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LONDON, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11.

THE NIAGARA POWER BUNGLER.

Perhaps some citizens need to be enlightened as to the present status of the Niagara power question, and the reason why it has been thrown back upon the municipal councils.

In January, 1907, nearly two years ago, the ratepayers of London endorsed a bylaw, empowering the city council to enter into a contract with the hydro-electric commission, by which the latter would deliver Niagara power at the city's doors, ready for distribution, at a price not to exceed \$25.50 per horsepower per annum.

No more was heard of the matter for seventeen months. In June last, on the eve of a Provincial election, the commission produced a form of contract entirely different in substance from the bylaw voted upon in January, 1907. In this contract, which has since been signed by the council, the only definite figures are those relating to the cost of power at Niagara Falls, ranging from \$9 to \$10.40 per horsepower, according to the voltage. There is no stipulation as to the cost of transmission from the Falls to London. In other words there is no guarantee that the cost of power delivered at London will not be greater than \$25.50 per horsepower per annum, although the majority of ratepayers voted for the bylaw in 1907 upon the definite understanding that the price would not exceed that amount.

When the question came before the courts, Mr. Justice Anglin pointed out the obvious fact that the contracts were not in accordance with the municipal bylaws. After a good deal of delay and equivocation, the hydro-electric commission has confessed to the discrepancy, and it has been urged the municipal councils to help it out of the difficulty by petitioning the Legislature to validate the contracts—that is, to legalize by legislative fiat something which would otherwise be illegal.

Many who favor the Niagara power scheme do not believe that the Government and the municipal councils should go behind the backs of the ratepayers in this fashion, and it is even doubtful whether the Government will subscribe to so vicious a principle.

The position taken by the power committee of the London city council—that the ratepayers should have an opportunity to pronounce upon the contract—is the only correct and honest one, and members of the council should not allow themselves to be bullied into any other course. The whole responsibility for the blunder rests upon the hydro-electric commission.

CANADA'S TRADE INTERESTS ABROAD.

Canada has for some years been represented abroad by a number of competent trade commissioners who have done much to promote the commerce of the Dominion. The result is a strong argument for the extension of the system.

Being an integral portion of the British Empire, Canada cannot, of course, have a regular consular service. Its interests are supposed to be looked after by the British consuls, who naturally pay less attention to fostering Canadian trade than to matters which more directly concern the mother country. If the trade commission service were extended, the effects of this neglect, due as much to the ignorance as the indifference of consuls, would be largely overcome.

Attention is drawn to this matter by Mr. P. C. Salter, European traffic manager of the Grand Trunk Railway, who, after an extended organizing tour of Europe and Asia Minor, has returned to England. To a Liverpool reporter he said he was much impressed by the lack of knowledge and interest evinced by the British representatives in the industrial and commercial affairs of Canada. There is shown, he says, a tendency to consider Canada as some colonial outstation rather than a progressive nation, co-equal with England, Ireland and Scotland. He has generally found those representatives possessed of all requisite social qualities, and has received courtesy and attention at their hands, but when his relations with them became of a business nature the certainty seemed at once, and he sometimes found that they did not, or could not, realize the importance of any commercial interests, Canadian or otherwise. As an illustration of this he relates the following incident which occurred on his recent visit to Asia Minor.

"The great awakening of Turkey under its new constitution presages wonderful developments. Germany keenly alive, has its business representatives already planted there, being guided by consular reports. The opening up of railroads, which should be supplied by Britain; agricultural implements, which should be supplied by Canada, in competition with German and United States products, are points of the utmost importance. The British representative in this instance had no knowledge of Canada's ability to supply these implements; did not realize that his duties in this respect lay beyond the British Isles, or that he was actually to promote the commerce of every nation flying the Union Jack. These men are mainly drawn from a class whose education and surroundings cannot in the nature of things have fitted them for sympathy with, or grasp of commercial matters. They should be recruited from the aristocracy of commerce, the bone and sinew of the nation."

Mr. Salter concludes that unless properly qualified men are appointed to the consular service, Canada must have her own commercial representatives to enable her to hold her commercial position amongst the other nations.

