

FOUNDER AND MANAGER John Cameron.
London, Thursday, April 7, 1898.

Hon. George E. Foster, ex-Finance Minister, continues to ill to attend to his Parliamentary duties.

If war there is to be between two Christian nations, it is at least seemly that the outbreak should be postponed till after Lent.

We are glad to hear that Hon. Thos. Ballantyne, ex-Speaker of the Ontario Legislature, has returned from Hot Springs, Col., much improved in health.

Busy mothers would be just as well pleased if the Easter holidays did not extend beyond Monday next. To them a holiday in cold and muddy weather means much extra toil and trouble, and no advantage to the children.

Sugar refiners say that the changes of the sugar duties, consequent on the admission of the product of the British West Indies under the preferential tariff of Canada, will not, at least for the present, involve a rise in the price of that commodity.

The anxiety of the British trade centers to buy from and sell to us is made evident by the example of Manchester, which has subscribed \$1,750,000 to provide a new steamship service to Montreal. Canada's preferential tariff is having most beneficial effects.

Today diplomacy ends and action begins—Burlington News of Wednesday. That was expected, but it is not the expected that happens. There will be no action till after Monday, if then. No man of good sense wants to go blood-letting unless he has to.

Canada's preferential trade with the West Indies is looked upon with much favor by the statesmen of the Motherland. The links in the chain of profitable trade between the Dominion, the Motherland and her dependencies have been greatly strengthened by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues.

The extreme warmth of the Parliamentary Chambers at Ottawa, kept in that condition to meet the requirements of the old, infirm and thin-blooded, has something to do with the frequent illness of members. The daily transition from long hours of hot-house air to outdoor cold proves too much for men with weak breathing apparatus.

Tristan d'Acunha, that lonely British island in the South Atlantic, has sent out its annual mail to the world. There are 64 persons on the island—13 men, 19 women, 15 boys and 12 girls. They have 900 head of cattle, nearly double what the island can pasture, and 500 sheep. They are anxious to sell the superfluous cattle, and are in need of vegetable seeds, especially those of cabbage and onions. It should not be very difficult to satisfy these simple wants.

Our telegrams today contain the news that a man living near Toronto, finding himself late for a train, ran to catch it. He had no sooner been seated than he dropped dead from heart disease. There are altogether too many deaths of this description. Is it worth while for any man to run the risk of killing himself merely to save a short time by catching a car? Every day men and women take this risk. Let it be understood, especially by all corpulent and aged persons, that undue exertion or exertion is always attended by danger.

Spain is a nation of bull-fighters. The common people grow poorer every year, the national standing becomes lower, the country goes down in the scale of nations, but bull-fighting and other brutal sports are patronized in every locality, while the people have a copper with which to pay their way. Last year the bull-fighters made much money. Mazzanti in 66 fights killed 168 bulls, and made 296,000 pesetas; Reverte's score was 71 fights, 109 bulls, and 276,000 pesetas; while Quervilla, with 76 fights and 147 bulls slaughtered, earned 456,000 pesetas, or \$91,000. It is difficult to sympathize with the people of a nation of so degraded tastes, no matter how hard they may be pressed by a superior country.

Canada's Business Failures.
Judging by Bradstreet's summarized report of the business failures in Canada for the first quarter of 1898, compared with the similar period of last year, conditions have greatly improved.

	1898.	1897.
Failures in Ontario.....	269	314
Failures in Quebec.....	155	249
Failures in Manitoba.....	15	17
Failures in the Northwest.....	2	2
Failures in British Columbia.....	28	12
Failures in New Brunswick.....	17	26
Failures in Nova Scotia.....	39	68
Failures in P. E. Island.....	15	17
Total.....	516	683

The assets and liabilities of insolvents in the Dominion in the periods named were as follows:

	1898.	1897.
Assets.....	\$1,753,331	\$1,969,923
Liabilities.....	2,840,495	4,819,345

The Game Laws.
Sportsmen have been much puzzled over a misprint in the digest of the game laws of the province recently published. There it was stated that quail could not be killed till 1900, whereas the law is that quail may be killed, but must not be sold, no matter where killed, before 1900. Rabbits, by the way, may be shot at any time.

Easter.

The editor of the Canadian Magazine, in the last issue of that publication, points out that Easter is one of the two great religious festivals which Protestants have retained. It is one of the greatest of the festivals retained by the Roman Catholic Church. To both religious bodies it possesses the same significance. "He is risen" is the keynote.

Easter, as Christians celebrate it, is certainly derived from the Jewish festival of the Passover. The early Christians were derived from or intimately connected with the Jewish Church, and were subject to its influence.

The Jews still celebrate the feast of the Passover for eight days, about the same period of the year as the Easter of the Christians. The latter added a new significance to the feast in substituting Christ for the Pascal Lamb, and the name by which Easter is known in French is paques; in Italian, pasqua; and in Spanish, pascua.

