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FOR A NEW WELLAND CANAL.

The volume of traffic through the Canadian canals has grown rapidly in the past few years. The total for the season of 1907 was 20,543,635 tons, which was about double that of 1906. The quantity of grain carried through the Welland and St. Lawrence Canals to Montreal in 1907 was 635,573 tons, compared with 404,935 tons in the previous year.

One factor in this growth has been the abolition of the canal charges, but the natural advantages of the Canadian water route are drawing to it an increasing proportion of the export grain traffic from both countries. In his annual report, the deputy minister of railways and canals, Mr. M. J. Butler, strongly urges the enlargement of the Welland Canal to a depth of 25 feet in the reaches, and 22 feet on the lock gate sills, with a corresponding increase of width. Vessels using the Welland Canal at present are restricted to 255 feet in length, and 44 feet beam, whereas to make a remunerative voyage from Lake Superior to Lake Ontario eastern ports, boats should be capable of carrying 7,000 to 10,000 tons. The Welland should accommodate the largest vessels using the Sault canals.

The passage through the Welland Canal would be completed in only seven hours if it were enlarged as proposed, and the number of locks reduced to seven. In all probability a new or improved Welland Canal will be the next great national undertaking after the completion of the transcontinental railway. The Georgian Bay Canal project, which would cost \$100,000,000, is too heavy a burden to be shouldered in the immediate future, although it will be realized before many years undoubtedly.

SPEELLING REFORM.

Our esteemed correspondent, Mr. F. P. Betts, in his letter of the 20th inst., seems to misunderstand The Advertiser's ground and purpose. In its article of the 21st ult. we were simply stating and briefly commenting upon the various theories that have been put forward to account for the published decision of Drs. Pyne, Seath and Goggins, to introduce a lengthened spelling of the "arbor," "labor," "honor," class of words in the new text books.

With regard to the reason reported to have been given by Dr. Seath himself, namely, that we are not Americans, we ventured to express the hope that he was not foolish enough, (certainly the Ontario people are not foolish enough), to avoid the better way of doing a thing simply because the better way is an American practice.

The flunkism theory is supported by the history of spelling in the Ontario text books. Chief Superintendent Ryerson, advised by a council of public instruction, comprising such eminent scholars as Dr. McCaul, president of Toronto University; Rev. Dean Graetz, Archbishop Lynch, Hon. Justice Morrison, Rev. Dr. Fuller, Rev. Dr. Jennings and Senator McMaster, in or about the year 1868, adopted a standard of orthography for the proposed new text books, preferring the "or" ending of the large class of words in question. For forty years the text books and most of the newspapers have accustomed us to this spelling. The Latin and old English writers spell these words in the shorter way, that is with "or." So do the leading professors of English philology in Oxford and Cambridge at the present time. In favor of the "our" spelling, which is an imitation of a French form, we find a number of English journals—not all of them, however, the London Nation is an exception—and is alleged, a considerable portion of the English aristocracy. The allegation reminds one that when Will Honeycomb was taunted in the Spectator Club with his irregular spelling his defense was that he spelled like a gentleman and not like a scholar. Introducing the "u" into the words in question certainly cannot be charged to scholarship.

When simplification is carried as far as practicable the burden of learning our irregular spelling will still be heavy enough upon our children. Their friends will welcome any measure that tends to lighten the burden and they correspondingly resent any action that has the contrary effect.

UNCLE SAM'S UNPREPAREDNESS

The recklessness of California politicians gives the impression that they would hail with delight the embolism of the United States in a war with Japan. They appear to think that the country's fleet is equal to any emergency, and that its army is capable of rapid expansion. These freeters are now being told some plain truths. One reliable military authority informs them that the nation has not one-quarter of the necessary men to handle its coast defenses. Another reports that even if it had men enough it has not got the

guns in position, and, in addition, is deficient in ammunition. As a result of the falling off in the attendance at West Point, many regiments are short of competent officers, while the commissariat is in bad shape, and the medical service is very poor, at least three hundred more doctors being needed. This testimony as to the country's unpreparedness was confirmed recently by Mr. Leslie M. Shaw, ex-secretary of the treasury, who, in a speech at the merchant marine congress, said:

"The Japanese can put 200,000 of their fighting men in Hawaii in thirty days. It would take us two years to get an equal number there. As a spectacle, our sixteen battleships starting around the world was magnificent, but when you remember that it was accompanied by and depending for coal and supplies on twenty-seven colliers and supply vessels floating foreign flags, which would have deserted if and left it helpless at the first smelt of hostile powder, the parade does not appear quite so impressive. A battleship without coal is as useless as a battleship without powder."

