completed the information.—Clarke.

II. Philip preaching Christ to the eunuch (vs. 30-35). 30. Philip ran—Showing promptness in obeying the guidance of the Spirit. Heard him read—Philip was walking or running by the side of the chariot. In attaching himself to a train of people who were journeying in the same direction, he would not be considered an intruder. Understandest thou—"The question would imply that Philip was ready to explain." Philip did not begin in a roundabout way, but came directly to the point. "In holy conversation we should come at once to the truth itself. In this case the way was opened by the eunuch's desire to learn."—Abbott.

31. How can I—Thus admitting that there was nothing within himself to unfold the meaning of God's word, and yet expressing an earnest desire to know its meaning. The passage in Isaiah was a difficult one for a Jew to understand, as his idea of the Messiah was very different from the description there given, and only the facts, which Philip fully understood, could solve the problem. Besought Philip (R. V.)—This is a very strong expression and shows his humility as well as his earnestness. He had a great desire to know the truth.

32. The place of the Scripture—The chapter (Isa. 53) contains eleven distinct references to the vicarious sufferings of Christ. As a sheep—A vivid description of our Saviour's silent submission to that sacrificial death, to which He humbled Himself ((I. Pet. 2, 23).—Binney. Other sheep of His fold, not Israel, were to be gathered by this great Shepherd. Jewish unbelief has made way for the fulness of the Gentiles. The prophecy, "Gentiles shall come to thy light," (Isa. 60, 3), was about to be fulfilled.—Needham. 33. His humiliation—In His humble position as a poor man. Taken away—"In the contempt, violence and outrage which He suffered as part of His humiliation, the rights of justice and humanity which belonged to His were taken from Him." Declare His generation—There is a great variety of opinion as to the meaning of this expression. Many think it equivalent to asking, Who can describe the wickedness of the men of His time—is contemporaries?" But the following is more satisfactory: "1. His divine nature is incomprehensible. It is eternal. 2. His human nature, as conceived by the Holy Spirit, is beyond the reach of man. 3. His spiritual generation, the multitude of the faithful, in number as the sands of the sea, is known only to God."—Denton. Taken from the earth—He suffered wrongfully. He died patiently. He shall live forever, to ages which cannot be numbered, for His life was taken only from the earth.—Com. Com. 34. Of whom speaketh, etc.—"Probably there was no little discussion on this point." Of himself—Thinking Isaiah might have predicted his own martyrdom, by sawing asunder, according to Jewish tradition (Heb. 11. 37).—Binney. 35. Opened his mouth—Feeling the great responsibility of unfolding the true meaning of the Scriptures to his heathen companion. Began at the same—He took his text from Isaiah, and carried his sermon into the Gospel concerning Christ. What the prophet had declared, had been fulfilled. The Old Testament is fulfilled in the New. Preached ... Jesus — Showed that Jesus was the Christ; and in His person, birth, life, doctrine, miracles, passion, death, and resurrection, the Scriptures of the Old Testament were fulfilled.

III. The eunuch's conversion (vs. 39-40).

36. as they went—They must have journeyed some time together. a certain water—There are many idle conjectures as to the exact place of this baptism. see, here is water—The expression is merely, "Behold, water!" The eunuch evidently rejoiced to see the opportunity present itself for him to make a public confession of his faith in Christ. 37. Philip said—This verse is wanting in the Revised Version. if thou believest—Believing is essential to salvation. "With the heart man believeth unto righteousness." Without faith it is impossible to please God. It is not so much our doing, as what we are at heart that God estimates. "He desired truth in the inward parts." God wants the heart to be moved toward him. the Son of God—After listening to the story of Christ's humiliation and death, to believe truly that he was the Messiah would certainly stir all the love and adoration of the soul; for love purchased redemption, and love is the price for it. 38. to stand still—Of course the whole retinue would see what took place, and they may certainly be regarded as the nucleus of a congregation to be established in Ethiopia.—Cam. Bib. 39. caught away—A sudden supernatural removal. The expressions in 1 Kings 18:12; 2 Kings 2:16, and the disappearance of Christ in Luke 24:31, interpret the statement here.—Abbott. he went ... rejoicing—Joy from God, joy in God, joy of God.—Bonar. He had found Christ and the key to the scriptures; his soul was set free, and his discipleship sealed; he had lost his teacher, but gained what was infinitely better.—J. F. & B.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS.