A dispute arose between the Jewish and Gentile Christians as to the date of holding Easter, and the matter was finally settled at the Council of Nicea, 325 A. D. It was then decided that Easter should always be held on a Sunday. About 689 A. D. the English Church adopted the Roman rule of ascertaining the proper Sunday. This rule was: Easter is the first Sunday after the fourteenth day (not the full moon) of the calendar month which happens next after March 21. When the rules for reckoning time were amended in the eighteenth century, the present plan for ascertaining the date of Easter was adopted.

No Secret Committee Meetings

Citizens send us complaints against the practice of holding city council committee meetings in secret. There is really no necessity for reverting to the old practice of transacting important civic business with closed doors. Years ago, when the committees were a series of star chambers, many a job was done for the benefit of favorites. It is believed when the secret meetings were abolished that all would acquiesce in and maintain the new order of things, but our correspondents maintain that this year at least one of the civic committees has taken to holding secret meetings, while the chairman of another has been playing the autocrat and doing the work of the committee himself, without the aid of his colleagues. While such methods prevail the best results cannot be obtained for the taxpayers.

The Penitentiaries.

According to the annual report of Hon. David Mills, Minister of Justice, there were in custody in the penitentiaries on June 30, 1897, 1,382 prisoners, distributed as follows: Kingston, 611; St. Vincent de Paul, 356; Dorchester, 198; Manitoba, 77, and British Columbia, 100. On the same date in the previous year the prison population was 1,361. The net expenditure on the penitentiaries was \$311,825. Mr. Douglas Stewart, inspector of penitentiaries, discusses the question of proper control of the penal institutions. He makes an effective argument against the present limitation of the Minister's authority and the interference of local associations in the management. It is certain that most of the scandals in the Dominion penitentiaries, under the late Government, were caused by these drawbacks.

Epidemic of Killing.

There seems to be an epidemic of homicide in Canada at the present time. Closely following the tragedy in this city comes the news of the stabbing to death of a Quebec young man by his rival for the affections of a young girl, and the murder of a farmer near Prescott, Ont.

Canada's Income From Liquor

One of the most important statements made by Hon. Mr. Fielding, Dominion Finance Minister, in his budget speech this week, was the amount received by the Dominion treasury from taxes on intoxicating liquors. Last year the country got \$8,230,823 in this way, or over one-fifth of the gross revenue of the Dominion. These figures are important in view of the coming plebiscite on the question of entirely prohibiting the traffic.

Fairs.

The Acton Free Press comes out against township fairs. These annual local competitions are all right in their way. They deserve encouragement. But the great Fair of Western Ontario, which combines instruction with legitimate entertainment of the masses, is the Western Fair of London. It in no way interferes with the township gathering. It is an institution in itself.

AN UNFAIR HANDICAP.

[Gaulthier Mercury.]
Without prejudging the tragic affair at London, Ont., it might be said that in a British country we do not recognize a revolver as a legitimate method of self-defense against the weapons nature gives to men.

BRIGHT BITS OF WISDOM.

[Ram's Horn.]
Talent is unlimited gold.
Adversity has sharp teeth.
No fraud is more wicked than cheating in a love game.
Do your best today, and you will be able to do better tomorrow.
The man who confesses his ignorance is on his road to wisdom.
To marry for money may turn out to be like going to the hornet for honey.
It is a great accomplishment to know how to make the best of life as it comes.
More good will be sure to come if

Homeless And Hungry.

Great Distress in Shawneetown, Ill.—The Bodies of the Dead Not Recovered.

Shawneetown, Ill., April 7.—Twenty-three known dead, a possibility that the list may reach 23, 1,500 people in actual need of the necessities of life; 700 people homeless, and damage to the amount of \$300,000, is the net result of the flood which swept through Shawneetown late Sunday afternoon. Not one of the bodies has been recovered. There is not in the town a loaf of bread, a pound of meat or an ounce of drugs that can be bought with money. There is not in the town a single person who has not been driven from their homes with no clothing but what they wore on their backs at the time they were overtaken by the flood. Every available room is taken, every family is living in the second story of its house, and of those whose homes were wrecked 100 or more are camping in the court house, 130 in the school house, 75 in the loft of a small elevator, and 50 are quartered in a flouring mill, and the forty-eight Jessie Wilson has furnished refuge for 100.

He Prefers Peace.

Mr. Culver, the Local U. S. Consul, on the Cuban Trouble.

Hopes War Will Be Averted, But Has No Doubt of the Result if It Comes—An Advocate of Anglo-Saxon Unity.

An Advertiser representative met Hon. Mr. Culver, the United States consul, yesterday, and asked him what his opinions of the Cuban situation were. Mr. Culver replied that as he had been absent from his own country so long, he was not fully posted.

