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The Free Press,
LONDON, ONT.

Tuesday, May 1, 1894.

FREE PRESS SPECIAL AGENTS.

ROY V. SOMMERVILLE, office 93 and 94 Times Building, New York.
STREET & CO., London, Eng.
H. B. COOMBS, 36 King Street East, Toronto, Ontario.

THE M. C. R. AND THE CITY.

The order to retire the Michigan Central business from London does not come to us as a surprise. It is in accordance with the line of observation and apprehension in these columns of over a year ago when the suggestion was put forward that the direct through connections east, west and south, given over that great railway system for the year round was of greater importance to the commercial well-being of the city than any possible development of independent lake commerce during the period of navigation. It was then urged that the L. & P. S. Railway deal should be made with either of the great lines, the paramount object being to ensure the continuance of the M. C. R. here and guarantee to London the permanent advantage of three great railway systems, while the lake outlet should be guarded as before under the old lease by stipulated rates. It was resolved, however, that the complete independence of the short local line was of greatest importance, and that the railway should pass into the hands of the Walker-ville Company even at the risk of losing the Vanderbilt connection which our merchants were at so much pains to secure. It would be a set-back to all calculations of local interest were the present order for withdrawal to be final, and the strongest effort should be made to effect an accommodation of the issues in dispute. If this cannot be done and the M. C. R. should give up their offices in London, the commercial public will perceive that no matter how well the new lessees of the L. & P. S. R. may observe the terms of their bargain, a loss has been sustained for which they cannot compensate the city.

THE COAL MINERS' STRIKE.

The bituminous coal miners' strike, both in numbers of men involved and in the far-reaching effects likely to result from the outbreak, is likely to rank as one of the most serious labor troubles in recent years. It is safe to say that no single organized labor struggle in the United States since the great railway strike in 1877, has included so great a number of participants as have now quit work. Perhaps the most complete account of the causes leading up to this great strike, is contained in a special report from Mr. John McBride, President of the United Mine Workers. He says the cutting of mining rates commenced with the financial panic last August. The difficulty experienced by coal operators in obtaining money upon good time paper without discounting it at a rate that obliterated profit upon coal sales, and the falling off in the demand for coal because of the closing of manufacturing and other sources of consumption, led the operators upon the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in the Pittsburgh, Pa., district to offer and their miners to accept a reduction of 5c per ton. There was no contract between the miners and operators of the mines where the reduction started, and the mines not under contract upon the Monongahela river soon followed the example set by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad mines. The first reduction in wages accomplished, the miners and operators seemed to grow insane upon the subject, and one cut was followed by another in such rapid succession that in mines where no contract existed the price fell in many instances from 79 cents to 58 cents per ton. The mines under contract for the year at 79 cents were compelled to close down until such times as a district convention of miners declared for an open rate and allowed miners to work at any price obtainable, and at the time the general suspension was ordered the miners' rate in the Pittsburgh field was anywhere from 38 cents to 60 cents. The price paid in every field where reductions occurred was too low to allow miners to earn even a bare living, and with half-work nothing but starvation was in sight, and in many places the pangs of hunger had already been experienced. The miners recognized before coming out that this was a fight for living wages for bread, hence they are more determined

and are acting with greater unanimity than ever before. There are hundreds of operators in sympathy with this movement and want to see it succeed; first, because of a humane feeling for their employees who suffer from the too low rates, and second, because there is no profit in operating mines under conditions such as have prevailed lately. The operators who wisely refrained from making contracts based upon mining rates which no sane men believed would or could continue, recognize that the cutting of selling and mining rates was due to insane competition rather than to market condition or to a demand on the part of consumers for cheaper coal. Between this class of operators and the miners of the country there is no quarrel, but each are anxious for the good of the coal trade and the welfare of those engaged in it. It is generally conceded that the stock of coal on hand was no larger than usual at this time of the year, and it is clearly evident that by May 15 surplus coal will have disappeared, and many industries will be suffering for the want of fuel. The general depression in trade does not permit of the consumption of as much coal as the mines are capable of producing or do produce under ordinary conditions. The absorption of surplus coal will enable miners and operators in a short time to reach a settlement of the price question upon a basis that will give to operators a profit, the miners a living, and do no injustice to consumers of coal.

THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK.

