

The Free Press, LONDON, ONT.

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LONDON, ONT.

Wednesday, February 28, 1906.

LONDON'S WATER AND ICE.

The health authorities seem to have
settled the ice question in a way to
drive the citizens to the use of arti-
ficial ice. Willy, milly, they must get
pure ice for domestic use as well as
pure water. The one follows the other.
It is useless to go on taking ice from
the river to put in the water pitcher if
the river water itself is unfit to drink.
If we are not to manufacture our ice
supply from city water the next re-
source is to take it from one of the
lakes. If the latter, Lake Huron or
Georgian Bay would be preferable.
But this would increase the cost as
to raise the question whether it would
not be advisable to manufacture at
home. The difference in the cost of
river and lake ice would support the
industry here. And the use of spring
water for the purpose would add ma-
terially to the city's income.

From this point, the ratepayers pro-
ceed naturally to the public water
supply, its adequacy and permanency.
They must have thought the water
supply a large question already, with-
out complication with the ice problem.
The two together will give them much
to think of from this out. The talk of
reducing the water rates per so, is at
present nebulous enough. How to do
it is the serious question, when it
comes to be grappled with. If the
rates are lowered without some means
limiting or restricting consumption,
which up to the present has meant
enormous waste, the income is lost on
one side of the account only to be laid
on the other. If there is not a surplus
from the waterworks office to main-
tain the sinking fund, and meet emer-
gencies, it must be provided out of
direct taxation. From this there is
no escape. To cut off one or two of
the large consumers would preserve the
supply, but not maintain income. To
sacrifice the revenue from these and
lower the general rates, while the
present methods are preserved, would
mean bankruptcy of the department,
and more burden for the taxpayers at
large.

But one of two things will have to
be done ere long, and it cannot be
too soon seriously considered. Either
to find an additional supply of pure
spring water, or restrict the waste.
Which to do, is the problem. Limiting
the lawn and garden services to one
day in the week instead of three, or
metering the private dwellings, or both?
The problem would be wholly solved
by saving half a million gallons a
day. If this half million gallons could
be stored in reservoirs, the question of
more general supply would be settled
for the next twenty or thirty years.

London is not singular in having such
a problem on its hands. Many cities,
both in Canada and the United States,
whether they take from the lakes or
inland springs, have their own per-
plexities. The New York State water
supply commission has secured data
from other American cities to aid in
solving the question for the metropolis.
Cleveland furnishes a fair example of
the effects of metering. Forty thou-
sand dwellings are so equipped, and
30 per cent. of them report that their
bills were lower than under the former
system. The Cleveland consumer is
charged 51-3 cents per thousand
gallons, while the rate in New York
City of 10 cents per 100 cubic feet, is
equal to about 16 cents for the same
quantity. The Chicago city council
has recently voted to have meters put
in at the city's expense on all pre-
mises where the frontage assessment
has been \$25 a year. The same arrange-
ment had already been made for pre-
mises paying over \$50. In Milwaukee
there is a general installation of me-
ters at the property owner's expense.

What a metered service can accom-
plish in stopping waste, is shown in
a paper read by W. R. Hill, former
chief engineer of the New York Aqueduct
Commission, before the American
waterworks association:

"In forty-one cities having less than
10 per cent. of their service metered,
the aggregate of the entire consump-
tion averaged 192 gallons per capita
per day. In twenty cities having from
10 to 30 per cent. of the service me-
tered, it averaged 127 gallons. In
eighteen cities having from 30 to 50
per cent. of the service metered, it
averaged 96 gallons. In nine cities
having 50 to 75 per cent. metered, it
averaged 75 gallons, and in twelve
cities having from 75 to 100 per cent.
of the service metered, it averaged but
58 gallons."

In the light of such figures it is like-
ly to be a live question with us in de-
aling with the meter question, whether
to incur a large outlay of money in
procuring more water immediately, or
meet the difficulty when it shall be-
come more acute, by preventing waste.
As said before, it is a large question

either way, beside which the ice sup-
ply by itself is insignificant.