This doubtless was a revelation not only to the jingoes of the Pacific coast, but to the people of the republic generally, as was also Mr. Shaw's further statement that all the powder mills in the United States could in thirty days make only enough powder to last the navy two hours.

The lesson in this for the people of California is that, instead of trying to stir up strife between their country and the now powerful nation of the Orient, they should loyally do their duty in upholding the treaties the federal government has made with Tokio.

The collapse of the ice palace in Montreal through soft weather is a much better advertisement for Canada than the ice palace itself.

The spelling innovators in this country are those who are trying to restore the letter "u" in a large class of words after it has been in official and general disuse for forty years. They are on the defensive, not the advocates of the established usage.

The whirligig of time has brought queer changes in British politics. Two sons of the late Lord Salisbury are fighting the Unionist organization on the fiscal question, while Winston Churchill, the son of the leader of the Tory democracy of twenty years ago, is the platform giant of the Liberal party.

The death of "Knoxonian" is a loss to the pulpit and the press of Canada. He seemed to have been born with a pen in his hand. Although we laugh at Dogie's dictum that reading and writing come by nature, there are some men to whom writing is as natural as breathing, and with whom the gift of expression is inborn. Dr. Grant used his pen only in good causes, and for years he entertained and instructed a much wider constituency through the press than he could reach from the pulpit.

The late Philip Jamieson, of Toronto, who died on Saturday, was a very wealthy man. He was the first merchant in Toronto to use a full-page newspaper advertisement, and this he did against the advice of George Brown, of the Globe. He had a keener sense of the value of advertising than the man who had advertised to sell, and his faith in printers' ink was justified by results. It is necessary to point the moral?

Our neighbors to the south are today celebrating Washington's birthday. Lincoln bids fair to supplant Washington as the supreme national hero. The former was distinctly rays of the soil, while Washington resembled an English squire. Lincoln is called the savior of his country, perhaps with a touch of exaggeration, but Washington's title as the father of his country is unassailable. Without him the American revolution would have collapsed for want of a soul.

"HIS SUPERIORITY."

[Chicago News.]
Singleton "Does your wife ever acknowledge your superiority?"
Wedderly: "Only when she has a lead pencil that requires sharpening."

SECOND THOUGHTS BEST.

[Youth's Companion.]
The two traps had been particularly lucky, and, having funds in hand, they discussed plans for the night's work. "We can sleep under a roof if we like," said Wiggins.
"Surely," responded Higgins, "but somehow these lodging houses make me nervous. Supposing a fire was to break out in the night?"
"You've got it right," agreed Wiggins, dolefully. "It's no place for us; they'd turn the hose on us in a minute!"

ILLUMINATING.

[Cleveland Leader.]
"How's your new kid?"
"Fine."
"Don't you find that a baby brightens up household?"
"Yes, indeed. We have to have the gas going most of the night now."

NO CURLING HEREAFTER.

[Toronto Star.]
The positive statement of the Calgary preacher, who says there will be no curling in heaven, is rather weakened by the certainty that there can be none in the other place.

NOT MUCH DIFFERENCE.

[Lynchburg.]
Wife—Is there any difference between a wife and a fortress?
Husband—Not much, except, of course, that a fortress must be harder to silence!

A PERIOD OF TRANSITION.

[Cincinnati Enquirer.]
There need not be, however, the slightest doubt in the mind of any man that political, commercial and financial affairs of the nation are in a state of transition, and that the machinery of the preceding centuries has become antiquated and obsolete, no longer responsive nor

suited to the new and more potent forces of the present time, and must give place to forms and methods, to reforms and betterments, that he is allowed to rent all are controllers of politics, commerce and finance, desire and will have. The age demands better results for the masses and insists upon the nation of the power of the few in all political, commercial and financial affairs.

SURPRISING HIM.

[Cleveland Leader.]
"How conscientious you are!"
"What makes you think so?"
"You always call the clerk's attention to it when he gives you too much change."

HOLLAND'S WAY.

In Holland there are few able-bodied paupers. There is a tract of public land containing 5,000 acres, which is divided into six model farms, and to one of these is sent the poor person applying for public relief. If he voluntarily serves till he can support himself, he is allowed to rent a small farm for himself and be what is called a free farmer. Every pauper who is thus reclaimed to honest regular industry is so much gain to the state. There is also a forced labor colony, where beggars and vagrants are sent and made to do farm and other work whether they like it or not.

A SPIRIT.

[Clinton Daily News.]
Mine are the buds of hope
Upon the vine;
Mine is the morning's cope
Of sapphire stain;
Mine is my grassy slope
That's beryl-ine.

And mine the warm white rain,
The rainbow skein!
I am the throb that stirs
The ebbing sea;
The sap within the fir—
A living core;
Thee, my worshipper!
I am the thrill
Of song that runs before
By crest and shore!