How to Work.

I. Divinely guided. The Spirit said, "Go near and join thyself to this chariot" (v. 29). "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord; and he delighteth in his way" (Psa. 37:23). The Spirit himself personally talks with the surrendered soul, not only about spiritual things, but about the particulars of personal work. God will guide us as he did Philip if we are Spirit-filled. "Try the spirits whether they are of God" (I John 4:1). When you are not sure whether a suggestion is your own thought, or a whisper from Satan, coming as "an angel of light" (2 Cor. 11:14), or the voice of the Spirit, look up in perfect submission and say, "Yes, Lord, if this thought is from you I will do it." If the Holy Spirit is speaking you will grow quietly certain. If not, the impression will leave you. There are other ways of trying the spirits.

1. By the word. The Holy Spirit never speaks contrary to God's word. The lady who thought the Spirit told her to "mortify the flesh," and wear a big, old-fashioned bonnet to church, was deceived, for "God is not the author of confusion" (1. Cor. 14: 33). He tells us, "Let all things be done decently and in order" (1 Cor. 14; 40). He bids us "Look ..... on the things of others" (Phil. 2: 4). He would have "women adorn themselves in modest apparel" (1. Tim. 2: 9). The love that "worketh no ill (Rom. 13: 10), will lead us to dress so as not to attract the attention of an audience from the word of God and the worship of God to ourselves.

2. By Providence. The Holy Spirit never speaks contrary to God's providence. A lady felt impressed to go as a foreign missionary. Looking for a promise she opened to Acts 1: 8, and felt sure he was to go. But the missionary board did not accept her and no money was provided for her passage. The Lord had not told her to go. But he fulfilled his promise by giving her a Bible class of young men to train, from which many went as missionaries.

3. By our judgment. The Holy Spirit never speak contrary to sanctified judgment. Philip left in the midst of a flourishing revival, but he did not leave the converts without care. Peter and John were there, and he could well be spared. The Lord may lead us to do things that some people think are extreme, but he does not make us "fools" (Eph. 5: 15). Do not fear. Having received the Holy Spirit, recognize him as within you, "the Spirit of truth," ready to "guide you into all truth" (John 16: 13). If in doubt, wait on the Lord without hurry. When the inward voice, the written word, and the outward providence all agree, beware how you disobey.

II. Earnestly. 1. Promptly. "Philip ran" (v. 30) the way of God's commandments (Psa. 119: 32). George B. Peck says, "Many fail to run after the passing chariots when hidden, and miss their man. There is a nick of time in every errand for God" (1 Kings 20: 40, Eccl. 9: 10).

2. Aggressively. "Philip ..... said" (v. 30). He spoke first, and he did not talk about the man's chariot or horses, nor about Queen Candace and her treasure; nor even about Jerusalem and the meetings from which the Ethiopian had come. He asked the question that would quickest lead to Christ.

3. Pointedly. "Understandest thou?" (v. 30). Philip's question was direct and personal. He would know whether the man with the word of God in his hand had the thought of God in his heart.

III. Expecting reward. Reward is promised for faithfulness, not for success. The word of God will never return to him void (Isa. 55: 11). Work will be wrought although we may not see it. A. C. M.

MRS. GREEN'S SON

Will Share and Share Alike With His Sister in Mother's Money.

Dallas, Texas, Mar. 1.—E. H. Green, son of Mrs. Hetty Green, was asked last night if the curtise in New York that he had received no invitation to his sister's wedding was correct. He replied:

"The rumor is erroneous. I was not slighted in the matter of an invitation. The marriage date of my sister was decided upon rather suddenly. It takes four days for such mail to reach me. I was surprised at the sudden marriage, but have no objections.

"The reports that my mother intends to bestow her property exclusively on Sylvia when she dies are untrue. The property is to be divided between us, share and share alike."

Mr. Green is kept busy looking after his Texas Midland Railway, large land interests and a $2,000,000 life insurance company, which he and other Dallas capitalists are promoting, and which is about ready to start business.

