The Planet. DAILY AND WEEKLY

Chatham, Ont.

BIRMINGHAM'S BLUFF. By his "stand and deliver" message to Sir Charles Tupper, Mr. Robt. Birmingham seems, in an unguarded hour, to have ruined his chances of being allowed to continue his usefulness, if any, to the Liberal-Conservative cause in Ontario, declares the London Free Press. Sir Charles, with his characteristic decision and promptitude, replied to the threatening letter, embracing a demand for money, in a way that will be heartily commended by Ontario Conservatives. The rank and file will place no confidence in one who has been long well paid for the duties he was appointed to perform, and who is ready to knife the memory of those who trusted and fed him, now that they are in their graves. What can be the meaning of Mr. Birmingham's threat to tell tales dating back to 1882, if he is not settled with by Sir Charles Tupper, unless to cast a slur upon the political reputations of such leaders as the late Sir John Macdonald, Sir John Abbott and Sir John Thompson? or resurrect or trump up the things of their days. Such black ingratitude and treachery to the memory of those respected leaders might well arouse the indignation of Sir Charles Tupper, the honored veteran statesman, who was the friend, confidant and colleague of the departed. Who cares now what was the record of eighteen years ago? But if all were revealed, the present Conservative leaders are standing in no dread of the light. The record of Conservative practices is found in the election courts, and it is a clean one, as politics go. If Mr. Birmingham has been guilty of any political uncleanness, which seems to be implied in his demand for hush money, the universal verdict will be that it is high time for him to go, and it is well that he has turned himself out by a course of conduct which must prevent his reinstatement in any confidential position. That the record of the great Conservative party can be tarnished by anything that Mr. Robert Birmingham can say is not to be thought of.

AUSTRALIA FORGING AHEAD OF

Thomas A. Eddy, of Flint, Eddy & Co. New York, who recently returned from a trip around the world, said:

"Australia is the laboring man's paradise. Nothing can be done there without consulting labor. They have the eight-hour law, and the Chinese exclusion law; strikes and arbitrations are handled by the government wages are largely regulated by law, but are about the same as in the! United States.

"New Zealand is the garden of the earth. I think it is the most beautiful country I have ever seen. It is the richest in agriculture and the richest in resources. Sixty-five, 70 and 80 bushels of oats to an acre is common. Wheat runs as high as 60 bushels, and 35 to 45 bushels to an acre is common. The colony is growing in wealth, and it is the cheapest place in the world to live."

It will be seen from this that in Australia they go in for real reform without making any fuss about it. Here it's all in the name. The 'Reform' leaders in Canada have, like Sir Oliver Mowat, usually been obstructionists. They have kept the country back. Any progress made has been under Conservative administrations. But still we are far behind the rest of the world. As far as Ontario is concerned there will be a fine field for advancement when the present opposition comes into power. If it avails itself of its opportunities, all will go well; if not the electorate will only tolerate it until more progressive men come forward. There is a spirit of dissatisfaction abroad which demands changes of a radical character. Partyism has somewhat held that feeling in check hitherto, but it is getting stronger every day and we imagine the coming elections will prove sarprises for the lag-behind politicians of both parties.

Johannesburg!

Next stopping place - Pretoria-It's time for Oom Paul to pack up his capital and trek.

Headquarters only twenty-six miles from Pretoria and the roads good.

For details concerning the surrender of Pretoria see next Saturday's Planet.

The threats being indulged in by friends of the convicted dynamiters are not going to help those gentlemen in the slightest degree . There is not much likelihood of these threats amounting to anything, but to guard against possibilities the government should promptly amend the criminal code so as to make such outrages as that at Thorold capital crimes. The people have been remarkably forbearing in this case. But this forbearance cannot be counted on to last. If there are any more outrages, and the law will not hang the culprits legally, mobs may do it illegally.

"Every Path Hath a Puddle."

The puddle in the pathway of most lives is a defective circulation due to a blood supply that instead of growing clear and strong like a mountain brook, is stagnant and impure. Puddles may be purified, however, and and become limpid streams. That is what Hood's Sarsaparilla does with human blood.