If conditions are as bad as described by Mr. Salter, there need be no doubt that the matter will receive from the minister of trade and commerce the consideration due it.

THE FRANCO-GERMAN FRICTION.

Germany's peremptory demand for an apology on account of the treatment of a German official at Casablanca, while he was protecting German deserters from the French foreign legion in Morocco, has been met in a manner very different from the attitude which the Paris Government would have taken a few years ago. It is not so long since M. Delcasse was dismissed from the French foreign office as a result of Germany's displeasure at his official conduct. Today Paris faces Berlin in a calm and dignified way, and instead of a ready compliance, has replied that she is ready and willing to submit the law and the facts to arbitration, but will go no further.

Briefly stated, the facts in connection with the Casablanca incident are: A number of Germans, Swiss and Italians, having deserted from the French foreign legion, sought and secured the protection of the German consul, who arranged to send them in charge of his dragoman to Tangier. On their way to the coast the deserters were arrested by French soldiers, and in the struggle the dragoman was injured. Then followed the German demand for apology and the punishment of the French soldiers concerned in the affair.

It is said that the German demand was in reality a ruse to divert public attention in Germany from Emperor William's indiscretion in another quarter. The famous interview, which he allowed to be published in the London Telegraph, has deeply offended the German people, and it is noteworthy that the demand was served on France just at the time when the matter was about to be discussed in the Reichstag. France's firm attitude has caused the German foreign office to adopt a more conciliatory tone, and propose an amicable settlement of the dispute. The questions involved—whether the German consul had a right to protect the deserters, and whether the French soldiers had a right to arrest them when thus protected—will probably be referred to The Hague tribunal.

Clearly the cause of France's unusual display of independence in this matter is her improved international position. Through her entente with Great Britain, France is now assured of control of the sea; her ally, Russia, is no longer preoccupied in the far east, and her own army was never in a better position for speedy mobilization than it is today. On the other hand, Germany is well aware that she could not expect aid from either of the other two nations in the dreibund, as Italy would not likely join in a contest against a Latin country and against a combination of which Britain formed a part, and Austria has her hands full in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Kaiser is a very versatile man, but he has dismally failed as a journalist.

The best welcome the city can give the Sheffield Choir is to fill the Armories tonight.

"The daughter nations of the empire" is a much more welcome phrase than "the colonies of the empire." Canadians thank Lord Milner for choosing the former in all his addresses in this country.

The divinity that hedges the Kaiser had no terrors for the Reichstag yesterday. The wonder is that so progressive and liberty-loving a people as the Germans put up with such an antiquated political system.

The Methodist Church loses a distinctive figure by the death of Rev. Dr. Co. L. C. formerly of this city. He had been physically frail, but had been blessed with health and strength he would have been in the front rank of Canadian preachers.

LONG-DISTANCE WALKING.

Mr. Clement Edwards, M.P., who is much interested in the Territorial Army, did a fine bit of walking recently. Starting from the London Embankment early on Monday morning, he walked to Gwm, on

the borders of Radnorshire, in four days, a distance of 119 miles, or an average of over 44 miles a day. In one day the honorable member walked 60 miles. His object was partly to see what could be done in the way of marching, and partly to find out what kind of boots would be best suited for soldiers on long marches. He has satisfied himself that the light boots worn by professional pedestrians are not the best for steady and continued walking.

A POLITICAL BOOMERANG.
[Philadelphia Press.]
"John," she said, looking up from the paper, "what is a political boomerang?"
"Why, I'd define it," he answered, "as a boomerang on the return trip."

HATTIE HAPPY.
[Philadelphia Press.]
Mother—Johnnie, you left out part of your prayers. You didn't say "God bless Aunt Hattie and make her happy."
Johnnie—Why, I don't have to put that in any more. Aunt Hattie's engaged.

TROUBLE WITH THE 'PHONE.
[Puck.]
Kathryn (fluttering)—I'm so glad I've found you home, dear! I tried to call you up, but central said your phone was out of order.
Glady (weakly)—I suppose it is. About an hour ago Jack called up father, and asked him for my hand.