HEARING DEPUTATIONS.

It is one of the traditions of the
Parliament of Canada that a premier
wore out his physical energies by
over application to departmental de-
tails, from which he could not spare
the time to give audience to impor-
tant deputations. The Hon. Mr. Mac-
Kenzie was a devoted slave to the
official duties of a minister of public
works. It was his boast on the
household that he oversaw the drafting
of plans and, as a former master
mason, took a pride in knowing the
measurements of the walls, excava-
tions and embankments with which
the department had to do. But he paid
a dear price for this close applica-
tion to the duties which should be
discharged by expert officials. The
worry of work sapped his health,
while the vexations of waiting and
disappointed callers made inroads upon
his political support. Good Liberals in
different lines of manufacture may
have sought to persuade him that free
trade principles were not applicable to
Canada at the time he held office, yet
with his lapel ornamented with the
Golden Club medal, Mr. MacKenzie
found it difficult if not most un-
pleasant to be compelled to argue the
point with those well-meaning citi-
zens. He had as right hand man one
who was firm and capable, and carried
out his chief's inclinations with all the
savvy of a polished man of the
world. And the way in which he kept
at bay the crowds of callers was very
acceptable to a Premier who felt not
only weighed down with the oversight
of plans and specifications, but weary
of the clamor for a change of tariff
policy so contrary to his personal
education and convictions. Each de-
putation that was turned away, each
order of disagreeable argument that
was postponed, no doubt inspired the
thought in the Premier of that day.
"So much for Buckingham!" This poli-
tician Richard the Third had triumphed
over one more of the small difficulties
and drudgeries of public life. It was
only after the 17th of September, 1878,
that the mistake was realized to its
full extent. On that eventful day the
mass of Liberals disgruntled by the
indifference shown to them as dele-
gates in the previous two years voted
the other way. There was a moral in
this for all successive ministers. It
passed into a maxim that Cabinet
Ministers cannot be better employed
than in hearing and making questions
of the representative persons who call
upon them. By so doing valuable in-
formation is gained and sad mistakes
often avoided or corrected.

DEPORTATION OF SILVER.

If restaurant keepers, street car
companies and other recipients of for-
eign coins, in considerable amount,
will but join in the movement heartily,
the step now to be taken for their de-
portation will be greatly assisted. It
is because so many persons in busi-
ness are "only too glad to get them,"
that these foreign silver coins, worth
only from 50 to 60 cents on the dollar,
accumulate to the propositions where
they are called "a nuisance."

So long as this class of money
passes merely from hand to hand, its
face value is all right. It is as useful
a "counter" as any. But when it
comes to be handed by the banks, the
"nuisance" is found to be a real one.
They have to get rid of it oftentimes
at a loss and much trouble.

The action of the Finance Depart-
ment at Ottawa to facilitate the ex-
change of the foreign silver currency
through the bank agencies of the
country is not taken too soon. Such
a movement was resolved upon, and
announced by Hon. Mr. Fielding,
the year before last, but for some reason,
or perhaps none save the inertia com-
mon to governmental action, it has
been delayed until now.

The replacing of this money by Cana-
dian silver will be satisfactory to all
concerned, this can easily be
brought about by the co-operation of
the banking institutions, and those
having large dealings with them.

The Bank of Montreal in New York
has received all comments of Ameri-
can silver at par value, and credit
the same to the Receiver General
without charge to the shipper. When
the Finance Department at Ottawa
receives advice of the receipt of coin,
an equivalent amount in new Canadian
silver will be issued from the nearest
Assistant Receiver General. Any of
our banks which may become over-
stocked with this silver in carrying
out the arrangement, will be relieved
by the treasury. It is announced that
all express charges will be paid by
government, and the banks allowed a
commission of three-eighths of one
per cent. for their trouble.

