The Planet DAILY AND WEEKLY

Chatham, Ont.

JAPAN AS AN INDUSTRIAL MEN ACE.

Russia will not reap the first fruits of her railway invasion of Asia, writes A. H. Ford in the Engineering Magazine. She is not the rival in the construction of her railways to be feared by the Anglo-Saxons: A new power has risen at the very door of Asia. Forty million progressive, irrepressible Japanese stand ready, by force of arms, if necessary, to open the door of new Asia to their manufacturers. It is the only hope of salvation for the over-crowded Island Kingdom, and its people will fight for this last chance with desperation. Already Japan is beginning to undersell other nations in supplying material for the Siberian railway, and Russia will buy in the cheapest market.

Last July Japan entered the family of civilized nations, becoming by treaty everywhere open to foreigners. She will multiply her machine shops and factories, besides inviting capitalists of all other nations to enter Japan and erect plants where coolie labor is cheapest. Even now Japanese ships convey freight at almost nominal tariff, and with the open-door policy enforced in Asia, Japan will doubtless be the greatest gainer.

TO DESTROY THE CODLING MOTH

At the last session of the Ontario legislature, an act for the prevention and destruction of certain noxious insects, was adopted, providing that upon the recommendation of the minister of Agriculture, the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may make such · regulations for the purpose as may be deemed advisable which have to have the force of law in all municipalities adopting the act by by-law. An order in council has just been issued making regulations for the prevention and destruction of the codling moth. It is ordered that every occupier of a lot, or owner in case the land be unoccupied, shall within one week after receiving notice, place bands upon orchard trees as follows:

. Upon all bearing apple and pear trees, and upon all orchard trees of bearing age, within forty feet of such

bearing trees. The bands are to be of "burlap" or "sacking" or similar suitable material not less than four inches in width and three in thickness, and shall be securely fastened at a convenient point between the crotch of the tree and the

ground. The occupant or owner must have the bands removed and inspected, all

inspectors by the municipalities adopting its provisions. In case of noncompliance, the inspector may cause the work to be done and report the cost to the council, who are empowered to enter the sum on the collectors' roll against the owner and collect the same in the same manner as other

The occupant or owner of every lot affected is to be furnished by the municipality with a printed copy of the Act and the regulations made under it, and also with a copy of the bylaw, and the name and address of the

inspector. In view of the extent of the ravages committed by the codling moth and other injurious insects it is to be hoped that rural municipalities, more especially the fruit producing districts will see the desirability of adopting the Act and taking prompt measures for the enforcement of its provisions.

THE CHURCHES AND SECRET SOCIETIES.

It is a trifle warm to worry over the matter to any extent, but off hand we fail to see why, as some Toronto ministers allege, a man's membership in a Masonic lodge should affect his church attendance. The relation of cause and effect is not apparent. But some ministers are apt to attribute the falling off in the popularity of their services to any cause but the right one. At a venture one might guess that the real reason is that the churches are not moving as fast as the world and hence are losing ground The world may be in the wrong, but you cannot compel it to go to church if it doesn't want to. But to attribute the falling off in church attendence to secret societies we think is childish. As far as this great family journal knows, the very secrecy which proves the main attraction, next to cheap insurance, in these societies rests on

religious safeguards. We venture to say that there is no decline in the religious sentiment of the country. People are, possibly, simply losing faith in forms and ceremonies and begin to lack interest in declamatory sermons founded on ob-

soure biblical texts. However, these views may be wrong. Church non-attendance may after all be due to some dark, deep-laid Masonic plot, only we cannot see it, that's all. It may be the Planet's denseness of comprehension, and the Toronto clergymen may be right, but for all that we cannot help believing that if the secret societies of Canada were dissolved to-morrow, it would not effect the House.

Are they troubled with headaches? Are the lessons hard for them to learn? Are they pale, listless and indifferent? Do they get thin and all run, down toward spring? If so,

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will do grand things for them. It keeps up the vitality, enriches the blood, strengthens mind and body. The buoyancy and activity of youth return.

