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LONDON, THURSDAY, NOV. 19.

## NATURAL GAS FOR LONDON.

The city council is being bombarded with applications for franchises by companies interested in natural gas fields.

The council ought to encourage by every reasonable means the introduction of natural gas, as a cheap fuel and illuminant. The local gas company has no exclusive franchise, and has no claim to civic protection against competition; but duplication of mains and pipes should be avoided if possible, on the score of public convenience. Citizens do not want scores of streets torn up, including miles of costly pavements, if the advantage of cheap gas can be obtained in any other way. If natural gas is brought to the city, the existing distribution plant should be used, if an agreement to that effect can be made, provided, of course, that the people of London get the full benefit of the lower price at which natural gas could be sold. If the local gas company is willing to distribute natural gas, the city council must fix the maximum price to be charged consumers, as a condition of permitting the arrangement, and giving a franchise to any natural gas company.

There will be some difficulty in deciding between rival franchise-seekers. Other things being equal, the company first in the field, which is composed of well-known citizens of London, should have the preference.

## THE KAISER'S SURRENDER.

The Kaiser has bowed to the blast of public opinion in his own country, and bound himself over to keep the peace. There is something humorous in his declaration that he has been pleased to approve the speech of his chancellor in the Reichstag, seeing that the chancellor flatly asserted that he would decline to be held responsible for future indiscretions of his royal master.

There can be no doubt that the Kaiser wished to give the British people a proof of his goodwill when he authorized the publication of an interview which promises to become historic. It was received in the same spirit by many British newspapers, but in Germany it raised a storm of protest, even the reactionary political parties joining in the remonstrance. The immediate result was to bring to a head a grievance which goes to the root of the German system of government. Bismarck considered himself responsible to the crown alone, and his successors have acquiesced in a principle so congenial to the present Kaiser, with his absolutist ideas. So far German chancellors have contrived by the arts of political management to prevent deadlock between the Government and the Reichstag. Whenever the Reichstag has proved recalcitrant it has been dissolved, and the Government has invariably secured a favorable majority in the election of a new House. But the Kaiser's latest "break," his incursion into international politics, threatened a lasting breach. By virtually rebuking the Emperor, Prince von Buelow acknowledged his accountability to Parliament as no other chancellor has done, and has thereby established a precedent which is hailed as the beginning of the end of irresponsible and practically autocratic government. The German system must inevitably approximate to the British, under which the Government is directly responsible to the elective chamber, and the monarch can act only on the advice of his ministers.

## CHANGE IN CHINA.

The death of Kuang Hsu, Emperor of China, and of his aunt, the Empress Dowager Tsi An, may mean a good deal to the middle kingdom. The functions of regent fall upon Prince Chun, a younger brother of the late Emperor, whose son, Pu Yi, a child of three years, was by an edict dictated by Tsi An on the 15th inst., declared heir to the throne. All depends upon whether Prince Chun proves a reactionary or a progressive ruler. The fact that he is to serve in name as regent suggests that there is to be no departure from the tradition which has been established for a generation of keeping the titular emperor in the background. Prince Chun was a favorite of the late Empress Dowager and was sent by her to Berlin to testify how profoundly she deplored the murder of the German minister at Peking.

The life story of the dead emperor is a remarkable and pathetic one. His selection for the throne, when not quite three years of age, was due to the ambition of two women, who aimed, as co-regents, to divide power until the emperor reached his majority. Kuang Hsu early exhibited unusual

intelligence, and soon showed an interest in western civilization and science. A strong favorite of the emperor was a man familiar with western ways, who had taken a prominent part in the reform party movement, the object of which is to introduce into China European educational methods. To this idea Kuang Hsu gave his adherence, and in 1898 issued reform decrees. Then followed the secret revolution within the palace, which practically resulted in his deposition. For the remainder of his life he was kept a virtual prisoner, compelled by the empress dowager, who had assumed the powers of regent, to sign edicts prepared by her. His old friends and confidants were kept away from him and he was surrounded by spies. Foreigners who have been permitted to see him at imperial audiences have been struck with the despairing look on his countenance.

The dispatches indicate a disposition on the part of the various governments to await developments in China, and in this connection the position of Japan is interesting. It may be that later on the change of rulers will result in material alterations in the policies of the powers, but for the present the hope is general that it will cause no disturbance of the international balances in the Far East.