EASILY ARRANGED.
[Life.]
Child—Suppose I called you a mean old pig, what would happen?
Governor—I should tell your father, and he would punish you.
Child—And if I only thought it?
Governor—No harm, so long as you don't say it.

FULLY CONVINCED NOW.
[Chicago News.]
"Tommy," said the teacher, to a small pupil who had got the short end of a fist encounter, "don't you know it is wrong to fight?"
"I didn't," said the little fellow, "was the significant reply."

MODERNITY'S TRIUMPH.
[Puck—Up.]
Papa was about to apply the strap.
"Father," said Willie, firmly, "unless that instrument has been properly sterilized, I desire to protest."
This made the old man pause.

"Moreover," continued Willie, "the germs might be released by the violent impact of the leather upon a porous textile fabric, but lately exposed to the dust of the streets, which would be apt to affect you deleteriously."
As the strap fell from a nerveless hand Willie smiled.

HER MEMENTO.
[Puck—Up.]
"I suppose you carry a memento of some sort in that pocket of yours?"
"Yes; it is a lock of my husband's hair."
"But your husband is still alive?"
"Yes, but his hair is all gone."

"WITH."
[Philadelphia Ledger.]
"A hammock large enough for two?" echoed the dealer. "Do you want it with or without?"
"With or without what?" asked the girl.

"Crowding," replied the dealer, smiling at her innocent question. Then she gave her order in a whisper.

AN ENGLISH MEMBER'S EXPENSES.

[The Spectator.]
Of course the corrupt practices act has done much to prevent the spending of huge sums of money at the actual election. Expenses are now believed to be effectively as well as nominally controlled. But if the "short sharp shock" of heavy disbursement at an election is the chief inducement to a candidate to new kind of disguised bribery has more than taken its place. The demands upon the pocket of every eligible member are increasing. His annual subscriptions and donations amount to more, perhaps, than ever before. It has been said that in some cases it costs as much to have a constituency as to keep a staff of hounds. In other words, it is used to cost a rich man \$50,000 down to get into Parliament. Now it costs him \$100,000 at the election, and \$100,000 a year for the five years which is the average duration of a Parliament. Naturally it is not easy to come at the total. We can hardly expect members of the House to tell us what they spend; but it is possible that some past members will be good enough to do so. We have had a list of the amount they were compelled to spend each year in order to secure their seats.

NOT TOO CONFIDING.

[Puck—Up.]
Man—Do you believe that story about her?
Woman—I'd believe anything about her, unless she told it me herself.

DISAPPOINTED IN LAURIER.

[Kincardine Review.]
It was really cruel of Laurier to bring on Thanksgiving Day a report after robbing us of one thing we intended to be thankful for.

BRYAN'S FUNERAL ORATION.

[Victoria Colonist.]
We have been hearing a great deal lately about Mr. Bryan's oratorical powers, and an exchange of letters and a following exceedingly interesting extract from a speech made by the Democratic candidate when a young man, on the death of a friend. "I shall not regret even now our colleague's light is extinguished. If the Father deigns to touch with divine power the cold and pulseless heart of the buried aorn and make it burst forth from its prison walls, will he leave neglected in the earth the soul of a man, who was made in the image of his creator? If he stoops to give to the rosebud, whose withered blossoms float upon the breeze, the sweet fragrance of another spring time, will he withhold the words of hope from the sons of men when the frosts of winter come? If matter, mute and inanimate, though changed by the force of nature into a multitude of forms, can never die, will the imperial spirit of man suffer annihilation after it has paid a brief visit, like a trial guest, to the tent of clay? Rather let us believe that he who, in his apparent prodigality, wastes not the raindrop, the blade of grass or the evening's slight zephyr, but makes them all to carry out his eternal plans, has given immortality to the mortal and gathered to himself the generous spirit of our friend."

INDIA MARRIAGE LOTTERY.