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churches a particle, unless for the

THE NEW SCHOOL OF WARFARE. will now have the Roberts' school of warfare. The old school, that of Napoleon, Wellington, U. S. Grant, Von Moltke, and even our own Buller and Methuen, was this: A and B being opposed to C, should unite and compel C to fight a pitched battle with the object of crushing him by superiority of numbers. The plan tremendous sacrifice of life. Roberts' ent. Instead of uniting A and B against C, he opposes C with A and flanks with B. Hence C must retreat to prevent being surrounded and cut off. On the same principle that three moves are as bad as a fire, three hurried retreats are as disastrous as a defeat. Thus Lord Roberts gains greatest results with the minimum of bloodshed. Great is Bobs-!

Pretoria is ours.

Who says Roberts is not the greatest general of the nineteenth century?

The campaign has been carried through by Lord Roberts without what might be termed one pitched battle

Roberts did not fight the Boers, he simply overwhelmed them. Thus he saved their lives as well as the lives of many of his own men.

The Boers are good enough runners to belong to Hamilton, Ont., where the long distance running championship of America at present has its abode.

The Liberal papers are entitled to larvae destroyed and the bands replac- any amusement they can get out of ed at intervals of not more than two this Birmingham episode. Possibly, during June, July and August. as Sir Charles Tupper has no further Henry. The Act requires the appointment of use for Birmingham, their party may be able to give him a job. Surely Robert isn't going to give up the important information he intimates he has without some quid pro qub.

> For a great newspaper, the London Times is more easily imposed upon than even the New York yellow journais. We all remember how it paid large sums for the Parnell forgeries. The other day the correspondent, Smally, arrived in Ottawa, got himself loaded up the wrong way by some sharp Liberal politician and wrote the Times a lengthy article setting forth that the only opposition to Canadian aid to England came from Sir Charles Tupper and was merely for local party purposes. Sir Charles Tupper very properly nailed the slander on the floor of parliament.



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T. L. Pardo went before the Raleigh uncil and had himself assessed for wo dogs which had been overlooked.

ors would lead if ratepayers were all as honest as Mr. Pardo.

If it be true as alleged at the coun eil that lot-owners in the cemetery cannot get the temporary use of spade and other gardening utensils, the cemetery committee should remedy the defect by having a supply there for lending purposes. The people should be encouraged, not discouraged, in doing all they will to improve the appearance of Chatham's city of the

What a happy life municipal assess-

As an experiment last Saturday the British first-class battleship Majestic fired upon and sank the coast defence ronclad Belle Isle, near Portsmouth, in nine minutes, the First Lord of the Almiralty, Geo. J. Goschen, said that to their extreme surprise the Belle Isle did not take fire, although she was reported to have been in flames six minutes before the firing commenced. He explained that the spectators, being at a distance from the warship, were misled by volumes of steam and lyddite smoke. Mr. Goschen added that there was a slight smouldering in one cabinet in the Belle Isle, but otherwise the wood work, though shattered in every direction, was not consumed by fire to any degree. The experiment was instituted especially to see whether the wood work of the Belle Isle would was good enough only it involved a burn as the woodwork of the Spanish ships, destroyed by the Americans, method appears to be totally differ- had burned. However, this has not satisfied public opinion which declares that there are a score of floating death traps in the British navy, and demands the replacement of vessels which are not absolutely fire

EXCELLE'T PROGRAM

Arranged for the Henry Children's Concert Next Friday Evening.

The Henry children have prepared an elaborate program for their con-cert in the Victoria Ave. Methodist Church next Friday evening. It is as

Bohm-Misses Beulah Gallop-C. Henry and Maud Banning.

Advice to a young man—R. J. Burdette—Master Gladstone Henry.

Vocal solo—Miss Maggie Bradden.

The Boaster—Miss Beulah Henry.

The Merry Go Round-R. Goedeler-Miss Ethel Leak. Violin Solo-Master Harry Fife Waiting for the train-Miss Beulah

Part II.

Vocal Solo-Master John McLean. Merry Mike-Master Gladstone

Henry.
Tommy's Death Bed.-Miss Beulah Henry. Hunting Song-Spindler - Master Roy Ross.
Tread Water Jim-Miss Beulah

in Life-J. Master Gladstone Henry. La Gracieuse-C. Bohm-Misses Rose and Zita Deloge.

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VENTRILOQUISM

Must be Natural to the Person Like Singing When it is Easily Cultivated.