The hope once indulged that some
reciprocal agreement might be reached
for the interchange of U. S. and Cana-
dian silver currency at par value, is
not to be realized. The Canadian
coinage, beautiful as it is, and of stand-
ard value, will not be received at the
counter in any interior city of the
United States. It is treated as
"foreign" and "unmerchantable"
everywhere save on the border. It is
therefore quite in order to apply
the same rule in this country.

Western Assurance Company.

The annual meeting of this company
was held on the 22nd inst. The Direc-
tors' report showed a net profit for
the year of \$219,594.81. Out of this sum
two half-yearly dividends at the rate
of 8 per cent. per annum were paid,
and the balance, \$132,254.89, was added
to the reserve fund, which now stands
at \$1,742,620.42. At a board meeting held
subsequently Hon. Geo. A. Cox and J.
J. Kenny were re-elected President and
Vice-President respectively.



Tailored shirt waist of heavy but her's linen. It has a shaped yoke, and
beneath this are pleats stitched down at the edges. It has a severe mannish
shirt sleeve.
5933 waist—32 to 40 bust.

UNIONS AND FARMERS IN CHEAP BEEF PLAN

Scheme Is for Co-operation
to Get Rid of Extortion
of the Trust

Chicago, Feb. 27.—In a letter from
New York G. W. Curtis writes: Wil-
liam C. Wellman, president of the
Amalgamated Meat Cutters' and
Butchers' Association of America, is
now trying to work up a scheme of
co-operation between the Farmers' Al-
liance and the American Federation
of Labor to secure cheap beef.

It is proposed to have the farmer
establish slaughter-houses in the
West where the raw material is pro-
duced, and the federation establish
2,000 or more butcher shops in New
York city for the sale of the finished
product, because, according to his cal-
culations, the consumer can be fur-
nished with his beef and other meats
at an average of six cents a pound
less than he is compelled to pay to
the beef trust.

Mr. Wellman has secured promises of
\$2,000,000 subscriptions to the stock of
the proposed company from men who
will actually engage in the business,
and it is not proposed to allow any
others to obtain shares. No man will
be allowed to hold more than a certain
amount of the stock, the object being
to scatter it in small lots as much as
possible, first, so that the trust cannot
buy up a control of the company, and
secondly, so that every stock-
holder will feel a personal incentive to
promote the interest of the new
scheme.

Mr. Wellman has not yet secured any
contracts with the railway companies
for the transportation of beef, but is
confident that public opinion, congress-
ional pressure and the sense of justice
on the part of the Interstate com-
merce commission will protect the pro-
posed combination from discrimina-
tion.

It is not proposed to deal with the
big wholesale or retail dealers in the
East; nor to enter to the high-class
trade, but the 2,000 shops will be estab-
lished in the residence districts of the
working classes and the nucleus of the
trade will be the labor unions. After
the business has been worked up and
well established in New York, it will
be extended to Philadelphia, Chicago,
Boston and other great cities.

Causes of High Prices.

Before entering upon this scheme it
might be well for Mr. Wellman and his
associates to analyze the statistics of
the census office and the Agricultural
Department, which show that, while
the members of the beef trust may be
a sinful and selfish lot of monop-
olists, they are not entirely to blame
for the high prices of beef and other
foods.

There are certain inextinguishable facts
which must be taken into considera-
tion in the study of this question, and
the beef trust has no control over
them. The present price of beef and
other meats is due to certain natural
causes, for example:

1. The enormous increase in popula-
tion, with 1,000,000 immigrants a
year, which has been much more rapid
during the last ten years than ever
before.
2. The increase in the purchasing
power of the population of the country
caused by high wages, permanent em-
ployment and other forms of prosper-
ity, and this naturally has caused an
increased consumption of beef and
other meats. The great majority of
the families of the United States now
eat meat three times a day, and the
consequence is a corresponding increase
in the demand.

3. The exports of beef and other
meats, although perhaps now at a
stationary figure, have rapidly ad-
vanced for several years to an enor-
mous total. The war between Russia

and Japan created an enormous de-
mand.

Not So Many Cattle.

