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LONDON, TUESDAY, JAN. 30, 1906.

Canada in Leading-Strings.

Senator Platt has invited the United States senate to propose to Great Britain an international commission to inquire into the effect upon Niagara Falls of the subtraction of water by power companies. The proposition throws into relief one of those aspects of our imperial position which from time to time wound the pride of those of us who delight to think of Canada as a self-governing nation.—Toronto World.

Very true. Why should it be necessary for the United States to ignore Canada in approaching a question which concerns these two countries exclusively? The United States Senate is not responsible. The British embassy at Washington is the regular channel of communication. For other nations this country has no political or diplomatic existence. Senator Platt's resolution, if adopted, will be submitted in proper form to the British ambassador as Washington, and will travel to London before Ottawa has any official cognizance of it. The Imperial Government will, of course, defer to Canada, and if an international commission is appointed will allow her a majority of representatives in the British section.

This does not alter the fact that the Dominion is placed in a humiliating position, and that her status within the British Empire is misrepresented by the existing diplomatic machinery. The resolution of Senator Platt expresses the idea, which our neighbors hold, that Great Britain stands to the Dominion in the relation of an absentee landlord. The preservation of Niagara Falls is a purely domestic question, so far as Canada is concerned, and there is no reason, except precedent, why it should not be settled by direct negotiations between Canada and the United States. Sir Wilfrid Laurier had such contingencies in mind when he argued in favor of extending to Canada the treaty-making power, but his motives were small as the tribe of Canadian flunkies. The time cannot be far distant when this growing nation will have the attributes of a nation, and this without any strain on the imperial tie.

The Result in Kingston.

The victory of Mr. Pense in Kingston comes as a surprise because of the almost invariable rule that bye-elections go with the Government. It is the more surprising in this case, as the Government swept the Province a year ago and nearly captured Kingston, the Liberal majority being only 20. The present result is a fine tribute to Mr. Pense from his fellow-citizens, and a hard rap at the Government. Four cabinet ministers, including the Premier, came to the aid of Mr. McIntyre, while Mr. Pense had no outside support.

The contest was unique because of the compact between the two parties to spend no money for improper purposes, and to employ every effort to prevent corrupt practices. It would be interesting to know whether the decrease of 800 in the vote, as compared with a year ago, had any relation to the purity agreement. Each party claims to have strictly observed it, though there will be naturally a disposition on the part of the defeated side to accuse the other side of bad faith. The result will be attributed to various causes in various quarters, but no explanation can be so ingenious as that of our local contemporary, which ascribes it to the venality of Queen's University and its friends. If Queen's is looking for favors it must look to the Whitney Government, and if its influence was thrown against the Government, selfishness is the last charge that could be brought against it, or the people of Kingston.

Life Insurance.

The readiness with which complaints against the management of life assurance companies are noticed in some quarters has been quite apparent since the investigations commenced in New York, and therefore all the more care should be taken that no wrong is done the business of life assurance. Those who undertake to write respecting the management of life assurance have as sacred a duty to perform as those who have its management in their hands. It is an easy thing to frighten those who do not know, and if by false representations the head of a family is prevented from insuring his life, or carrying a policy he already holds, the one making such statements is guilty of a great wrong.

We have always deprecated the attempt to ascribe to Canadian companies the faults discovered in the management of American companies. The conditions are very different. The other day a good example of what we

refer to occurred at the annual meeting of the North American Life Assurance Company at Toronto. It will be remembered that this was the company founded by the late Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, who was its first president. It ranks among the best companies in America. The president now is Mr. John L. Blake, a man of long and extensive business experience, and character above reproach. He is one of the best types of Scotchmen. The managing director, Mr. L. Goldman, deservedly takes very high rank among expert insurance men, and they have associated with them directors of equally high standing. It was sought by a shareholder at the meeting to show that their methods were open to censure, but the answer to the objections was complete and satisfactory to those present. One of the objections was that the company held some assets in the shape of stock obtained as a bonus with some bonds purchased, and that the stock was not shown on the list of assets. As we look at it, the stock might or might not appear in the statement with perfect propriety. The bonds and stock were obtained together, the value of the bonds representing alone the cost of the two, so that the value of the stock need not be considered, and might be mentioned or not as prudence might dictate. If a profit resulted from the stock there could be no objection, and as the stock was obtained as a bonus there could be no loss.

Other points were raised that necessarily must be left to the judgment of the managers, and they appear to have exercised their judgment in the right way. The North American verifies the belief that the faults discovered in the American companies do not exist in the Canadian. It will be found that life assurance in Canada, involving many millions, annually multiplying, has been tainted by no graft or fraud, but shows careful, efficient management, on sound, well-established, conservative lines.

The Late King Christian of Denmark.