"A veteran showman" is alleged to have made the assertion the other day that ventriloquism was playing out as av audeville attraction. He also ventures the startling assurance that "of course we know now-a-days that there is no such thing as "throwing the but that it is simply an sion in which the eye plays a bigger part than the ear, etc. "The show man" is also made to say that the illu sion is quickly dispelled by standing

close to the ventriloquist. I don't know where "the showman" received his impressions, but after reading the interview I am firmly convinced that what "the showman" know about ventriloquism would fill a large volume, and what he does know about it could be printed on an ordinary postage stamp. That ventriloquism is simply an illustion of sounds is no secret, nor is it some-thing that has only been found out "now-a-days," as "the showman" could easily ascertain by looking up the word in any old dictionary or in one of the books which are published on this subject.

It is, however, an art that few acquire, and, like singing or any other special talent, must come naturally to the person, he can never master it son, or he can never master it and make much of a success of it. And, like singing, a man has to keep in practice to do it well. Three of my brothers were ventriloquists, and I taught Davis many of his trickeries of voice, so that I know what I am talk-

If ventriloguism is playing out as a vaudeville attraction it is because there are few good ventriloquists left on the stage. Most of the ventriloquial stars that I have known have died from the effects of consumption, to which this class of artists seem to

be succeptible. Again, I dispute the assertion that the illusion is easily dispelled by being close to the artist. Of course ventriloquists are supposed to be able to do great deal which they cannot do, but it is as difficult to tell where the the sound is coming from when near the ventriloquist as it is to locate that great entymological ventriloquist, the

cricket. The illusions are improved if the operator can beat a little distance from the audience, especially if he is imitating natural voices, but every-thing depends on the practice and ex-perience of the ventriloquist and the amount of noise about the artist. I have a brother on the stage, at the present time who has stood in the midst of many a circle of friends and started them on a wild goose chase of one kind or another, or has bewildered some friend or stranger on the opposite side of the street by making voices appear at his heels, over his head or

at his side and behind his back. Another brother can imitate the cries of birds and animals so perfectly that he has kept neighbors busy many a time trying to locate fowls and animals, by making their cries appear to come from the air, under the barn or some other inaccessible place, and though he would pretend to be one of the most diligent searchers it was years before the deception was discovered by the neighbors. Of cours is a class of artists who depend for their skill entirely upon wooden fig-ures with movable jaws, but a good ventriloquist does not require any me-chanical contrivance to aid him in his work, and these artists use them simply to increase the attractiveness and interest of the entertainment. When a ventriloquist is in a large hall he has to raise his voice to such a pitch that he prefers the stage to himself, as then persons standing close by can easily locate the source of the sounds.

Charles H. Wentzler. Leather From Fish Skins.

The United State Fish Commission recently has been getting together a collection of leathers made from the skins of fishes and other aquatic animals. It is not only of interest to the curiosity seeker, but is intended to have a very practical value, showing incidentally what may be done with the outer coats of many creatures whose hides are commonly esteemed worthless. Already the world's supply of leather derived from land animals does not equal the demand, so that the utmost efforts are being made to discover or manufacture some sort of available substitute, but hitherto nobody seems to have thought of util-izing the material afforded by creat-

ures that live in the water. Several kinds of fishes have skins that make excellent leather for some purposes. For example, salmon hide serves so well in this way that the Esquimaux of Alaska make waterproof shirts and boots out of it—in fact even whole suits of clothes. They also cut jackets out of codfish skins, which are very serviceable garments. Already frogskins are coming into use for the mounting of books where an exceptionally delicate material for fine bind-

ings is required. Whaleskin would make an admirable leather for some purposes, and it is a shame to think of the countless thousands of hides of these cataceans that have been thrown away since the fishery for them began. Porpoise leather is even now employed for razor strops, being considered a very superior material. Seal leather, dyed in a number of different colors, is included

in the Fish Commission's collection.

Hair seals are still enormously
plentiful in the North Atlantic and other seas, and it is not difficult to kill them, so that they afford a very promising source of leather supply. Another kind of leather now coming into the market is that of the sea elephant. Up to within a few years ago a species of sea elephant was found on the Pacific coast, ranging as far north as lower California, but it has been entirely exterminated. A related species occurs in Antarctic seas, chiefly on Kerguelen Island, and it was driven likewise almost to the point of extinc-tion a dozen years back. So few of them were left that it became unprofitable to go after them, and so they had a chance to increase again in num-Commencer of State of Michigan

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