4. The production of cattle has not
kept pace with the growth of popula-
tion. The per capita production has
been declining for several years.
5. Under present market conditions
the farmer finds that the profit in
beef is not sufficient to encourage
him in raising more cattle than he
does, which largely accounts for the
scarcity of cattle at Chicago and other
stockyards.

6. The cost of growing and fattening
beef cattle has been advancing gradu-
ally for years because of the high
prices of stable food and ranch land.

7. A recent extensive investigation
by the Department of Agriculture es-
tablishes the conclusion that general
farming during the last five years has
been much more profitable than raising
live stock; that dairy farming is more
profitable than raising beef; that to-
bacco farming is still more so; that
raising hay and grain is more profit-
able still, and that there is more
money in vegetables, fruits and sugar
beets than in any other kind of farm-
ing.

Retailing Costs.

The costly system of retail meat
distribution and the high profits de-
manded by the retailers and whole-
salers have kept up prices to the con-
sumer. Every time the price of beef
is advanced it remains at the maxi-
mum figure. If the conditions change
it is not reduced.

This rule, however, has not been ap-
plied to farm prices of cattle on the
hoof, which are usually governed by
the demand. Between 1900 and 1905,
according to the statistics of the Agri-
cultural Department, the average price
of cattle, other than milk cows, de-
clined more than 42 per cent.; the
mean annual price of beef cattle at the
Chicago stockyards declined about 8 1/2
per cent., while the mean annual
wholesale price of fresh beef in New
York advanced 5 per cent. Since 1903
the average farm price of cattle, other
than milk cows, has declined 16 per
cent., the mean annual price of beef
per 100 pounds at the Chicago stock-
yards has declined 2 per cent., while
the mean annual wholesale price of
fresh beef in New York has increased
8 per cent.

Not to Farmers.

This shows that the profits have gone
to the wholesaler and the retailer and
not to the farmer or the beef trust,
and the conclusion justified by these
facts, in the sequence of conditions un-
der which beef has been produced and
distributed, is that either the farmer
has not been treated fairly, or the
consumer, and perhaps both.

The fault lies somewhere between the
stockyards and the retail dealers.
The economies of slaughtering and
distributing, the utilizing of wastes and
the profits from by-products have all
been increased, so that the cost of
placing dressed beef in the hands of
the wholesale dealer has been growing
less and less, but at the same time
both the farmer and the consumer have
suffered, the one because of low and
the other because of high prices.

The census indicates that the num-
ber of cattle is diminishing. The ratio
of cattle per capita of population in
1850 was 77 per cent. of an animal
per individual. This ratio rose to 81
in 1860, fell to 72 by 1880, rose again
to 82 per cent. in 1890, and has since
been falling, until in 1900, there was
only sixty-nine one hundredths of a
steer in the United States to every
man, woman and child.

It should be stated in this connection
that in 1900 all range cattle as well as
farm cattle were included, while the
census of 1890 included only a fraction
of the range cattle, and the previous
enumerations included none of them.
If range cattle had been included in
all the censuses, the ratio previous to
1900 would have been very much great-
er than the apparent decline.

Pork and Mutton.

But the falling-off of the per capita
supply has not been in beef alone; it
has been equally marked in pork and

SMALLMAN & INGRAM

THE WEATHER PROBS.
Fine.

The Satisfactory Store

Still More New Wash Goods Arrive

and others on the way.

Never sold so many Wash
Goods so early in the season.
Must be because they are so
beautiful, beguiling, and, above
all, so reasonably priced.

You are invited to see the

New Grenadines and Voiles

which were unpacked but a
scant few days' ago.

Coming in black, or black
and white, they are intended
principally for mourning wear.

Not dull or sombre looking.

Black Grenadines are
embroidered with black satin
stripes, which relieve any such
tendency.

Black Voiles are very
handsome. Hair line dashes
of white are scattered over the
surface in the oddest manner.
Sometimes forming checks.
Often seemingly forgetting to
complete the check—leaving a
side or two missing. And to
make them still prettier they
are embroidered in fancy de-
signs, or striped with satin.