King Christian of Denmark was a venerable figure, adorned with every public and private grace. He occupied the throne of a country small in area and population, but the home of a vulture race. His unique prestige in the councils of Europe did not rest upon bloated armaments or great material power, but upon moral strength. His court was never tainted by scandal, and he was a pattern to his subjects in all the domestic virtues. There was an idyllic simplicity and beauty in his home life. He reared his family in homely, God-fearing and self-helpful ways, and his children threw fresh lustre on his throne. One is the beloved Queen of Great Britain, another the King of Greece, and another the Dowager Empress of Russia. When the Norwegians looked around for a king, they chose a stalwart scion of the same house. The character of King Christian inspired the respect and confidence of the nations, and his connection by marriage with most of the courts of Europe gave him an influence which was always wielded in the interest of peace and good-will. His democratic manners endeared him to his subjects, among whom he mingled with a singular absence of ceremony. He was one of the trio of aged monarchs, the others being the Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria, and King Oscar of Sweden, who have done so much to exalt royalty by their personal example, and their hold on the affections of their people.

"As in a Rose Jar."

[Appleton's Magazine.]
As in a rose jar filled with petals sweet,
Blowing long ago in some old garden
Drank deep of love and knew that love
Was fate—
Or leaves once gathered from a lost reed—
By one who never will again retrace
Her silent footsteps—one, whose gentle
Foot was fainter than the roses at her feet—
So, deep within the vase of memory,
I keep my dust of roses fresh and dear
As in the days before I knew the
Of time and death. Nor ought can take
From me
The haunting fragrance that still lingers
Here—
As in a rose jar, so within my heart,

Realism in Art.

[Puck.]
Why is the cow purple in the picture?
Because the girl's parasol is red.
The cow, in fact, is purple with rage.
This is precisely what is meant by realism in art.

Clever.

Cynic (savagely).—They say the fashionable mother of today recognizes her baby only by looking at the nurse.
Fashionable Mother (unmoved).—How extraordinarily clever when one changes nurses so often. I always tell ours by the baby carriage.

Problem Solved.

[New York Tribune.]
Little Walter was told to write a composition containing the word "scoldom." He puzzled hard over the problem for some time, but at last he found a solution and what he handed up to the teacher:

"My father owned some horses, but last week he scolded."

Not a Fish Story.

[London Daily Mail.]
A married woman, named Hogg, was charged before the Magistrate or magistrate on Saturday with throwing a red herring at Mr. Balfour as he was leaving the Ardwick Conservative Club on Friday, after addressing the electors of East Manchester.

Hogg, it was stated, was accompanied by a group of other women, all of whom carried missiles, including carrots and

turnips. Hogg, however, was the only woman who threw anything. The herring just missed the ex-premier's face. The woman was bound over in the sum of 20 to be of good behavior for twelve months.

Spring.

[New York Times.]
(With apologies to Shakespeare, Byron and Gray.)
The poet's eye in a fine frenzy rolling,
Doth glance from sky to sky to almanack and back,
He thinks in woe: "This winter I'm ex-
tolling."
Then smiles his springlike lyre a sounding whack!

"Hall, spring, eternal! Now art thou come,
And twittering sparrows bear thy verdant train.
Now do the leaflets romp in many a game,
T' the babbling brooklet's laughter after rain!"

"Now fades the fringed landscape on the sight,
And all the air a balmy stillness holds,
Save where the lawn mowers wheel their clattering flight,
And men with fur coats tread to uncle's fold!"

"Now is the season of advertisement
For seed and bulb, shirtwaist and watering can.
Now is the winter of our discontent,
Made glorious by that frack-the-weather man!"

Heroic Treatment Needed.

[Kincardine Review.]
After all, the literal hell that Rev. Dr. Torrey preaches is the only kind to give Torontonians. Any other kind would be wasted on them.

Pointed Paragraph.

[Chicago News.]
Whisky blossoms are often on the brain.

It's rough on a girl if her beau neglects to shave.

It's a poor artist who is unable to draw an obese salary.

A waiter is a chap who has learned to labor while he waits.

It's lawful to fish for compliments in any and all seasons.

Nothing equals the arrogance of some men's so-called humble opinions.

Only a very lazy man is afraid to earn money because it may be taxed.

There is consolation in the Bible for all—except the woman who isn't invited when her neighbor gives a party.

Use and Ornament.

[Exchange.]
"I always thought," remarked an English judge, "that a parasol and a sunshade were the same thing."

"No," replied the witness on the stand; "a sunshade is to keep the sun off; a parasol is to flirt with."

The Secret of Success.

[Washington Star.]
"What is your idea of success?"

"Success," answered the cynic, "consists in making enough stir about your achievements to cause your failures to be overlooked."

Whas't He Horrid?

[Cleveland Leader.]
"What did your wife give you on your birthday?"

"Box of cigars."

"What are you going to do with 'em?"

"Have 'em boiled with corn beef for dinner some day."

Naturally Slippery.