GETTING CIVILIZED.

Two Hundred Hindus Went on Strike at New Westminster.

New Westminster, B. C., Mar. 1.—Two hundred Hindus employed at the Fraser mills went on strike yesterday, this being the first labor trouble in which the Orientals have figured since their advent in this country. Their grievance is that their leader, Udah Ram, had not been paying them their wages for some time past. The Hindus receive one dollar a day. The strikers have applied to the provincial police for assistance. Udah Ram is a Brahmin, and because of his high caste the Hindus decline to do him violence, no matter how badly they consider themselves treated.

Him—"Don't you think Miss Overton carries her age remarkably well?" Her—"No, I don't. She has dropped several years of it to my personal knowledge."—Chicago News.

CHINESE REGENT

Writes to Taft Giving His Ideas on Government of Country.

Thinks Japan Will Leave China and Corea Alone.

Pekin, Mar. 1.—The Regency of the empire has caused to be sent to President-elect William H. Taft a communication in the form of a private letter, in which its ideas and the attitude of the regent and its advisors on the vital questions not before the empire are set forth at considerable length.

This communication is the first direct expression of the regent's views on the various subjects touched on, and it comes at a time when it is known that the regent is personally anxious regarding the interpretation by foreign powers of the recent dismissal from office of Grand Chancellor Yuan Shi Kai, and the British and American action following this step.

The official of the Regency who composed the letter to Mr. Taft lays emphasis upon the fact that the recent ministerial change was entirely a family and personal matter, and that it does not signify any change in the internal or external policy of the empire; on the contrary, the Government purposes vigorously to carry out reform.

In the matter of the consumption of opium the communication describes this as China's humiliation, but it says the habit can be eradicated and that the United States is helping to this end.

The Regency sees obstacles in the way of Japan quitting Corea, but it entertains the conviction that ultimately Japan will give up her foothold in both China and Corea.

IT MAY PASS.

WATERWAYS AGREEMENT BEFORE UNITED STATES SENATE.

Senator Carter, of Montana, Interested in Seeing That Treaty is Ratified—Ambassador Bryce Intimates Canada is Becoming Restive.

Washington, D. C., Mar. 1.—The effort to ratify the Canadian boundary treaty has taken on a new lease of life. Senator Carter, of Montana, has the new movement in hand. It develops that in spite of the quasi-agreement in executive session, the treaty may be pushed at this session.

Senator Carter, as a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, has interested himself in seeing that the treaty is ratified. He made a partial poll of the Senate, and then reconciled some differences of opinion as to the meaning and effect of the treaty which had not been reconciled in the executive session discussion. His success in this connection prompted him to propose that a resolution be drawn and adopted which outlines, in a measure, the understanding and interpretation which the United States places upon some features of the treaty.

This resolution has been drawn and redrawn three or four times, and it is still a matter of dispute as to phraseology among the senators who are interested. It is understood that to-day it was in such shape that it met with the approval of all senators interested except Senators Smith, of Michigan, and Nason, of Minnesota. They are now wrestling with the phraseology of the resolution. If it is whipped into a shape which is satisfactory to them, the resolution will be adopted as a prelude to actual ratification.

The senators interested in the movement believe they can get a practically unanimous vote for the treaty with the resolution as a prelude. Mr. Bacon, Secretary of State, insists that to amend the treaty would mean its rejection by the British Government. He explains that he has assurances from Ambassador Bryce to the effect that Canada is already restive under the form of the treaty, and contends that too many concessions have been made to the United States, so that Britain does not feel that she could go to the extent of approving amendments which would be construed by Canada as more favorable to this country.

LEFT PENITENTIARY.

Two Prisoners Made Their Escape at New Westminster.

Vancouver, Mar. 1.—A daring and sensational escape was made from the penitentiary at New Westminster this morning, the fugitives being a French-Canadian named Labourdette and a Britisher named Stanton, both of whom were serving a term for burglary. The escape appears to have been managed with skill and despatch. The night guard made his usual round at 6 o'clock this morning, knocking the bars off the cells preparatory to letting the occupants out to work.