White Voiles have same
style of dashes and embroide-
red designs, only the colors are
reversed. Prices per yard
40c, 45c and 50c

Handsome Cushion Tops

Liberal Value

It was only by purchasing a quantity that we are
able to offer you such liberal value. Just read and see
what value 25c will bring.

Tops are handsome and ready to be worked. Made
of serviceable Art Ticking. Decorated with very
natural and pretty floral designs—

Roses, Nasturtiums, Violets,
Holly and Autumn Leaves

With each cushion top are included **Materials and
Directions** for working.

Materials are **Artisilk Embroidery Cottons**,
which have a decidedly silky appearance. Next to im-
possible to tell them from silk when they are worked on
the cushion tops.

Now, if you want your share of these **Cushion
Tops** we advise immediate choosing. Hard
to predict how rapidly they will go at such an
exceptional price. Each.....

25c

See Them in the East Window

Stylish Dress Well Made

is a reasonably assured
fact, if you select from
our immense stocks of
stylish fabrics and have
it designed and made in
our excellently equipped

**Dress Making
Dept.**

Choose Corsets First

Before getting fitted
choose a pair of shapely,
perfect fitting corsets from
our large stock of correct
models. Dressmaker will
have a better chance to de-
sign a graceful, stylish dress,
and you'll be better satis-
fied.

Smallman & Ingram, 149, 151, 153, 155 Dundas Street

mutton. The following table will show
the number of cattle, sheep and swine
per capita for the population of the
United States each census year for the
last fifty years:

Census of June 1.	Cattle	Swine	Sheep
1850	77	1.31	.34
1860	81	1.19	.41
1870	82	.95	.44
1880	72	.95	.70
1890	82	.92	.84
1900	69	.83	.82

All this time there have been increas-
ing exports of beef, pork, lamb, ham,
bacon and other meat products to
foreign countries. The exports of beef
alone increased from \$56,000,000 pounds
in 1887 to 408,000,000 pounds in 1905.
The exports of pork increased from 533-
000,000 to 676,000,000 pounds; the exports
of lamb from 310,000,000 to 566,000,000
pounds.

The people of the United States have
ever been great beef eaters, but our
average consumption per capita is fall-
ing off. Except the Australians, the
population of no country, not even the
traditional beef eaters of England, eats
more beef than we do. The bureau of
statistics of the British board of trade
recently published a statement show-
ing the consumption of meat per capita
in the different countries of the world,
and it runs as follows:

	Pounds of meat per capita
Australia	246.0
United States	119.9
Great Britain	104.9
Sweden and Norway	87.1
France	74.1
Germany	69.7
Belgium and the Netherlands	69.0
Austria-Hungary	63.9
Spain	48.9
Russia	48.1
Italy	22.9

The human ration in this country is
becoming more varied and more vegeta-
rian. Man is relapsing toward his
primitive food. It is undoubtedly true
also that the prevalence of rheumatism,
neuritis, kidney disease and other
complaints caused by uric acid and at-
tributed to the excessive use of meat
has had an influence at the butcher
shop.

The multiplication of fruits, vegeta-
ble foods and cereals have also had
their effect. The southern states and
California, Bermuda and the West In-
dies are now supplying fresh vegeta-
bles and fruits to the northern popu-
lation of the country during the entire
year, when under natural conditions,
the previous generation could not
have them more than six months. Re-
frigerator cars, cold-storage ware-
houses and other means of transporta-
tion and preservation have given us
fresh fruits, vegetables, fish, game,
poultry, eggs and other perishable foods
with greater regularity and in larger
quantities throughout the entire sea-
son.

The drying and evaporation of fruits
has become an extensive industry and
the canning enormously. From 1890
to 1900 the increase in the value of
canned fruits and vegetables was 90
per cent., whereas the population in-
creased only about 20 per cent.