[Liverpool Daily Post.]
Every year in the Rumanian country, in India, a marriage lottery is held, usually in October. The names of all the marriageable girls and of young men desirous of matrimony are written on slips of paper and then put into a bag. One of each kind is drawn out at a time by a wise man. The youth whose name is drawn out obtains a letter of introduction to the young woman whose name accompanies his, and then all that remains for him to do is to start his love-making at once. The majority of these fortuitous courtships turn out admirably in every way.



"Messenger Boy 42" Tomorrow.
The attraction at the Grand tomorrow will be the new melo-dramatic sensation, "Messenger Boy No. 42." All the characters are humorous and of a quality type seldom seen on the stage. In one of the scenes there is an opportunity for the production of a number of high-grade vaudeville specialties in addition to this very strong cast of players, the highly-educated Landseer dogs—Charlie, Don, Regent, Bill, Romeo, Dan, Leo and Teddy—have important parts, which they perform in an intelligent manner. The scenic environment of the play is said to be exceptionally good.

Fiske O'Hara.
A true Irish play, with the well-known Irish tenor, Fiske O'Hara, will be seen at the Grand on Friday and Saturday. The play is called "Dion O'Dare," and the effort of a well-known newspaper man of New York and Charles E. Blaney. The critics are unanimous in saying that Mr. O'Hara has a character that fits him like a glove. He portrays the happy-go-lucky Irish lad with faithfulness. Mr. O'Hara will sing several new songs of his own composition. The usual matinee will be given on Saturday, when children will be admitted to any seat for 25 cents.

Bennett's Doing Well.
The bill this week at Bennett's is certainly away above the average vaudeville bill. Headed by that clever comedy pair, Kelly and Barrett, in "The Battle of Too Soon," and ably supported by "The Sunny South," a real colored organization, as the special extra attraction, and Charles Leonard Fletcher, in impersonations of famous literary and dramatic celebrities, as the feature, the bill can be classed as one of the strongest ever seen in this popular theatre. The three head line acts as the main support, and the Pyming Martins, Eckert and Berg, Smith and Arado, and Emma Partridge completing it, the whole bill is highly commendable. A person of business has kept away above the standard so far this week, and the advance made to indicate large business for the balance of the week.

Sheffield Choir Tonight.
Owing to the large attendance that will hear the Sheffield Choir tonight in the Armories, the management would like to have the audience come as early as possible after 7:15. Special remarks are made to holders of the tickets marked E, P, G, and H, to come as early as possible. The time after the above mentioned. Arrangements have been made for a large number of ushers to handle the crowd, as the seating capacity will be taxed to its utmost. Some early will have no trouble in reaching their proper seats. The Italian Harpers will play a select programme from 7:15 until the concert commences, thus breaking the monotony of waiting until the programme is opened.

TWENTY-FIFTH MILE POST

A Worthy Vanneck Couple Celebrate Their Wedding Anniversary.

A large number of friends from London city, Lobo and London Townships, Westminster, Michigan, and other places gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Henry Scott, of Vanneck, on Wednesday night, the 4th inst., to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of their marriage. After packing of a bounteous repast that was attractively arranged and served by the attentive waiters, an agreeable evening was spent listening to a programme put on by members of the Hewer Concert Company, of London, and others. Particular attention might be made of the performance of the Masters Nelson Aldair and Tommie Selby, who sang several popular songs and duets, eliciting hearty applause.

Among others taking part were Miss Irene Stilson and Miss Hewer, who rendered several readings, and were accompanied by Miss Libbie Smith, soloist of the choir. The soloists, Vanneck, furnished the solos; and short addresses were given by Rev. Mr. Johnston, Messrs. Bert Little, R. Weir, and W. K. Macleod. Mr. H. E. Watson, organist of Wellington Street Methodist Church, presided at the piano, and Mr. J. R. Hewer made an excellent chairman.

Mr. R. H. Scott made a happy response to the many congratulations and good wishes for continued health and prosperity.

The pleasant event was brought to a close after the "witching midnight hour," by singing a hymn and also "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow." The numerous and valuable presents that the worthy couple received bear testimony to the esteem in which they are held by their numerous friends.