Labourdette and Stanton had evidently tampered with the lock, and when the night guard's back was turned, after the bar had been dropped, all they had to do was to push the door open and sneak away. Having left the cells the pair climbed up the hot water pipes to a window and escaped. They have not been captured.

FOR EASTER.

Cabriolets to be in Style as Well as the Merry Widow.

Chicago, Mar. 1.—"Get a cabriolet and be in style," is the advice of the National Association of Retail Milliners, which has one on exhibition at its semi-annual opening. It is said to be the very newest of hat confections, and partakes of the dominant characteristics of the cab family, yawning in front and flapping at the sides. The Merry Widow, according to those in charge of the opening, is to remain, and the tendency in the hat extremes is to meet. The missing link is the Dutch bonnet of the mushroom type.

CANADA AN EXAMPLE.

Mr. John E. Redmond Pointed to in British Commons.

London, Mar. 1.—In the House of Commons debate on Ireland today Mr. John Redmond said Canada furnished a striking example of the result of throwing responsibility for government on the shoulders of the people. He honored Lord Durham for the trust he placed in the Canadian people.

A DEEPER WELL.

Hecker Studies Earth Tides With Pendulums—Tilt of South Africa.

Berlin, Mar. 1.—The chief apparatus employed by Hecker, the astronomer, in studying earth tides consists of two highly sensitive pendulums. The advantage of working in a deep well, as was told of yesterday, is that the temperature is constant. It is thus possible to make observations with good precision.

A new well is being dug, double the depth of the present one, with a large chamber, which will be reached by a winding stairway.

The experiments are of great value scientifically, but Hecker does not assert that they have had any practical value thus far.

Investigations at the observatory at Kimberley show that South Africa tilts toward the east in summer and to the west in Winter. Probably to this is traceable the seasonable rainfall.

TUNNEL AT QUEBEC.

Mr. Armstrong's Scheme to Solve the Crossing Question.

Montreal, Que., despatch: At to-day's meeting of the Board of Trade Council, Mr. J. S. Armstrong, of St. John, N. B., presented a scheme which he claims will solve the Quebec bridge question. He proposes a tunnel in the form of an immense steel tube, covered with cement and kept down in place by piers. He states that in a measure it would resemble the tunnel at Port Huron.

His plan provides for a tube large enough to give four lines of rails and two driveways for passengers. He estimates that the cost would be less than the bridge, while the results would be far more satisfactory. It would be placed forty feet under water, and would thus be out of the way of the deepest draught vessels. His scheme has aroused a good deal of comment, and will likely be seriously considered.

A GOOD DEED.

Mrs. Vanderbilt to Found Model Tenements For Consumptives.

New York, Mar. 1.—Mrs. W. H. Vanderbilt, sen., has given more than $1,000,000, as was announced to-day, for the erection of four model tenements for persons suffering with tuberculosis. The buildings are to be operated in connection with Dr. Henry L. Shively's tuberculosis clinic at the Presbyterian Hospital, and are to be known as the "Shively sanitary tenements."

A moderate rental will be charged tenants. Most of the new features in their construction are suggestions of Dr. Shively, who has for some years been in charge of Mrs. Vanderbilt's relief work among the tuberculosis sufferers.

The group of four tenements is to be erected on a large plot a few blocks from the Presbyterian Hospital, close to the East River. The four buildings, provided with attractive roof parlors and gardens, will be six storeys in height, and will contain about 375 apartments of from two to five rooms and bath each.

BELL PHONES.

Government of Saskatchewan Want to Buy Plant.

Montreal, Mar. 1.—A the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Bell Telephone Co. held to-day, it was announced that negotiations are in progress between the management and the Government of Saskatchewan looking to the purchase by the latter of the telephone plant of the company in that Province. Representatives of the Province have been in Montreal conferring with the company. The transaction is along pretty much the same lines as the purchase of the Bell lines in Manitoba by the Government of that Province.

KICK FROM COREANS

"Give Us Independence or Give Us Death," Their Cry.

Honolulu, Mar. 1. At a convention held by 300 Corean residents of the Island of Hawaii, the following message was drafted and cabled to the Emperor of Japan: "You proclaimed that the wars between Japan and China and Japan and Russia were for Corean independence and to insure peace in the Orient. We now learn that negotiations for the annexation of Corea by Japan are under way. We assert that such negotiations are unauthorized and we beg your Majesty to prevent such annexation and to assure Corean independence."