Henry Clews, in his weekly financial review, states the probabilities of the moment point to the enactment of the Tariff Bill, but in a form more lenient towards manufacturers than was proposed in the measure as it was passed by the House of Representatives. Those ameliorations have a tendency to encourage confidence. The rates of duty, however, are perhaps less important to the major part of industries than the rates of wages. Upon a wide range of important products, the writer says, the present duties go beyond the strict requirements of protection, and the new duties will suffice to keep out the foreign goods. This is a rule of wide application, but more than this is most probably needed. There has been a general reduction in the prices of the foreign goods with which the United States manufacturers have to compete, and to meet that change it may be found necessary that there be a reduction in the rate of wages. That is the one condition upon which a successful resumption of active business is more or less dependent.

The general demand in the manufacturing and mining industries for lower wages thus becomes a matter of the first importance to the revival, for which all interests are hoping. So far, the trades unions are offering stubborn resistance, upon a broad scale, to this demand; and it does not seem impossible that the struggle may be prolonged. That labor will have to yield in the end, there can be no doubt; for manufacturers are now in no position to continue doing business at a loss, and will prefer stopping their works to taking that course. It thus becomes a question whether, following the tariff uncertainties, there is to be a labor conflict. Upon that hangs the further question when may the United States hope to see their industries restored to a basis of reasonable active prosperity? Could the doubt at that point be removed, there would be a solid basis of confidence in the revival of trade; for, in all other respects, the country is prepared for an active resumption of trade, and for the undertaking of enterprises that would afford free employment for labor and capital. Notwithstanding the present unyielding attitude of labor, the writer inclines to the opinion that a rational public opinion will bring about a second thought among the unions that will bring them to so acceptable a result. There is no other possible event that could so greatly conduce to a quick revival of business. Whilst probably most manufacturers might defer the resumption of work until the tariff bill was finally enacted, yet no one familiar with the present anxiety to employ immense accumulations of idle capital will have any doubt that, under such circumstances, ways would be found for starting up a vast amount of non-manufacturing enterprise. The building trade would revive under the inducements of cheaper costs of materials and work. The last four years of continual railroad construction has created opportunities for the building of new roads, and the needed capital is now waiting for the opportunity that lower wages would afford. But low rates of interest will not force investment into these sources without terms of labor that will insure costs of construction proportioned to the lower basis of prices that has come apparently to stay. Mr. Clews continues: "We are, therefore, upon the verge of a possibility, and we may hope a probability, in the labor market that will suddenly change the whole aspect of business and introduce a return to comparative prosperity."

A specially interesting subject occupied the Victoria Institute, London, the other evening. Mr. T. G. Pinches, of the Oriental Department of the British Museum, described some results of his examination of the Babylonian tablets. He showed from one of these, of about the period 650 B.C., that the King used the word God as a monosyllable word, and even so far back as 3,000 B.C. the tablets bore the same expression in the same sense. Evidence has, indeed, accumulated of late which tends to show that the Babylonian Pantheon, supposed to include thirteen deities, was really monothelistic in the discussion which followed. Mr. Rassam, Major Conder, and Canon Girdlestone took part, and it was pointed out that in the early Egyptian records also there was evidence of a primitive faith in one God.

Mrs. Ann Wheeler, widow of a laborer, died at Ashmore, Salisbury, on Saturday, aged 102, as certified by the baptismal register of that parish, where she was born and had lived a 118 long life.

The coming Inter-Imperial Conference in Ottawa next month promises to be one of the important gatherings of history. Delegates have been appointed from the leading parts of the Empire,

ARBOR DAY IN ONTARIO.

The first Friday in May, according to the School Act of Ontario, shall be set apart by the Board of Trustees of every rural school and incorporated village for the planting of shade trees, making flower beds and otherwise improving and beautifying the school grounds, and this day goes by the name of "Arbor Day." There is no doubt that a day spent in this way is highly beneficial in stimulating in children the love of nature and expanding their aesthetic tastes. Every pupil in a Canadian school should know the principal trees of our forests at sight, and a stroll through the woods about now would be an excellent way of observing their form and the variations of bark and leaf and stem. Every school yard in Ontario should be a model of neatness, and with such an abundance of beautiful trees indigenous to the Province there is no excuse for the want of shade which characterizes so many schools. With a little tact on the part of the trustees and teachers, all objections on this score would quickly disappear.

