POOR DOCUMENT

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH

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Semi-Weekly Telegraph

ST. JOHN N. B., MAY 23, 1906

THE COST OF GAS

The consumers of gas in many cities are becoming almost impertinent in their attitude toward the philanthropists who manufacture gas for sale. The good old way was to pay whatever price was asked and maintain an attitude of thankfulness and humility toward the companies. More recently there is a growing disposition actually to insist that the companies must take only a fair profit from the transaction, and to demand proof, moreover, that the manufacturers use economic, up-to-date plants. As the public's chief duty is to pay for light this inquisitive and meddling attitude on the part of mere consumers tends to irritate the owners of gas plants, and the more so in case they happen to be paying dividends upon watered stock. It really seems, however, that the impertinent public will gradually cause the price to be reduced to the actual cost of economic production plus a reasonable profit and a fair percentage for maintenance and depreciation charges. The consumers of gas will then be much more numerous than they are at present.

The agitation for gas at a fair price is going on at present in many places. There is no mystery about the elements contributing to the cost of production. The price of coal is known. The cost of other materials, and of labor, the amount of gas sold, the age and condition of the plant, are generally matters of common knowledge. Therefore the task of ascertaining what is a fair price is not difficult if it be undertaken by determined and impartial men. These men, under ordinary circumstances, should be employed by the public. At least it should have independent reports, and should not depend upon those of experts employed and paid by the men who have gas to sell and dividends to pay.

The Massachusetts Legislature has just received a report from the state gas and electric light commissioners to whom certain questions relative to the cost of gas and its distribution were submitted. The Boston Transcript gives this summary of the questions and the replies made, after an investigation, by the commissioners:

These questions were asked by the legislature.

First—The output of gas, month by month, during the current fiscal year.

Second—The gross receipts during the same period.

Third—The cost of manufacturing and of distribution per one thousand cubic feet.

Fourth—Whether such costs and figures show an appreciable change, and are likely to show an even greater change in the near future, owing to improvements in methods of production.

Fifth—To what extent and in what way, if at all, has the cost of gas been reduced since the consolidation of the Boston gas companies.

Sixth—What, in the opinion of the board, is the relative importance of changes in the price of coal and other materials and labor as compared with other factors affecting the cost of gas.

Replying to the questions presented by the legislature in connection with the bill to apply the sliding scale system to the Boston Consolidated Gas Company, the Gas and Electric Light Commissioners state that the cost of manufacturing and distributing gas by the company has been 57.49 cents per thousand feet, to which should be added a depreciation charge of 6.57 cents per thousand, making the total 64.06 cents per thousand exclusive of all capital charges. General Schaff, however, in a "supplementary report," expresses the opinion that the cost reported by the company includes depreciation charges. He goes on to say that he believes the legal rate of six per cent would be adequate for the company, as this is eight per cent on the capital of the companies from which it was formed, and with this dividend, if the cost is as low as reported, gas can be sold at 80 cents per thousand feet.

The main report, which is signed by all the commissioners, states that the cost of gas probably will not vary much on account of charges in the cost of coal and other materials, as such charges are likely to be largely offset. The cost of manufacturing will remain about constant with increase of output, but the cost of distribution per thousand feet will decrease.

All of these inquiries as to gas which are now being conducted in various quarters are of interest in St. John where the cost of gas is under investigation, and where the price and quality of gas have been the subject of much well-founded complaint for a long period.

INVESTIGATION

Solicitor General Jones is to be strongly commended for the prompt and vigorous action he has taken in instituting a thorough inquiry into the circumstances attending the mysterious disappearance of the Creamer children. By his instructions the sheriff of Westmorland and Magistrate Riley of Bayfield, have taken the matter in hand, the country where the bodies of the little ones are supposed to lie will be subjected to another careful scrutiny, and the gossip of the neighborhood will be sifted as thoroughly as is possible. Unpleasant reports which, quite probably, are untrue or exaggerated will now, no doubt, be reduced to the facts.

There is, as has been said before, no apparent ground for suspicion that the children met with foul play. That anyone would harm them deliberately is almost inconceivable. The statements attributed to children of tender years must be regarded as without value in the absence of evidence to confirm them. These circumstances make it appear likely that the children died from exposure in the woods, or fell into some pool, and that renewed searching may yet result in the discovery of the bodies, after which the exact cause of death could be readily determined.

But, brushing aside all of the gossip as unworthy of notice, a disquieting feature of the case is the nature of the disappearance itself. Men who have searched the woods seem satisfied that they have carefully gone over a greater area than the little ones would have been able to traverse before they became exhausted. There was some search before they had been long missing, and apparently while they still must have been able to cry out. Yet no cry was heard, and no trace of them is to be found. Under the circumstances the Crown has acted wisely in ordering a complete investigation. All who are concerned, and the country generally, will welcome the announcement that a determined and systematic attempt to solve the mystery is to be made officially.