It clarifies, purifies and strengthens the blood, and when this is accomplished, the vital organs, liver, lungs, kidneys, bowels, are all braced and invigorated. It never disappoints.

Dyspepsia-"My wife suffered from rheumatism, dyspepsia and pains in her stomach. She had medical attendance but did not get relief. She read about Hood's Sarsaparilla and tried it. Three bottles entirely cured her. She is now a well and bearty woman." T. W. GOVERT, Cape Sable Island, N. S.

Sick Headache—"For a long time I was troubled with sick headaches. Different medicines failed to give me relief. I took Hood's Sarsaparilla, my husband having been cured of sait rheum by 4, and soon it made me feel like a new woman." Mas.



Bobs will take care of those Johannesburg gold mines for a while.

Had the Boers been foolish enough to destroy the Rand mines the cost of this war would then have fallen in all likelihood upon their own farms.

The Globe strikes the right key when it says: "The vast majority of the electors of both parties would like to see elections conducted decently and honestly, and the same may be fairly said of most of the leading public men of Canada on both sides. A little of the energy which Liberals and Conservatives expend in denouncing one another might very well be diverted to the purpose of ridding both parties of the incubus of fraud and oprruption."

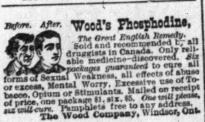
Apropos of the new Mafeking stamps with Colonel Baden-Powell's head on are those on which its explosion them, says the Westminster Gazette, it does not seem to have been noticed that to put the head of anyone not a member of the Royal Fan'ly on a postage stamp might be construed as an offense not altogether unlike high treason. The classical precedent is furnished by Canada, where

a certain postmaster once put his own portrait on a stamp. No sooner did his proceeding come to the ears of the authorities than they dministered a sevre reprimand and withdrew the stamp from circulation. specimens of it, however, are still procurable. The stamp is known as the "Connell" stamp, and fetches a good price in the auction room.

indicates insufficient nourishment. It leads to nervousness, sleeplessness, general debility, and predisposes to Consumption and other prevailing diseases. To guard against these take

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HOW LYDDITE IS USED.

British Shells in Which This substance is Employed.

Great Britain's use of the new ex losive compound, lyddite, in Boer war has claimed the attention generally from persons interested in the art of war and its modern inventions. The London Daily Graphic contributes some interesting informetion concerning the shells in which this substance is used. All sh-lls, with the single exception of 6. '-inch howitzer, are of elongated conoical form. Common shells have described as mines," and are intended principally for the destruction of material and for range-inding purposes, though they are sometimes used at both short and long ranges against troops in mass or against troops in line. desirable that a common should contain as powerful a bursting charge as possible, and efficiency in by the adoption of lyddite in lieu of powder. Except for range-finding purposes common shells are rarely fired by field batteries and never by horse batteries.

They are pre-eminently the pro-jectiles for field howitzers, and in the new 5-inch variety of this weapon, which is to supersede all others, they weigh when full 50 pounds and contain one ounce. An incendiary star consisting of a brown paper cylinder about two inches long, paraf-fined and filled with incendiary composition, and primed at each end with a quick-match, is inserted the plug hole when the object is to destroy buildings or stockades. Common shell are exploded by neans of percussion fuses, which ignite on striking the object or ground. The limit for error permissible in the case of common shell is very small; it must burst at or close to the object to be effective. Common shell are painted black. Double shell, a more powerful variety, are distin-guished by a blue point.

Shrapnel is used against troops in all formations. It contains a bursting charge, placed either in the base or in the head—the latter in the latest pattern—just sufficient to open the shell, and a number of bullets, which are thus liberated in their flight at the proper moment, rain down over nearly an acre of ground. The shrapnel shell used by the 12bounder horse artillery gun contains 162 bullets; those of the 15-pounder field gun 210 bullets and those of the 5-inch field howitzer from 313 to 350

The striking effect of the bullets is dependent upon the remaining ve-locity of the shell at burst upon the exact timing of the explosion, so as to inflict the most destructive consequences on objects aimed at. though shrapnel may be used effectively with percussion fuses on occa-sions when it can be fired at short ranges over hard ground, time fuses practically always depends.