The message concludes with "Give us independence or give us death."

TO PROTECT HALIBUT.

Government Will Declare Herate Straits Closed.

Montreal despatch: Mr. Charles M. Hays has permitted the information to become public that the Canadian Government has decided to stand absolutely on its rights in Hecate Straits, British Columbia; that it will formally declare this favored haunt for halibut a closed sea, and that it proposes to at once build a swift armored cruiser for the protection of these waters against American poachers.

The Grand Trunk Pacific is deeply interested in the halibut industry, because of the proximity of Prince Rupert to the fishing grounds. Mr. Hays' announcement was the result of a recent interview he had with the Minister of Marine at Ottawa.

DEAD IN A BATHROOM.

Miss Edmunds, of Smith's Falls, Died Suddenly at Rutland, Vt.

A Rutland, Vt., despatch: Miss Margaret Edmunds, of Smith's Falls, Ont., a trained nurse, aged 30, was found dead in a bathroom at the Bardwell Hotel here this morning. An autopsy later showed that she was suffering from acute Bright's disease and organic heart trouble. She was evidently stricken while undressing to bathe. Miss Edmunds came here three years ago to take a course at the hospital training school, and graduated this month. She had no relatives here.

TOBACCO TRADE.

How Huge Combine Controls the Business.

Over Three Hundred Million Dollars in the Trade.

Washington, Mar. 1.—Herbert K. Smith, Commissioner of Corporations, to-day made public sub-divisions II. and III. of part 1 of his report on the tobacco industry. They deal with the present organization of the tobacco combination, so-called, its degree of control in that industry, and the development of that control.

These divisions of the report resulting from a thorough investigation into the business operations of the tobacco combination contain an elaborate discussion of the methods by which the manufacture of tobacco, except cigars, has come under the control of a comparatively few capitalists. Commissioner Smith says:

"In the tobacco combination are the American Tobacco Co. and its three great subsidiary commissions, the American Snuff Co., the American Cigar Co. and the British-American Co., besides eighty-two other subsidiary concerns doing business in the United States, Porto Rico and Cuba. The combination represents a total net capitalization of over $315,000,000. A very small group of ten stockholders controls 60 per cent. of the outstanding voting stock of the American Tobacco Co., through which company the entire combination is controlled."

A list of the subsidiary companies controlled, including over twenty hitherto secretly controlled, so-called "bogus independent concerns," is given in the report. It is shown also that the combination is practically the only important exporter of tobacco manufactures from this country.

In the year 1906 the concern used in the manufacture of its various products nearly 300,000,000 pounds of leaf tobacco.

"An idea of the absorption of competing plants," says Commissioner Smith, "and of the changes through combination within the last decade may be had from the fact that in 1897 the combination had ten plants, each producing over 500,000 pounds of manufactured tobacco or snuff per year, while there were 243 independent plants of the same class. In 1906, on the other hand, the combination had 45 plants of this class, and independent manufacturers 140. Especially conspicuous has been the absorption of the large plants. In 1897 the combination had eight plants, each producing over 1,000,000 pounds of these products per year, while its competitors had 46 such plants. In 1906 the combination had 34 plants of this size, and independent concerns only 17.

"Many weaker concerns have been virtually driven out of business or forced to sell out to the combination either by reason of the direct competition of the latter or as an indirect result of the vigorous competition between the combination and larger independent concerns. In the case of the larger and more powerful concerns which it acquired, however, the combination has usually secured control only by paying a high price. The immense profits of the combination have enabled it to keep up this policy."

FELL THREE STOREYS

Went Down Elevator Shaft and Only Broke a Finger.

London, Ont., despatch: Charles Hodson, aged 16, fell through three storeys down an elevator shaft at Perrin's biscuit factory this morning, and escaped with a broken finger. The boy was looking over the railing of the elevator shaft when it broke, and he plunged downward. He landed in a pile of waste paper, and hurried upstairs to meet those who were hurrying down, expecting to find him dead.