ANOTHER HERESY CASE

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States, representing about 1,500,000 communicants, which is now in session in Des Moines, will evidently have to deal with the case of Rev. Dr. Samuel T. Carter, who has repudiated the Westminster confession. The case is somewhat similar to that of Dr. Crapsey. Dr. Carter is not now in charge of a church, but is in Rome. He has written a letter to the General Assembly, which letter appears to be of such a nature as to demand his expulsion from the Presbyterian ministry. He was a promoter of the movement to have the Westminster confession revised. He asked that it be shortened. This proposal the assembly rejected by a practically unanimous vote. In his letter he complains that by the assembly's action in retaining the Westminster confession, "many ministers are compelled to declare their acceptance of a confession which they do not believe and many members to acknowledge a creed of which they are ashamed." There is, of course, no compulsion. He proceeds to state his position, in these words:

"Many years ago, when I was ordained to the ministry of the gospel, I declared in the most solemn manner that I believed the Westminster confession to be the truth of God; I now, in a very solemn manner, declare that I do not believe it to be the truth of God, that I utterly reject it as a setting forth of the character of the Heavenly Father. There never was, there is not now, and there never will be such a God as the God of the Westminster confession. It is an idol of man's invention as truly as any worshipped in Delhi, Pekin or Africa. I believe that the great and true God is infinitely and exquisitely good and gracious; that the one thing that we neither fully receive nor declare is the boundless love of God; that all the noblest exhibitions of human love are but bright and beautiful sparks from that intense and divine flame—the love that through ages and generations has been leading men by the fullest wisdom and most tender providence to heights of knowledge, love and boundless hope that far transcend all human thought. I lift up this overwhelming divine love before my fellow-men, believing that this alone will draw all men unto Him.

"I believe that the Westminster confession darkens and denies this great love of God and should not be retained as a confession by any church today, and that our church is false to its greatest duty of being a true witness for God so long as it retains this confession."

Why the reverend gentleman does not voluntarily withdraw from a church whose creed he cannot accept is not clear. In matters of doctrine there is room for endless dispute, and the disputatious are an exceedingly numerous body. That they are a particularly useful body is not probable. Presumably Dr. Carter will be suspended or expelled by the denomination to which he has belonged. But many will think he would have acted more wisely had he dropped out quietly and allied himself with some religious body with whose creed he is in harmony. The force used in pursuing disputes of this nature may not be all wasted. But the business is coming to be overdone.

PLAIN TALK FROM SIR THOMAS

Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, president of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, delivered an address at Quebec, which will be the subject of considerable comment. The occasion was a banquet in his honor by citizens of the old capital who wished to pay tribute to the enterprise of the C. P. R. in building the Empresses, and, incidentally, to show their appreciation of the company's action in docking these great steamers at Quebec instead of sending them on to Montreal.

Sir Thomas, in the course of a speech marked by much sound all-Canadian transportation sentiment, made use of much plain and forcible language in dealing with the development and handling of our export and import traffic. He told the Quebec business men bluntly that the new ships were stopped at Quebec only because the state of the channel above prevented them from going to Montreal, and he intimated pretty clearly that Montreal would be the terminal port if the St. Lawrence is made safe for navigation by the great modern steamers. No transportation man, he explained, would haul his freight the extra distance by rail if he could take it without risk by water. He dwelt upon the importance of so improving the St. Lawrence and other waterways that Canada may profit to the full by the advantages of the greatest possible water carriage for freight.

He spoke strongly of St. John, again referring to the difference between rail and water carriage for freight. Halifax, he pointed out, is too far away from the West to permit of its extensive use as a winter port. Under present conditions St. John is the only possible winter port. It gives the shortest railway haul. Sir Thomas told his audience of the great expansion of the winter steamship traffic here within the last ten years, and prophesied a still greater expansion as facilities here are increased to meet the demands of the greater trade to come.

The address is an important one in several ways. It emphasizes what Sir Thomas has said on other occasions with reference to St. John's superior position as a distributing port. It is strong testimony as to the important position this port must occupy in any truly national scheme of transportation. It is, indirectly, a tribute to and an endorsation of, our citizens who have proved their faith in this port's future by taxing themselves to provide terminal facilities. It goes far to demonstrate to the government the necessity for dealing generously with St. John when the project of nationalizing the important harbors takes practical form. And it contains suggestions for the local authorities now charged with taking steps looking to the most rapid development of the port that may be possible.