A WELL-KNOWN

REVENUE OFFICER

Mr. J. J. Spereiman, the well-known inland revenue officer who died Monday in Sarnia, was well known in London, having formerly lived here. He commenced his career as a Government official in London, where his parents lived in the early days. "I knew Mr. Spereiman well," said Mr. Thos. Alexander, collector of inland revenue, of this city. "He had been in my department for some time, and I found him to be a very efficient, painstaking and reliable official. He had been connected with the service for 30 years. He joined in 1878 in this city, and was appointed a special class officer in 1880. Since that time he had served in Hamilton, Windsor, Nova Scotia, and Quebec. For several years he had been in connection with the Imperial Oil Company's plant at Sarnia, where he had done good work. About three months ago he took ill, and was given leave of absence. His disease was found to be of an incurable nature, and although his death was expected it came sooner than was anticipated. He was a good official."

John Mitchell is writing a novel, the theme of which will be the struggle between labor and capital. Some of the scenes are laid in the Lackawanna Valley in Pennsylvania, and incidents connected with the last big coal strike that one or two railroad presidents are closely enough drawn in the pages have a part in the plot. It is also intended for their portraits to be recognizable.

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ACTOR WHACKED THE GRAND DUKE

Punished Czar's Uncle for Seeking to Force His Company on Strange Woman.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 8.—St. Petersburg is snickering over a remarkable adventure of the Grand Duke Vladimir, the Czar's uncle.

When Mr. Guitry was director of the Michael Theatre, and a most popular person in the Russian capital, he was dining one night at a fashionable restaurant at the same time as the grand duke. The grand duke was in the large public room, with several officers, and Guitry was in a private room with a woman who did not want her identity to be known.

The news was conveyed to Vladimir that the famous actor and a lady were in the private room, and the grand duke sent a message to Guitry to join him in a bottle of champagne. Guitry declined on the ground that he was with a lady, an excuse which only made the grand duke the more anxious to see him.

After repeated invitations, which were all declined, the imperial personage, attended by his officers, went to the room occupied by Guitry. He knocked. Guitry came to the door and barred the way. The grand duke said he wished to enter to help him and his lady, and Guitry stoutly declined the honor.

CHOKED TO DEATH

WHILE EATING OATS

Peculiar Fatality to a Horse — News Notes From Mapleton.

Mapleton, Nov. 10.—Mr. D. D. Finch lost a valuable horse by his choking on some oats.

Mr. R. Pettit, of Aylmer, is visiting his sister, Mrs. Hector Stewart. Next morning Guitry received a message from the police to leave St. Petersburg within 24 hours. Which he did, and that was why he went to Paris. But he never regretted smacking the grand duke, although it did interfere with his brilliant career in St. Petersburg.

Lulu Newell, of Aylmer, has been the guest of Miss Clara Wismer, Miss Emma Cline, of the Normal School, London, spent Sunday with her parents here.

Messrs. W. Lutton and G. Thompson, of the London Medical School, spent Thanksgiving at their homes here.

Mrs. William Jenkins, of Glanworth, is visiting her sister, Mrs. W. H. Brown.

Miss Lizzie Middleton has been visiting friends at Belmont.

The monthly meeting of the Ladies' Institute has held on Thursday afternoon at the residence of Mrs. Culver Finch. It consisted of a literary and musical programme. Piano solos were given by Miss Florence McGregor, Mabel White, Velma McTaggart and Essie Hower; a vocal solo by Miss Jennie McGregor, and a violin solo by Miss Florence Finch, accompanied by Miss Mabel White. Readings were given by Mrs. J. Brodie, Mrs. J. C. Dance, Mrs. J. E. Lloyd and Mrs. D. O. White.

Mrs. D. D. Finch entertained a few friends on Monday last in honor of her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Charlton, of Aylmer.

Mrs. James Warwick, who underwent an operation at Amassa Wood Hospital two weeks ago, is improving. Miss Georgian Lenentine entertained a few of her friends on Saturday afternoon last very pleasantly.

Miss Helen Dance, of the London Normal School, spent Thanksgiving Day with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Dance.

Miss Vera Harris, of Aylmer, has been the guest of Miss Myrtle B. Charlton, Spruce Grove.

tertained a few of their friends on Thursday evening.