GIFT FROM CZAR

To Y. M. C. A.—John R. Mott Going to St. Petersburg.

St. Petersburg, Mar. 1.—Emperor Nicholas has given $2,500 to the Russian Young Men's Christian Association, founded in this city by Anson Phelps Stokes, of New York.

John R. Mott, general secretary of the world's student Christian Federation of New York, is expected here next Saturday. He will deliver a series of lectures under the auspices of the federation in St. Petersburg, Moscow and Dorpat.

DEATH OF ADMIRAL FANE.

He Was Formerly Commander of the Newfoundland Station.

Halifax, N. S., despatch: A cable received to-day announces the death at Edinburgh of Admiral Sir Charles George Fane, K. C. B., formerly commender of the Newfoundland station, and A. D. C. of the late Queen Victoria.

Sir Charles retired in 1902. He had Crimean and Turkish medals. He married here, in 1875, the youngest daughter of Sir Edward Kenny, sister of the late Thomas Kenny. Lady Fane and five children survive him.

KISSED BY THE POPE.

Messina Archbishop Has Audience With His Holiness.

Rome, Mar. 1.—The Pope to-day gave an audience to the Archbishop of Messina. The meeting was very touching. The Pope, weeping, embraced and kissed the Archbishop. The latter, deeply moved, knelt at the feet of the Pope, who raised him and led him to a seat. The Archbishop then gave his Holiness graphic details of the earthquake disaster at Messina. The audience lasted an hour. The Pope promised to continue his aid to the sufferers and praised the conduct of the Archbishop.

BUILDING BLOWN DOWN.

Preston Experiences Force of a Hurricane.

A Preston despatch: The large new building, 80 by 160, of the Preston Car & Coach Co., which had the roof almost completed, was thrown over by the strong wind this afternoon. It is very fortunate that the large number of men employed escaped with only a bad shaking up. The Car & Coach Company were having this building rushed, as it had received several large orders that they were anxious to put through.

FREE AND EASY.

Magistrate McMicken Tells of His Judicial Methods.

Winnipeg, Man., Mar. 1.—Astonishing revelations of the administration of justice were made before the Public Accounts Committee this morning. Magistrate McMicken was summoned before the committee and required to explain his methods of operation. He admitted imposing many fines, but kept no books, had no regular times of accounting to the department, and was not subjected to any auditor. He simply deposited the money in the bank as a trust account, and followed neither rule, time nor system in paying it over. The majority of these fines were imposed on keepers of immoral resorts for selling liquor illegally.

"Have you ever taken jewelry as security?" a member asked McMicken. "I took it two or three times—just as good as gold," answered the Magistrate.

T. H. Johnson asked if any of the people he trusted turned out bad.

"One did; she died," said McMicken, "and the loss was thirty or forty dollars."

A return made on the 6th of February showed an unpaid balance of a fine of $10. When asked as to what the security was in the case, McMicken replied: "Oh, I forget. Fines are very hard to collect."

A BIGAMIST.

Deserts Wife and Babes to Wed Another Girl.

A Toronto despatch: Six months ago Thomas George Flint, an Englishman, left his wife and two little ones at their home in St. Thomas, saying he was going back to England and would return. Two months later twin boys were born, but neither support nor even word came from the departed husband.

He did not go to England, but to Erindale, where he met Maggie Elliott, a former sweetheart, and together they went to Bolton and were married.

Yesterday Flint was arrested by County Constable Gould, of Bolton, and brought to Toronto, where he was turned over to Chief William Armstrong, of St. Thomas. He is charged with non-support, but as he admits the second marriage he will be charged with bigamy.

JAPANESE SPIES.

Two Have Been Working in Australia For a Year.

New York, Mar. 1.—A cable despatch to The Herald from Sydney, N. S. W., says: Australian mistrust of the Japanese will not be lessened by the disclosure that members of a prominent Japanese commercial firm have been acting as spies on behalf of the Japanese Government.

Mr. Levien, an Australian commercial agent, has just arrived from Japan, where, at the request of the Federal Department of External Affairs, he made confidential inquiries. These are said to show that the two principals of the firm, young, shrewd and educated, from military service and speaking fluent English, obtained admission into the Commonwealth last year as students of political economy as a blind to shield their secret service work.