In every vein of earth
I pulse, I leap;
I cause all beauty's birth—
The joy thereof;
When once were death and death
(The long white sleep)
Through me, beneath, above,
Are life and love!

BREAKFAST MONTHS.

Week-ly.
A traveller stopped at a hotel in Greenland, where the nights are six months long, and as he registered asked a question of the clerk:
"What time do you have breakfast?"
"From half-past March to a quarter to May."

MARATHON ORATORY.

[Guelph Mercury.]
Lincoln could give an oration in 200 words, but the average member of Parliament cannot get through a decent introduction to a speech in less than an hour.

WOMAN'S WAY.

[New York Press.]
The saintly thing about a woman is how she can adore a man that nobody else can tolerate.

A DIFFICULT POSITION.

[Success Magazine.]
A young captain, who was drilling the awkward squad, commanded (thus) a hole in the bottom of the sea. When I say "halt!" put the foot that's in the ground beside the one that's in the air, and remain motionless."

SHE KEEPS HIM GUESSING.

[Chicago Daily News.]
She has her moods, I must confess,
They keep me guessing all the while,
And with a cruel fickleness
She deals alternate frown and smile.
The sweetest thing she's apt to say,
Her looks, I think, are more than kind;
That's just the way she feels today—
Tomorrow she may change her mind.

Now she is distant, hard and cold;
To speak, indeed, I hardly dare
For fear I may be overbold,
She cannot get through with a word.
It doesn't do to get too gay,
Humility is best, I find,
That's just the way she feels today—
Tomorrow she may change her mind.

When she is pretty mean to me
Her disposition gives me hope
And when she's gracious as I cope
Then with the darkest doubts I cope.
How I feel! I think, are more than kind;
That's just the way she feels today—
Tomorrow she may change her mind.

SNOW SHOVELLING.

[Montreal Herald.]
Without being disloyal to the climate, householders had a right to complain after twice shovelling out drifts made by the east wind, have to come back at drifts made by the west wind.

PRICE OF NEWSPAPERS.

[Montreal Gazette.]
The newspapers published at Newark, N.J., have raised their price from one cent to two cents. The paper, which has the cost of collecting news have all been going up and cutting down the profits, and in some cases cutting down the number of papers. When publishers undertake to get more for what costs them more they have commercial justification.

OVERLOOKED.

[Washington Star.]
No medals grace nor songs extol
The stout sublimity of the night.
Who chops the wood or carries coal
With the temperature at zero.

THE SILENT STATESMAN.

[Washington Star.]
"Some day you may find the public agreeing with your opinions."
"Yes," answered Senator Sorghum, "and until that day comes I am going to be mighty careful about expressing them."

THE BUSTER BROWN IDIOCY.

[Edmonton Bulletin.]
Two Ottawa papers are lawing about the right to use Buster Brown supplements. Both should be restrained in the interests of juvenile sanity. There was a time when Buster Brown under the spell of J. F. Outcault was put through a series of really laughable antics. Now a dozen copyists are making him the pretext for cartoons which are neither humorous nor harmless, while the number of cases verge on the vulgar and in many accomplish the idiotic. It is time Buster or his traducers were dead.

HIS SILLY QUESTION.

[Cleveland Leader.]
Him—Am I the first man you ever engaged in?
Her—Don't insult me. You know perfectly well that I am twenty-one years old. Do I look like a lemon?

An odd wedding, which took place in Washington recently, was that of Jesse E. Jevons, of Philadelphia, and Jessie E. Jevons, of Wilkesboro, Pa. Both had been married before, but despite their similarity of names were in no way related to each other.

MOSTLY DRUNKS
IN POLICE COURT

Magistrate Love Had a Busy Time This Morning.

Joseph Murray and David Armstrong, two Indian listers, appeared before Magistrate Love this morning for being drunk.

"Where did you get your liquor?" asked the court.
"I was sick and I got it at home," said Armstrong. Murray had dropped in to see him, and the first thing the men knew they were well enough to be out on the street, and when arrested they were in a local hotel in an intoxicated condition.

"Being Indian listers," said the court, "I must deal with you as such. If you don't like being on the list, you know, you can go out of town, and really, I think the town would still manage to keep going all right without you."

Murray was remanded a week for sentence, as he had not paid a previous fine. Murray, not having \$10 to pay his fine, was sent down for three weeks.

Couldn't Keep Away.
John Matthews got drunk on Saturday night and was allowed to go on Sunday morning. Last night, however, he was arrested again for being disorderly and drunk. Matthews has a wife and eight little children, and in consideration of them the court bailed him in a week. If he takes the pledge, as he promised to do, he will be discharged.