[Richmond Times.]
Mrs. Cassie Chadwick is to work at the wash tub during her stay in the Ohio penitentiary, having previously demonstrated her thorough knowledge of the art of soft-soaping.

A Bachelor's Reason.

[Philadelphia Record.]
"Most marriages," says the Cynical Bachelor, "are prompted by the fact that some other fellow may get the girl."

Determination.

[Philadelphia Press.]
"Come now," said the little sergeant-at-arms, "you've got to go out you know."

"No," said Casey, "I'll not go out on this force to fight with me will, an' ye can't do that unless I'm willin'."

Doing the Decent Thing.

[Hamilton Spectator.]
In Kingston: "Let us have a decent campaign."

"It is decent."

"You're a liar!"

Cheap.

[Harper's Bazar.]
"I wish to give a present to a young lady. Can you suggest something that's cheap, but doesn't exactly appear so?"

"Take a look in the mirror, sir."

Most Loyal People in World.

[London Tid-Bits.]
The subjects of good King Edward VII. are the most loyal people in the world.

There are no fewer than 30,000,000 people belonging to the empire on which the sun never sets, and yet not a single one of them is in prison or under restraint for treason or disloyalty. There is probably not another great power in the world that can proudly boast of such a clean and healthy record.

Russia has many thousands in captivity for treason and disloyalty, thousands have been exiled from France for similar reasons, and Germany numbers her disloyal subjects by the hundreds.

Britain's Overworked Parliament.

[Ottawa Journal.]
In Canada, where the function of the central parliament is largely restricted by reason of the powers specifically accorded to the Provincial Legislature, the Dominion Parliament finds it necessary to sit for at least five months in the year.

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SPURIOUS ANTIQUITIES.

[From the Chicago Record-Herald.]
The craze for collecting antiquities has spread all over Europe and America. Almost everybody who makes any pretensions to artistic taste and has enough money is buying odd things of one kind or another. Rich competitors for such articles sometimes bid them up to fabulous prices. Henry Labouchere tells in London Truth the remarkable history of a Louis XIV. writing table. It had been at Silverton Park, Lord Egremont's place near Exeter, for many years. Thirteen years ago the contents of the house at Silverton Park were sold at auction, and this table was knocked down for \$10. Two years later it went at auction for \$15,000. At the recent Cronier sale it brought \$23,000. At the same sale \$55,000 was paid for a Fragonard which 50 years ago was bought for \$12.

It is a perhaps inevitable consequence of such exorbitant prices that an extensive manufacture of spurious antiquities has sprung up. The rich of the United States are its chief victims. "Americans," writes M. Felix Duquesnel, a French art critic, "are swindled on a scale that they cannot imagine. Certain galleries of 'ancient masters' over the Atlantic contain few pictures over ten years old." One of the leading French manufacturers of spurious antiquities began as a sculptor's assistant. Finding he could not make more than \$1,000 a year in his profession, he turned to his present business. He now employs four workmen, makes about \$7,500 per annum, and expects to double his income in two years.

Does not sell to private purchasers, but only to dealers. He is the assistant of certain Greek heads "attributed to Phidias." Another work of which he is proud is a Neptune basin surrounded with divinities. It is said to be in the United States. Among his specialties are "eighteenth century" and "empire" furniture. He claims that even an expert cannot tell if a piece of furniture is a forgery without pulling it to pieces. One dealer near the Madeleine in Paris has a "private collection" of old furniture in his bedroom which he shows only after much importuning. He has sold the "Louis XVI. bed at a handsome figure five or six times.

Eighteenth century engravings, including colored prints, are counterfeited wholesale. Antique jewelry is manufactured by steeping. Sulphuric acid is used on silver, aqua regia on gold. The surface of the metal is then worn with ground brick. After the stones are inserted the whole is greased with tallow and rubbed in with soot.

Greek and Roman jewels, renaissance enamels, episcopal rings, and Benvenuto Cellini plates are made in Germany. Vienna is specialized in counterfeiting sixteenth century enamels. Abbeville and Amiens make flint arrow tips and hatchets for museums of geology. Old pewters are manufactured at Rouen, Breton pottery hails from Leeds.

A safe way to checkmate the forgers would be for rich people to quit collecting bric-a-brac, and begin buying the works of living artists. That would be a good change. It would put a stop to an industry which owes its large profits solely to its fraudulent character, and would at the same time give needed encouragement to modern art. American collectors might promote the culture of the age and save themselves from much further robbery and ridicule by acting on that suggestion.

POEMS THAT LIVE

I Remember, I Remember.

[By Thomas Hood.]
I remember, I remember,
The house where I was born,
The little window where the sun
Came peeping in at morn;
The place where the robin built,
And where my brother sat,
The laboratory on his birthday—
The tree is living yet!

I remember, I remember,
The time when I was young,
The violet, and the lily-cup,
Those flowers made of light;
The place where the robin built,
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