They started in business as exporters, but it is said the Japanese Government is supplying them with funds and paying them a subsidy.

Mr. Levien's report has been forwarded to the Minister of External Affairs.

COBOURG FLOOD.

Families Driven to Second Storey—$10,000 Damage.

Cobourg, Ont., despatch: For the first time in twenty years the creek which runs through the town and under King street overflowed yesterday, causing a great amount of damage by flooding the cellars of nearly every business place on the street. The heavy rains and the giving away of a dam north of the town were the cause of the flood. On Covet street some families had to take shelter in the second storey of their homes, the lower flats being entirely under water. The financial loss will amount to fully $10,000.

Indians That Practice Polygamy.

It is commonly supposed that Uncle Sam strictly forbids polygamy within his dominions. This is a mistake. Polygamy has been practised from time immemorial by the Navajos, and they have no intention of giving up the practice. Nothing has ever been done by the Government or by the Indian agents to discourage it. Not many of the braves have more than two wives, although some have been known to maintain a harem of twelve.

Two wives are almost as common as one. Being only human, sometimes they "scrap." Then the husband separates them, building for each a separate hogan, located wherever possible on opposite sides of a butte or small mesa. Each is strictly forbidden to leave her side of the separating landmark. It is to be feared, however, that this prohibition is not always obeyed, and there are doubtless many hair pulling scraps that no one but the jackrabbits and pappooses witness.—From the San Francisco Chronicle.

A Local Need.

A very much excited woman found a new use for the New York Public Service Commission the other night. After the offices had been closed and only the accident bureau was open she called up on the telephone:

"Can you tell me if there has been a serious accident on the elevated lines or the subway?" she asked, seriously.

"There hasn't, so far as we know," replied the inspector.

"And you haven't heard of any to-night in Manhattan?"

"No."

"Not a block, or a delay, or anything?"

"Nothing at all. Why? What is the matter?"

"Well, I don't understand why my husband isn't home; he left here was late before."

Then the inspector hung up the receiver and laughed.

The fellow with a club foot ought to be a good golf player.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS.

FARMERS' MARKET.

The receipts of grain to-day were small, with prices firm. Wheat is nominal at about $1.04. Barley firm, 200 bushels selling at 60c per bushel. Oats also firm, 100 bushels selling at 50c.

Hay in moderate supply, with prices firm, 25 loads sold at $12 to $13.50 a ton for No. 1 and $9 to $10 for mixed. Straw is nominal at $12 to $13 a ton for bundled.

Dressed hogs are steady at $9 to $9.15 for heavy, and at $9.25 to $9.50 for light.

Wheat, fall, bush.	$ 1 03	$ 1 04
Do., goose, bush.	1 00	0 00
Oats, bush.	0 49	0 50
Barley, bush.	0 55	0 00
Rye, bush.	0 65	0 70
Peas, bush.	0 90	0 00
Buckwheat, bush.	0 61	0 00
Hay, per ton.	12 00	13 50
Do., No. 2.	9 00	10 00
Straw, per ton	12 00	13 00
Dressed hogs.	9 00	9 50
Butter, dairy.	0 20	0 25
Do., creamery.	0 26	0 29
Eggs, new laid.	0 30	0 00
Do., fresh.	0 26	0 27
Chickens, dressed, lb.	0 16	0 18
Fowl, lb.	0 12	0 13
Turkeys, lb.	0 23	0 26
Cabbage, per dozen.	0 40	0 00
Celery, per dozen.	0 40	0 60
Potatoes, bag.	0 75	0 85
Onions, bag.	0 75	0 85
Apples, barrel.	4 00	5 00
Beef, hindquarters.	8 50	10 00
Do., forequarters.	6 00	7 50
Do., choice, carcase.	8 00	8 75
Do., medium, carcase.	5 50	7 00
Mutton, per cwt.	8 00	10 00
Veal, prime, per cwt.	8 50	11 00
Lamb, per cwt	12 00	13 00

LIVE STOCK.

The railways reported receipts of 109 car loads of live stock for Wednesday and Thursday, consisting of 1,712 cattle, 1,631 hogs, 298 sheep and lambs, with 134 calves.