## THE NEW TIMBER REGULATIONS.

The new timber regulations passed at the last session of parliament, and since incorporated in the new Dominion lands' act, are working most satisfactorily. Under the previous regulations, which date back to 1885, any person could have a timber berth put up to competition, the Government retaining power to fix the conditions under which the successful bidder might operate the berth. But the rapid settlement of the west during the past few years has naturally had the effect of greatly enhancing the value of standing timber, and a change in the system of disposing of berths was found to be advisable.

The new regulations provide that the maximum area of a timber berth is 25 square miles. Now berths are not sold at auction until after a survey has been made and the timber has been cruised and estimated by a Government cruiser, and in no case is a berth sold below an upset price fixed by the minister of the interior. The license is for one year, but is renewable as long as timber of the kind and dimensions described therein remains on the land in sufficient quantity to make it commercially valuable. The minister has power to require the creation of a mill and the operation of the berth, and the licensee may be required to do the cutting on any portion of the berth which the minister decides should be cleared for settlement purposes. As a protective measure there is a rule prohibiting unnecessary waste in cutting, and the destruction of young trees, and care is taken that trees which may be necessary for a seed supply shall not be disturbed. Licensees are required to exercise strict and constant supervision to prevent the outbreak and spread of fire.

The general license regulations apply to timber lands outside of the forest reserves and forest parks, but not to timber in the reserves and parks, these being governed by special regulations. In addition to the sale of timber under license by public competition, it may be obtained under permit by settlers for their own use, for cordwood, mining purposes, construction of public works and a few similar objects. Another provision is for the granting of berths of not more than one square mile, without competition, to small mills, in order that settlers in districts where it cannot otherwise be easily and cheaply obtained, may be enabled to procure a ready and cheap supply of lumber. For this a fixed fee of \$100 a mile, in addition to dues on timber cut, is charged. This provision is of especial value in the newly opened-up districts.

The next great world movement will be Christmas shopping. Six out of the nine provinces of Canada declared for Laurier. French domination again. Prince Edward Island, just after going Liberal by three to one in the federal election, has nearly defeated a Liberal provincial government, which had an overwhelming majority in the last house. There are many thousands of people in Canada to whom party names have lost their meaning.

The authorities of the county of Middlesex cannot reasonably object to the request of the hospital trust for an increased allowance for county patients. The bulk of the cost of the hospital buildings and equipment has been paid by citizens of London, and it is only fair that non-resident patients should at least pay for their keep. This applies to the private as well as the public wards.

The first sod of the Niagara power line was turned yesterday, and we are told by Mr. Beck's organ that it had "the stamp of Government approval." But has it? Mr. Whitney says the scheme is entirely a municipal affair,

and he suits the action to the word by refusing to allow the Government to assume any financial responsibility. What is the Government's "stamp of approval" worth in such a case?

Mr. Hanna gave no encouragement to the deputations which waited upon him yesterday to ask for the erection of consumption sanatoria, though he did not absolutely dissent from the views expressed. In the meantime the imperative duty rests upon the city to provide accommodation for consumptives. These unfortunates cannot wait upon the Government's decision, and in any event there must be local provision for emergency cases.

Up to Oct. 24, 36,247 applications for old-age pensions had been received in the United Kingdom as follows: England (excluding Monmouthshire), 320,042, or a ratio of 97 per 10,000 of the population; Wales (including Monmouthshire), 29,227, a ratio of 91 per 10,000; Scotland, 59,244, a ratio of 123 per 10,000; Ireland, 162,658, or a ratio of 373 per 10,000 of population. The total number of applications was 562,171, or a ratio of 126 per 10,000 of population. The comparative figures are a sad commentary upon the poverty of Ireland, though a proof also of the longevity of the people.

## HE WAS PREPARED.

(Brooklyn Life.)  
"What did Barker do when he discovered that his chauffeur had planned to elope in his car?"  
"He offered it thoroughly and put it in first-class shape."

## A NECESSITY.

(Houston Post.)  
"Humph! Him? He'd run before he'd fight me!"  
"I guess he'd have to."

## HOW OLD WAS AN?

(Chicago Record-Herald.)  
"How old was Tsi An?" is a veritable Chinese puzzle, judging from the conflicting birthday dates in the obituaries of the late Dowager Empress.

## A TENDER REMINDER.

(Megendorfer Blatter.)  
"Woman (to her neighbor)—What makes you cry so bitterly, my dear friend?"  
"Neighbor—I always weep when I hear music. My late husband used to blow the whistle at the factory."