Miss Pearl Appleford has returned after visiting friends in Aylmer.

Mrs. Mary Barons, of Gladstone, has been the guest of Mrs. W. A. Barons. Mrs. Munro, of Brownsville, who has been visiting her sister, Mrs. W. H. Brown, has returned home.

The weekly meeting of the Christians Endeavor Society of Christ Church, was held on Friday evening last. The topic, "Commending Our Society by Missionary and Evangelistic Zeal," was ably discussed by Miss Alice Warwick. A recitation was given by Georgian Lenentine, and a song by Veda Brown.

Mr. Walter Paul and family have moved on to a farm near Belmont.

Misses Clara and Lulu Jenkins, of Glanworth, have been visiting their cousins, Misses Mamie and Violet Brown.

Miss Mabel Dance, who was seriously ill, has fully recovered and has resumed her duties as teacher at the Orwell public school.

SON OF MARQUIS UNDER ARREST

Lord Sholto Douglas Accused of Shooting — Victim Is Likely to Die.

Winnipeg, Nov. 10. — A dispatch from Cranbrook, B. C., tells of the arrest on the charge of attempted murder of Lord Sholto Douglas, brother to the present Marquis of Queensberry and son of the eighth marquis, who framed up the Queensberry rules under which the prize fights and boxing contests are now conducted.

Sholto arrived in Canada some twelve years ago. A few years ago he purchased a fruit farm in the vicinity of Creston, a small town near Cranbrook. After a recent shooting trip to Kimberley, Douglas returned to his home unexpectedly and found there one of his neighbors, an ex-army man named Rowland with whom he had frequently had trouble.

"What are you doing here?" he asked.

"Just came on a visit," Rowland replied.

"Get out of it," retorted Douglas. The man refused to go and Lord Douglas reached for a shotgun and fired, hitting the man in the back of the head and neck. The injured man was removed to his home, where he is in a very precarious condition. Later Douglas was arrested and committed for trial on a charge of attempted murder.

MONTREAL GIRL SUCCEEDS

Miss Ethel Wright Makes a Hit on New York Stage.

New York, Nov. 9.—A Montreal girl, Miss Ethel Wright, has made a real hit in what promises to be one of the big successes of the season.

"Via Wireless" is a frank spectacular melodrama with tremendous scenic effects, produced by Frederick Thompson, the great Coney Island master of thrills and the producer of "Brewster's Millions."

Miss Wright, who is a sister of Thomas W. Wright, of Montreal, has

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CURE DICK HEADACHE.

been on the stage four or five years. She first came to the notice of Broadway in the Canadian melodrama by DeMille.

LIKES GRAND JURIES.

St. Catharines, Nov. 10.—"I am not one of the judges who would do away with the grand jury. I think the people at large should have a part in the administration of justice, and this is the only way possible. Serving on the grand jury should be looked upon as a privilege, not merely as a duty. The grand jury is to my mind an important institution." Sir William Meredith today expressed to the above remarks today in opening the assizes, when three of the grand jurors did not appear.

The Pekin Gazette, the oldest newspaper in the world, after an existence of 1,194 years, without an editorial page, society column, funny column, market page or sporting extra, is now using its back page for fronts, and has started an editorial page.

To Suffer From Headaches Makes Life Miserable.

It takes a person that has had or is subject to headaches to describe the suffering which attends them.

The majority of cases are caused by constipation and dyspepsia. The dull throbbing, the intense pain, sometimes in one part, sometimes in another, and then over the whole head, varying in its severity by the cause which brings it on, purely indicates that there is something the matter with the stomach or bowels. To the fact that Burdock Blood Bitters reaches every part of the system is due its success in relieving and permanently curing headaches. It has proven a specific for the malady in all its forms.

***** Mrs. Allison E. Brown, Sumnerfield, N.B., writes: — "I have been troubled with Constipation and Headaches for a long time. After trying different doctors to no effect, a friend asked me to try Burdock Blood Bitters. I find I am completely cured after taking three bottles. I can safely recommend it to all."



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