Stephen Nevans, the man who stole rubbers a couple of weeks ago, because he said he could find no work, was told to go to the stoneware.
"There is no work there just now," he said, "but I will go out of town and try and find some."

The case was enlarged for a month to allow him to do this.

Separation Arranged.
George Beswarick and his wife arranged a separation. Mrs. Beswarick was to get \$4 a week, but last Saturday night her husband only left \$1 for her at the police station. Mr. Beswarick was instructed to write and tell Mr. Beswarick that he must pay more promptly.

A Wages Case.
The case of C. Parke Stone, charged by Welber Vall with non-payment of wages, was left over, as neither party appeared.

A young man charged with stealing fruit was bailed for a week to give him a change in his life. He was drunk when the theft was committed.

CRAFT TURNED TURTLE

Motor Boat Struck Log While Going at Great Speed.

New York, Feb. 22.—While being given a speed test, the Standard, a 500-horsepower motor boat, owned by Price McCormick, ran into a submerged log and overturned. The craft turned turtle and the four men were plunged into the icy river. All were taken on board a tug which was passing at the time. The boat was caught under the engine when the boat upset, and was badly used up when taken aboard the tug. The obstruction was a hole in the bottom of the boat just aft of the engine, and some planking was torn loose. The motor was clogged with salt water.

The Standard had been entered in the name of the Thousand Islands Yacht Club in the annual power boat races of the International Sporting Club, and last night it was uncertain whether repairs could be made in time for the craft to be shipped on Saturday, as had been planned.

WATFORD.

Watford, Feb. 20.—Mrs. Wm. Brown, Petroler, visited Watford relatives recently.

Miss Bessie Watson, who has been seriously ill, is now better.

Mr. W. J. Howden is seriously ill with pneumonia, and last night it was uncertain whether repairs could be made in time for the craft to be shipped on Saturday, as had been planned.

Dr. Geo. Hicks was in St. Thomas yesterday.

Mr. L. H. Cook is very ill with pneumonia.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Lamont spent a day in Watford this week with relatives in Toronto.

Miss Annie McLaren has returned from a visit to friends in Toronto.

Miss Gladys Taylor, London, was the guest of E. Lamont this week.

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FUNERAL OF THE
GREAT WASHINGTON

Account of It as It Appeared in a Paper of January 4, 1800.

Detroit, Feb. 22.—On this, the 17th anniversary of the birth of George Washington, it is interesting to read an account of the funeral of the great statesman and general, as printed in an early nineteenth century newspaper. Mrs. Kennedy, 47 Montcalm street, east, has in her possession a copy of the *Universal Chronicle*, N. Y. Gazette, dated Jan. 4, 1800, which contains the following report of Washington's funeral:

Washington Entombed.

George Washington, Dec. 20. On Wednesday last the mortal part of Washington the Great, the Father of his Country, and the Friend of man, was consigned to the tomb with solemn honor and funeral pomp.

A multitude of persons assembled from many miles around at Mount Vernon, the choice abode and last residence of the illustrious chief. There were the graves—the spacious avenues, the beautiful and sublime scenes, the noble mansion—but, alas! the august inhabitant was now no more. That great soul was gone. His mortal part was there, indeed; but, ah! how affecting! how awful the spectacle of such worth and greatness, thus to mortal eyes fallen!

Yes! fallen to men!
In the long lofty portico where oft he walked in all his glory, now were killed and mangled by a collision of train No. 49, New York and Norfolk express on the Delaware Railroad, with a yard engine in the railroad yards here, about 2:50 this morning.

SIX MEN KILLED.
Delmar, Del., Feb. 22.—Six men were killed and several injured by a collision of train No. 49, New York and Norfolk express on the Delaware Railroad, with a yard engine in the railroad yards here, about 2:50 this morning.

On the occasion of the funeral of the great statesman and general, as printed in an early nineteenth century newspaper. Mrs. Kennedy, 47 Montcalm street, east, has in her possession a copy of the *Universal Chronicle*, N. Y. Gazette, dated Jan. 4, 1800, which contains the following report of Washington's funeral:

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SUN FIRE

The oldest Insurance Office in the world
FOUNDED A.D. 1710
HOME OFFICE: LONDON, ENGLAND
Canadian Branch, Sun Building, Toronto, H. M. Blackburn, Manager.
J. A. NELLES & SON, LONDON AGENTS.

When you rise late the only breakfast is Shredded Wheat—ready to serve easily digested, fits you for half a day's cheerful work—none of that grouchy feeling usually following "hurry-up" breakfasts. Try with hot milk and salt to taste.

Sold by all grocers. 1 lb. a carton; two for 45c.

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A Quick Breakfast for Dark Mornings.

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