Great nicety, therefore, has to be observed in the clevation of the gun and boring of the time fuse to make the projectile thoroughly effective, but once the correct range has been ascertained there is-in the open, at least-no more deadly or demoralizing fire in existence. To obtain the are frequently fired, for this projectile gives forth a fine puff of smoke on graze, and it is a much simpler matter to judge of an error in range shell bursting than if exploded in the air by a time fuse. But where common shell are not forthcoming shrapnel must fired with percussion fuses till the

range is ascertained. At very long ranges the angle escent necessitates the explosion be ing timed to take place right over object almed at, at very shor ranges, where the angle of descent is ractically nil and the velocity the projectile unimpaired, the should burst from 50 to 100 yards in front. It should be noted that against an enemy under temporary earth cover or crouching behin bowlders of rock the distantly discernible effect of shrapnel fire is often deceptive-that is to say, the hostile artillery may be silenced and the ground apparently bare of its defenders, yet little real damage has probably been inflicted. Indeed, as opposed to the Boer in his favorite style of defensive tactics, the efficacy of shrapnel fire is much discounted. High angle fire—that is, fire directed from guns at a greater elevation than 15 degrees—with any charges, and with common shell as the pro-jectile, would doubtless do much toward lessening the terrible list of casualties suffered by our storming parties. Shrapnel shell are distinguished by a red point. Case shot will be found with all

guns on field service. It consists of thin metal cylinder packed balls. The case breaking by the dis-charge, the balls are all liberated by the time they reach the muzzle, and spread over a considerable space. If the ground in front of the enemy is hard or stony the balls will reochet and the result be more effective. Case shot is used obly up to 500 yards, and must never, of course, be fired, like common ball and shrapnel shell, over the heads of one's own troops. Shrapbel shell loaded the reverse

way, without plug or fuse, may also be used as case. Star shells are made for the 6.3 inch howitzer—a weapon almost ob-solete—and for the 2.5-inch and 7pounder guns. They are simply uminating agents, and are used lighting up an enemy's position in night operations. They must not be confounded with incendiay stars. At one period rockets, fired with tubes, were largely utilized in civilized warfare, especially against cavalry, con-voy trains, etc. To-day, however, the great range of ordinary artillery nullifies their use, for rockets can in flict little damage beyond a range of 1,000 yards; hence they are relegated to savage warfare, where even their moral effect, on which they mainly rely, is growing less. Consequently tockets are now never included in ar-

tillery equipment unless specially or-Other distinguishing marks on projectiles may here be added. A white

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Bonnie Castie Property to be Sold by Public Auction.

Andrew Thomson, Jr., Auctioneer, Andrew Thomson, Jr., Auctioneer, has received instructions from Mrs. J. W. Carpenter, who is leaving the city, to sell her beautiful residence, known as Bonnie Castle, on Elizabeth Street, opposite the residence of John Reeve, Esq., barrister, on Thursday, May 31st, 1900, at 2 o'clock p. m.

The building is a large, two-storey frame house, containing hall, parlor, drawing room, dining room, kitchen, pantry, summer kitchen and five large bedrooms; with closets, large verandahs, front and rear, outside cellar, large cement cistern and an ever flow-

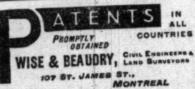
large cement cistern and an ever flowing well of water; large lot, containing peach, pear, plum, cherry and apple trees, and abundance of small fruit and large grape arbor.

This is one of the cosiest and most attractive homes in Chatham, and to see it is to want it. An inspection tion of the premises is solicited and Mrs. Carpenter will be pleased to show the same to anyone.

the same to any-one.

The property will be sold without reserve. Ten percent of purchase money on day of sale. Further particulars as to terms will be given on the superscription to the day of sale or on application to the ANDREW THOMSON,

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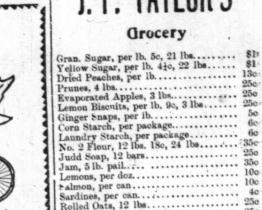
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