## THE LENGTH OF LIFE.

(New York American.)  
The average of human life is six or seven years greater than it was even so late as a hundred and fifty years ago. The question, is the human body larger than it used to be? is answered in the affirmative by the fact, often demonstrated, that the men of the present cannot get into the coats of mail worn by the knights of the Middle Ages.

## WHERE THE WEATHER COMES FROM.

(Pittsburg Dispatch.)  
Yesterday Harrisburg went Pittsburgh several degrees better, and reported the lowest temperature in the United States, 11 degrees above zero, Fahrenheit. At the same time, Calgary, away up in Canada, vied with the Gulf region in heat, atmosphere here showing 29 degrees above the freezing point. As nearly all the changes in weather for this part of the country sweep down from the vicinity of Medicine Hat and beyond, by way of Calgary, and as the map between here and there shows gradually increasing temperatures, it is reasonable to suppose that the weather conditions for nearly a week. Possibly it may be longer. The next cold wave will be bulletined from those far northern points.

## ONLY ONE RIGHT WAY.

(Toronto Star.)  
There are 65 recognized methods of packing apples, but only one method of being honest, and this seems to be where the trouble comes in.

## HIS MOTHER.

(Chicago Record-Herald.)  
"Mother," he said, putting his arms around her and kissing her on the brow, "I am going to marry the sweetest, the loveliest, the noblest girl in the world."  
Looking up into his eyes, the good lady by a great effort managed to keep back her tears as she answered in broken lines: "My—poor—boy!"

## THE FREEMASONS.

(Manchester Guardian.)  
The decision of the Lancashire Freemasons to contribute a large sum for the building of the Chapter House of Liverpool Cathedral is a pleasant reminder of the partly genuine and partly fanciful connection between Freemasonry and the building of cathedrals. The chapter houses of several modern cathedrals have been built by Freemasons. The exact history of the development of modern Freemasonry out of the mediaeval "lodges" of Masonic craftsmen has been obscured by fanciful theories. Until about the beginning of the eighteenth century the lodges of Masons in England were still composed of operative masons, and were like any other craft guilds. In 1716 it was proposed to extend the privileges of Masonry to men of various professions, and the operative masons were gradually initiated into the order. This was the starting point of modern Freemasonry in England and Scotland, and from there it spread to America and the Continent.

## DECLINE OF THE SILK HAT.

(Manchester Guardian.)  
The decline of the silk hat in England, which is causing much concern among the makers of it, proceeds with ever-accelerating rapidity. The bicycle began it, and the motor car is completing the process. There are about 600 men and women in this country who make silk hats, and they are members of one of the oldest trade unions in the country, for it descends in direct continuity from the associations of beaver hat makers of the seventeenth century. But the English silk hat maker has a wider market than this country. He exports to every European capital and to the colonies, and since the Russo-Japanese war, Japan has been one of his best customers.

It is said that the silk hats exported to Paris and Vienna have to be strengthened at the brim, because the French and Austrians raise their hats so much oftener and more vigorously than anybody else in Europe. There are still, by the way, a few customers for the straw hat in London who can make this kind of hat, and not long ago there was a danger of the art disappearing altogether. To prevent this some apprentices were hurriedly initiated into the craft.

## POST-ELECTION REGRETS.

(Hamilton Herald.)  
The Kingston Standard, a Conservative paper, has taken the lead in repudiating and condemning the campaign pamphlet entitled "The Duty of the Hour," issued

and circulated by the Orange Sentinel in the interests of the Conservative party—or, to put it more correctly, for the purpose of discrediting the Laurier Government. Other Conservative papers are following the Standard's lead. It is now realized that the pamphlet did more harm than good. During the campaign no fault was found with it by these same papers. There was a general willingness to have it placed "where it would do the most good," so long as it was kept away from places where it would be sure to do harm. Unfortunately for the Conservatives, however, it couldn't be kept away from the latter places, and now it is realized that from a party point of view the circulation of the pamphlet was a blunder; hence the desire to repudiate it.

## BANK NOTES IN A DUST BIN.

(London Chronicle.)  
Ten 1,000 franc banknotes, representing the savings of a woman who lived at Nanterre, near Paris, were hidden by her in an old envelope, which was placed in a drawer. In a moment of forgetfulness the envelope found its way into a dust bin.