Arbor Day in our schools should be made a busy, joyous holiday, one to which the pupils would look forward with enthusiasm, and one that would each year give additional interest to Canadian forests and fields. Besides the decoration of the school grounds, Arbor Day should also be made to contribute to the aesthetic and intellectual culture of pupils.

Trees for school grounds and yards, along roadsides and streets should be such as are least liable to suffer from injuries; they should be symmetrical in shape, free from objectionable habits, such as bad odors, root-sprouting, frequent dropping of parts, etc., and from insect pests; and if planted for shade should have a broad crown and a dense foliage, budding early in spring and retaining leaves long into the fall. The Canadian maple is a typical shade tree in every respect, and cannot be beaten. Trees native to the region in which the planting is done usually give more promise of success, and are generally less costly than exotics. Trees from well-managed nurseries are preferable to those grown in the forest, because their root-system is better prepared for transplantation. Rapidly growing trees, although giving shade soonest, are mostly short-lived, and become soonest unsightly.

Although, as a rule, small plants have a better promise of success, other considerations recommend the choice of larger sizes for road side and ornamental planting. Trees of any size can be successfully transplanted, but in proportion to the size grows the difficulty, the amount of work and the care necessary. As a rule the largest size should not exceed two to three inches in diameter at the base, and ten to fifteen feet in height. Transplanting is at best a forcible operation, and injury to the roots, although it may be small, is almost unavoidable. In taking up a tree for transplanting, the greatest care must be exercised to secure as much of the root system intact as possible, especially of the small fibrous roots. Never allow roots to become dry from the time of taking up the tree until it is transplanted. A healthy-looking tree may have the certainty of death in it if the root fibres are dried out. Trees should not be set deeper than they stood before, excepting in poor, loose soil. More trees are killed by too deep planting than the reverse.

By the proper observance of Arbor Day for a few years, and the proper culture of trees, shrubs and flowers, every school ground in Ontario would become a paradise of beauty and a garden of loveliness to the rising generation.

Cook's Cotton Root Compound.
A recent discovery by an old physician. Successfully used monthly by thousands of Ladies. Is the only perfectly safe and reliable medicine discovered. Beware of unprincipled druggists who offer inferior medicines in place of this. Ask for Cook's Cotton Root Compound, take no substitutes, or imitate \$1 and 6c in postage in letter and we will send, sealed, by return mail. Full sealed particulars in plain envelope, to ladies only, 8 stamps. Address: FORD LILLY COMPANY, No. 3 Fisher Block, Detroit, Mich.

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I don't charge any more than it is worth. I won't keep people waiting. I won't do inferior work at any price. I do good work as can be done. My men are all thorough mechanics. I want your next plumbing job. My place of business is 85 Carling Street, London.

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Classes Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 7 to 9 p.m., in Freshman, Model and Mechanical Drawing, Modelling, etc. Fees for 36 lessons, \$3. Extra classes for China, Oil and Water Color Painting, Monday, Friday and Saturday, from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m.
Mechanics' Institute, Dundas Street.
Send for circulars and particulars to
JOHN H. GRIFFITHS,
Principal.

TENDERS.
SEALED TENDERS MARKED "FOR Mounted Police Provisions and Light Supplies," and addressed to the Honorable the President of the Privy Council, Ottawa, will be received up to noon on Monday, 4th June, 1894.

Printed forms of tender containing full particulars as to the articles and approximate quantities required, may be had on application to any of the Mounted Police Posts in the North-west, or at the office of the undersigned.
No tender will be received unless made on such printed forms.
The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.
Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted Canadian Bank cheque for an amount equal to ten per cent. of the total value of the articles tendered for, which will be forfeited if the tender declines to be a contract when called upon to do so, or if he fails to complete the service contract at 10%.

If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned.
No payment will be made to newspapers inserting this advertisement without authority having been first obtained.

FRED. WHITE,
Comptroller N.-W. M. Police, 12801
Ottawa, April 28rd, 1894.

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CAMPBELL'S QUININE WINE.
Prepared only by K. CAMPBELL & Co.
Beware of Imitations. MONTREAL.

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Consumers are hereby notified that the Inspectors of this Department have imperative instructions to have the water supply turned off at any place where water taps are out of repair, and also to prosecute any person using City water contrary to the rules of the Department. By order
O. L. WOOD, Secretary.
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Finest French Sateens,
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