"I sincerely hope," he said, "that the Cuban trouble will be settled by peaceful means. Because of the possibility of war, it seems to me that the United States has been preparing to strike a decisive blow, that would cripple or destroy the Spanish navy at the outset, and thus end hostilities at once. This would be more humane and less destructive than a protracted struggle."

"Do you think it would be a sea fight exclusively?"

"That depends. The United States would place troops in Cuba if a naval victory did not terminate the war. It would be impossible for Spain to land an army on United States soil. Of course the first engagement would be on the sea, and in all probability that would be the last. Some think that naval hostilities would be prolonged, but I cannot see it in that light. The American navy is undoubtedly much superior to the Spanish. It is not only larger, but the ships are of the most recent type and construction. A naval encounter would be of peculiar interest to the world, because it would be the first real test of the modern battleships. The Chinese-Japanese war was not a sufficient illustration for naval authorities, as the ships were not handled by experts on one side at least."

Mr. Culver said he noticed with pleasure the very cordial tone of the Canadian and British press and public toward the United States. "I am heartily in favor of an Anglo-Saxon alliance," he said, "for the maintenance of peace and the promotion of liberty and civilization."

FARMERS' LOAN COMPANY.

Toronto, April 7.—The Farmers Loan Company liquidation came before the master in equity at Osgoode Hall, when the official liquidator presented his report, showing claims received in answer to advertisements. The total is \$1,231,920. The estate of the late Abraham Baker, composed of 160 acres of land in the southwestern portion of Philadelphia, said to be worth \$200,000,000. Mr. Baker expects to get \$700,000 as his portion in a very short time.

OCEAN RECORD LOWERED.

New York, April 7.—The North German Lloyd steamer Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse has again lowered the record from Southampton. She made the passage in 5 days and 20 hours, which is 2 hours and 20 minutes less time than her previous best record from Southampton, made on her maiden trip in September of last year. On that trip she covered a distance of 3,050 knots at an average speed of 21.23 knots. On her present trip she covered 3,129 knots, increasing her average speed to 22.23 per hour.

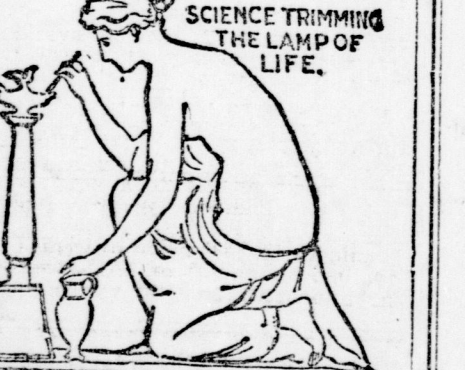
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They will send their medicine's course of five appliances and a whole month's course of restorative tonics, positively on trial without expense to any honest and reliable man! Not a dollar need be advanced—not a penny paid—till results are known to and acknowledged by the patient.
The Elie Medical Company's appliances and remedies have been tested and proved to be about all over the world, till every man has heard of them.
They restore or create strength, vigor, healthy tissue and new life.
They quickly stop drains on the system that sap the energy.
They cure nervousness, despondency and all effects of evil habits, excesses, overwork, etc.
They give full strength, development and tone to every portion and organ of the body.
Failure is impossible and age is no barrier.
This "Free" without expense, offer is limited by the company to a short time, and application must be made at once.
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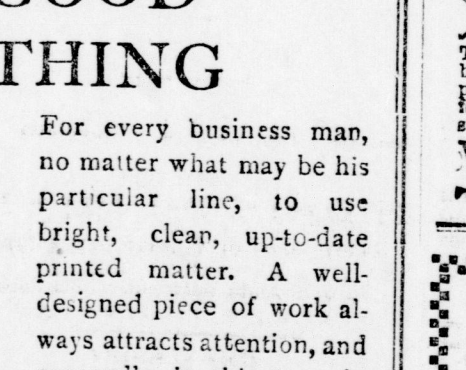
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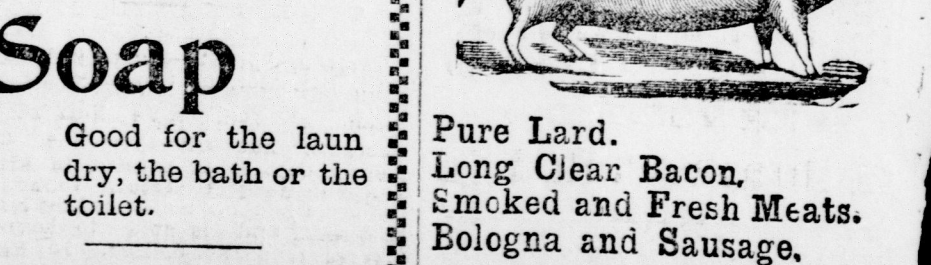
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