The production of eggs and poultry
during the last ten years has increased
even more rapidly, and the exports
are insignificant. Ten years ago or
so we consumed about four and two-
thirds bushels of wheat per capita each
year. It is now agreed that the con-

sumption has advanced at least one
bushel per capita, or a total of 80,000-
000 bushels, and the difference has un-
doubtedly gone into what are called
cereal foods, which with fruits and
eggs, are displacing chops and beef-
steaks at our breakfast tables.

Living Figures in the Annual State- ment of the Metropolitan Life.

The yearly compilation of statistics
published by the Metropolitan Life
Insurance Company is never dry read-
ing. A summary of that company's
business for the year 1905, just issued,
tabulates astounding figures in the
concise manner approved by account-
ants, and following the custom of the
former years, supplements them with
a clear and lucid analysis for the bene-
fit of people who are not account-
ants.

Few persons are sufficiently familiar
with great financial operations to
grasp immediately the full significance
of a balance sheet, which totals
and grand totals are expressed in
hundreds of millions, but the purpose
of a Life Insurance statement is doubt-
less to inform and enlighten its mul-
titude of policy-holders, and this pur-
pose the Metropolitan management ac-
complishes with signal success. Fol-
lowing closely upon a period of agita-
tion in the life insurance field such
a statement is timely and specially in-
teresting.

After placing before us a compre-
hensive statement of the company's
general condition, and presenting a
series of comparative items, the Met-
ropolitan reminds us again that the
number of its policy-holders (now
increased to more than eight and a
half million) equals the combined popu-
lation of our eight largest cities. In
other words, if the company's policy-
holders now in force were all placed in
New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Bos-
ton, St. Louis, Cleveland, Cincinnati
and Milwaukee, every man, woman
and child in these communities would
possess one.

Men now living remember when the
whole United States could hardly have
supplied so vast a number of insur-
able persons. Even at this day there
are twenty-four States and Territories
whose combined population does not
equal the number of people carrying
insurance in this one great company.

We are informed that nineteen thou-
sand persons were in the company's
service at the end of 1905. If one
adult breadwinner represents five in-
dividuals in the total population, we
must conclude that nearly a hundred
thousand persons draw subsistence
from this institution—not in insurance
benefits, but in direct payment for ser-
vice in the company.

This army of nineteen thousand em-
ployees evidently includes no drones.
During the year just closed it han-
dled a daily average of one and a half
million dollars in new business alone.
The company issued on the average
nearly seven thousand new policies
every business day during the same
twelve months.

A single item which illustrates gra-
phically the real meaning and purpose
of all this tremendous business is that
relating to insurance claims paid dur-
ing the year. These amounted to
more than \$15,000,000. This means that
some one received from the Metropoli-
tan Life in benefits one hundred and
six dollars every minute of every
business day of eight hours through-
out the year.

Again, the uncertainty of life and
health, and the universal need of life
insurance are most impressively em-
phasized in the statement that 15,148
policies paid within the year 1905 had
been in force less than twelve months;
and that 4,226 of these policies were
paid in less than three months from
the time they were issued.

The Metropolitan Life began the year
1906 with assets of more than one

hundred and fifty million dollars,
showing an increase of more than
twenty-three million dollars over the
preceding twelve months. This evi-
dence of ample and increasing strength
is a most satisfactory thing for policy-
holders to contemplate, and it is a
further cause for satisfaction that the
largest year's business in the com-
pany's history was transacted at a
lower rate of expense than has ever
been reached in previous years.

The company directs particular at-
tention to the fact that it does not
issue Tontine, or "deferred dividend"
policies, nor any form of contract
which fails to specify in exact terms
what the insured is to pay in pre-
miums and what he is to receive in
benefits. That the simplicity of its
contract-agreements is a popular fea-
ture will not be questioned in the light
of facts above noted.

Many items in the company's sum-
mary have not been touched upon for
lack of space, but the document itself
will be widely circulated, and one's
time can hardly be utilized to better
purpose than in the careful and re-
flective reading of its entire contents
from beginning to end.

BRITISH COLUMB