Trade in butchers' cattle was good, with prices a little higher in the medium class, but the market for exporters was not any better than at the commencement of the week; in fact it was not quite as good, that is, when quality is considered. Prime picked lots of butchers did not sell at any higher quotations.

Exporters—Export steers are not selling as high as they were a few weeks past, and at present the outlook, to say the least, is not bright. Export steers sold at $5.20 to $5.40, with the best load seen on the market this season, at $5.60. The latter price is no criterion to go by, as there are few like them in the country. Export bulls sold at $4 to $4.50, with now and again one at $4.75 to $5 per cwt.

Butchers—Prime picked lots sold at $4.85 to $5.15; loads of good, $4.50 to $4.75; medium, $4 to $4.40; common, $3.50 to $4; cows, $3 to $4.25; canners and common cows, $1.50 to $2.50; butcher bulls, $3 to $4.

Feeders and Stockers—Best feeders, 900 to 1,000 lbs. each, at $3.75 to $4.25 per cwt.; medium, same weights, $3.60 to $4; stockers, 500 to 700 lbs., at $2.75 to $3.

Milkers and Springers—Prices ranged from $30 to $60, with two extra quality cows going at $69 each.

Veal Calves—The market for good veals was strong. Prices ranged from $3 to $7 per cwt.

Sheep and Lambs—Receipts have been light all week, with market strong. Export ewes, $4 to $4.50; rams, $3.25 to $3.75; lambs, $5.50 to $6 per cwt. for common, and choice grain fed at $6.50 to $7 per cwt.

Hogs—Mr. Harris quotes selects, $6.75, fed and watered, and $6.50, f.o.b. cars, country points; sows, $4 to $5 per cwt.; stags, $2 to $3 per cwt., as to quality.

SUGAR MARKET.

St. Lawrence sugars are quoted as follows: Granulated, $4.60 per cwt., in barrels, and No. 1 golden, $4.20 per cwt., in barrels. These prices are for delivery here. Car lots, 5c less.

OTHER MARKETS

WINNIPEG WHEAT MARKET.

Wheat—Feb. $1.09 1-4 bid, March $1.08 7-8 bid, July $1.12 3-8 bid, May $1.11 3-8 bid.

Oats—February 42 1-2c sellers, May 44 1-2c sellers.

NEW YORK SUGAR MARKET.

Sugar, raw, firm; fair refining, 3.33 1-2c; centrifugal, 97 test, 3.73 1-2c; molasses sugar, 2.93 1-2c; refined, steady.

BRITISH CATTLE MARKETS.

London.—London cables for cattle are steady at 13 1-4 to 14c per pound, dressed weight; refrigerator beef is quoted at 10 1-4 to 10 3-8c per pound.

BRADSTREET'S TRADE REVIEW

Montreal: There has been practically no change in the trade situation here during the past week. Spring business is opening out fairly well, although the volume of orders is in no line particularly heavy. Dry goods orders continue fair and indications would make it appear that except in those lines which retailers cleared out last season orders will not be heavy until the season is well under way. There has, however, been some improvement in the orders for woollens, cottons, linens and other staple lines. Values are steady.

Toronto: Almost two weeks of seasonable weather has done much to help retail trade here, and in many lines merchants are beginning to clear their shelves. This is all the more easy as white goods were bought sparingly. Spring business is moving along nicely, although buyers are evidently still acting with caution.

Winnipeg: The outlook for trade here is very encouraging. Sorting orders have been good during the past week owing to seasonable weather and good roads.

Vancouver and Victoria: A fairly brisk business in seasonable lines is now going forward and the outlook for spring is bright.

Quebec: Little change is perceptible in trade conditions over the preceding week, travellers' orders are not large and in the eastern section of the Province no immediate improvement is expected until the spring.

Hamilton: Retail trade has had a better week following upon more seasonable weather, although winter stocks are by no means cleared up. Fortunately purchases were light and stocks are therefore not heavy. Wholesalers report good orders for spring and collections are in most cases fair. Manufacturers report slightly increased activity.

London: General business holds fairly steady, with some improvement noted in spring orders.

Ottawa: There is still a quiet tone to trade here.

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