In the morning the rapscallions turned out the bin, but tossed aside the tattered envelope without inspection. Some carters happened to pass that way. They picked up the now mud-splashed piece of paper, one remarking to the other: "Perhaps there is a fortune inside!" They drew out the notes. "This is some fool's pious anxiety," they said; so by way of revenging themselves on the unknown joker, and not believing the notes were genuine, they tore them to pieces and threw them aside.

Two market women came along shortly afterwards. With the shrewdness of their class they recognized the scattered pieces of paper and gathered them up and took them to the commissary of police.

There they were placed together and it was found that none were missing. Two hours later the notes so curiously discovered were restored to their owner.

## THINKING ALIKE.

(English Society.)  
He—When we are married we must both think alike.  
She—Yes, but I'll think first.

## Bennett's Vaudeville.

Last night business at Bennett's was excellent, and the very fine bill that the management are offering this week is the cause of splendid patronage. The people of London should not fail to see this week's big bill.

## Chauncey Olcott Tonight.

Chauncey Olcott in "Ragged Robin," a romance of the south of Ireland in 1830, will be the attraction at the Grand Theatre this evening. The play will have much interest for students of the Celtic folk lore, as it introduces many delightful bits of fairy superstition incidental to the primary story. It is the first time that American authors have essayed to write a thoroughly Celtic theme and that they have succeeded well. In their first effort is evidenced by the fact that "Ragged Robin" has been winning unstinted praise from admirers of William Butler Yeats, George Russell, Fiona Macleod and the other famous writers of modern Celtic literature.

## Uncle Tom's Cabin.

"Uncle Tom's Cabin" comes to the Grand Saturday, matinee and night. A chorus of twenty is employed to assist in filling out the pictures of the play, and during the great levee scene they introduce many songs, novel dances, and "shines" familiar to the colored race. All the characters in the drama are impersonated by white actors. The scenes are said to be historically correct. At the matinee children will be admitted to any seat for 15 cents. A street parade will be given at noon on Saturday.

## Carl W. Cook Stock Company.

The engagement is announced of the Carl W. Cook Stock Company at the Grand next week. They have an entire line of new plays and specialties; among them, "The Marvelous Vade," in an act of magic and mystery that is not only novel but far above the average act of its kind; Miss Edythe La Nora, the Dresden Doll, with her catchy songs; Geo. Cotter, that funny little fellow; Earl Hawk, the kid from the country; Joe Vitis, baritone soloist, and others.

Their opening bill will be "Tim, the Westerner." This is a society comedy drama. Ladies' tickets Monday night.

## The American Flag Again.

The Morning Telegraph says, in reproducing the article which appeared in The Advertiser on the use of the American flag on London stages: "The Morning Telegraph's publication of the aversion of some Canadian managers to having the Stars and Stripes waved, as set forth in the letter of Charles Leonard Fletcher on the subject, has created considerable discussion across the St. Lawrence River. The Advertiser, London, Ont., republished the article from the Morning Telegraph."

A second letter from Charles Leonard Fletcher on the subject reads: "Bennett's Theatre, 'London, Ont., Nov. 11.

"Dear Mr. McKee,—The enclosed from the London (Ont.) Advertiser will interest you, proving as it does that the Morning Telegraph reaches managers far from New York. The subject of the American flag being unpopular on the stage in Canada, as reviewed in the Telegraph, has created more comment all over Canada than even the enclosed indicates. This is my third week in Canada, and I find American talent highly appreciated, and the audiences compare well with our own."

"C. W. Bennett is the B. F. Keith of Canada, and he succeeded marvelously in the past two years in educating the Canadians to accept vaudeville as their regular amusement diet. Canada has just passed through a gruelling national election very similar to our own, and is now settling down to enjoy the prospects of a new era of prosperity under the rule of the Liberals, and theatrical business generally is improving wonderfully."

"Last Monday was the Canadian Thanksgiving Day, and record houses ruled everywhere. You see, I have two Thanksgivings Days this year. Tough, isn't it? But the Canadian turkeys were tender—that's some compensation."

"CHAS. LEONARD FLETCHER."

# Chapman's

## Sale of Hats Friday Morning---Hats Worth up to \$7.50, Your Choice \$3.95

THE SALE IS FROM TEN TO ONE O'CLOCK  
FRIDAY MORNING—SEE WINDOW.

Handsomely trimmed Hats, with all the dash, elegance and becomingness that you expect to find in Chapman Hats. Trimmed with the newest wings, fancy feathery novelties, velvet, ribbon, buckles and flowers. Small shapes and large ones. A few beautiful Velvet Hats. Prices range up to \$7.50. Your choice \$3.95 during the hour of sale, only



## A Remarkable Offer in Axminster Carpet

Does the parlor, drawing-room, reception-hall, library or best bed-room need a new Carpet? Here is an example of special offering that should interest you. Our standard Imperial Kidderminster and Axminster Carpet are the best goods we have in stock—beautiful patterns, including nine different designs for your choosing. Greens, two-toned greens, red, fawn and brown, in Oriental, conventional, floral and scroll effects. Sold here regularly at \$1.75 and \$1.85 a yard. A special offering, which starts Friday, at a yard, \$1.29 THIS PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE MAKING AND LAYING.

J. H. CHAPMAN & CO., 126, 128, 128½ Dundas St.

## TURN FIRST SOD IN POWER LINES

President Fryer, of Union, Opens Work, on Site of First Tower.

Toronto, Nov. 18.—At 3 o'clock this afternoon 250 invited guests and many others witnessed the ceremony in Exhibition Park of turning the first sod of the Niagara power transmission lines.

At the hour named Mr. J. H. Fryer, of Galt, president of the Western Ontario Power Union, thrust the blade of a silver spade into the ground and turned up the first sod in the actual work of constructing the hydro-electric transmission line which will supply Toronto with municipal power.

The point selected for the ceremony is near the York Pioneers' Cabin, close to the lake, in the western portion of the park, and will be the actual location of one of the towers on which the high tension lines will be brought into the transmission station which is to be erected on Garrison Common. This particular point was decided on by Engineer Sothmann, of the hydro-electric commission, Park Commissioner Wilson and Kenneth A. Aitken, the city's electrical engineer, last week, as the best location for the first tower inside the Exhibition Grounds.

Manager J. O. Orr and the directors of the Exhibition are opposed to placing the towers along the front of the park, on the ground that it will interfere with the beautification of the

CHAPPED HANDS AND COLD SORES

ZAM-BUK GIVES SPEEDY RELIEF.

Few women entirely escape the pain and annoyance of rough or chapped hands during the winter season, and most outdoor workers suffer more or less. If your hands are chapped, wash them at night in warm water; cleanse them thoroughly—using Zam-Buk soap if possible—and then anoint them with Zam-Buk balm. By next morning you will be pleased with the result. Zam-Buk gives almost instant relief, and speedily closes the cracks.

Mrs. Walker, of 14 Manufacturer street, Montreal, says: "My son Henry works with his shirt sleeves rolled up above his elbow, and passed from a warm room to the biting cold, as he was obliged to do, he got the worst case of chapped hands and arms I have ever seen. From his fingers to his elbows was one mass of raw flesh, with bad cracks here and there. Whenever he washed, it brought tears to his eyes; the pain was so acute."

"He tried several kinds of salve, but nothing relieved him really until he tried Zam-Buk. This took away the burning and smarting almost at once. The cracks began to heal, and a few applications of the balm cured him. His hands and arms are now smooth and soft."

"We have also used Zam-Buk for other emergencies. I sustained a burn on one of my fingers. Zam-Buk took the fire out and healed up the sore. It really is a wonderful household preparation."

Everybody says so who has tried Zam-Buk. Purely herbal, it is nature's own remedy. Eczema, ulcers, and chronic sores it heals and closes. Same with cuts, burns, and lacerated wounds. For children's injuries it is without equal. Rubbed on the chest it ends the aching and tightness due to cold. All druggists and stores sell \$1.50 a box, or post free from Zam-Buk Company, Toronto, for price.

# FREE! A JACKKNIFE

TWO BLADES, BONE HANDLE, TO EVERY BOY OR GIRL IN LONDON who will bring one of the following orders to

## The Advertiser Office

I hereby state that I have not taken THE LONDON ADVERTISER regularly for the past 30 days, and in consideration of The Advertiser furnishing a JACKKNIFE free to

(Boy's or Girl's Name.)

I order The London Advertiser and agree to pay for the same at the rate of 10 cents per week for at least twelve (12) weeks.

Signed .....

Start Paper ..... Address .....

## SPECIAL NOTICE

Start Today To Earn a Prize

Bring in each order as soon as you get it and it will be placed to your credit.

A PEARL-HANDLED (2 blades) KNIFE for two orders.

A GUNMETAL WATCH for three orders.

HOCKEY SKATES AND STICKS.

A long list of prizes to select from. See them.

Circulation Mgr., London Advertiser