THE CZAR'S REBUFF

There are new storm clouds in the Russian sky today, due to the Czar's seemingly dangerous refusal to receive Mouromtseff, the presiding officer of the Douma, and a delegation bearing the reply to the speech from the throne. The unofficial explanation of the refusal is that Nicholas feared to establish a precedent which might hereafter lead the whole assembly to demand audience at the palace. But the Douma, or the radical element in it at least, will be likely to put another interpretation upon the rebuff. By many it will be regarded as evidence that the Czar has again listened to reactionary councillors who have told him he would better refuse the delegation a hearing, since its message was known to be in essence revolutionary and in intent destructive of the imperial authority.

If Nicholas fears precedents he might well recall the events following the futile attempt to talk with him face to face made by some thousands of his subjects who were subsequently shot into subjection by the soldiery, presumably under orders from de Plehve, who became an assassin's victim soon afterward. The refusal to receive the delegates of the Douma may prevent the establishing of a precedent that possibly might prove awkward, but, unfortunately, there are likely to be other consequences much more momentous. The radical element held in check with difficulty now by the calmer members of the assembly, will gain new fire, and probably not a few adherents, because of the Czar's action.

To postpone the presentation of the revolutionary reply to the speech from the throne is not to answer the great question which presses for answer and which must be answered: Will the Czar give his people representative government? To dodge, as the reactionaries evidently wish him to do, may gain a little time for the Czar; but that long hesitation or obstruction will be permitted by the Douma is not likely.

In fine the situation of the hour in Russia sees the autocracy and the people face to face, with the outlook that the Czar must yield or provoke a period of violence which would be likely to cause the overthrow of his house. Under the caption "Will History Repeat Itself?" a well-informed writer compares the Czar's position with that of Louis XVI. The force of the parallel is increased by the events of yesterday. This writer says:

"Nearly one hundred and twenty years ago France obtained, through the concession of her king, a popular legislature or parliament, which was convened in the hope of allaying the growing discontent of the people. The early history of this assemblage was a hopeless attempt to reconcile the demand for constitutional reform with the 'privileges' of the Bourbon autocracy. The results of that attempt were the collapse of the royal authority, the submergence of the political party which stood for moderate reform, and the rise of the Terrorists who erected the guillotine and preached in its shadow the gospel of national regeneration through a baptism of blood. The king fell by the very instrument he had created.

"Will the history of France at the close of the Eighteenth century repeat itself in Russia at the beginning of the twentieth? Similar conditions of ferment and discontent exist. A similar remedy is being tried. The earlier stages of the Douma closely resemble those of the States General, afterward the Constituent Assembly. The demand by the representatives of the people for real reform in the Russia of Nicholas II. is pretty much the same as the demand made upon the king in the France of Louis XVI. In the first case the parliament was not content with the shadow of authority. It seized the substance and all the efforts to prevent the seizure were without avail. In the other case the same striving for larger power is already apparent. The forces of democracy and autocracy are again in collision, while the world watches for the outcome with the hope that records will not be paralleled and that a policy of judicious concession on the part of the Czar will make unnecessary a violent assertion by the people of what they consider to be their rights."

KEEP UP THE SEARCH

Some indication of the extent of the interest aroused by the disappearance of the Creamer children is afforded by the size and character of the searching party at work Sunday. The Telegraph representative, who is on the spot, tells in detail of the make-up and energy of this party, how neighboring villages and towns contributed investigators, how a score of women joined in the hunt. But no information of value was discovered. The plan of assembling a large party of active men to tramp over the tract of country which the children might have traversed has now been given a pretty thorough test, and the work has been in vain. The suggestion is made that a militia regiment be asked to turn out on Victoria Day. No doubt the militiamen would undertake the work gladly if convinced that the service would be useful. At all events the suggestion goes to show how earnest is the determination to exhaust every possible plan before giving the mystery up as beyond solution.

Two other suggestions have reached The Telegraph. One is that a capable detective be employed by the county or the province to supplement the investigation made by the county authorities. The other is that dogs fitted for the work be secured and turned over to experienced hunters and forest rangers in the hope that the bodies may be discovered.

A fact to be kept in mind is that although more than a week has now elapsed since the children disappeared, and although it is generally believed they perished in the woods from exposure, the necessity for ascertaining exactly what fate they encountered is not lessened, but rather enhanced by the lapse of time. The discovery of the children, alive or dead, is more than ever important from the standpoint of the parents and the community in which they live, as well as from that of the people of the province whose interest in the strange affair grows more profound from day to day. From the first the case has given rise to queer reports, many of which are foolish on their face. Few of these reports have been of a nature to throw light upon the fate of the children. Taken all together they tend to increase the importance of renewed efforts to get to the bottom of this tragedy of the woods.

The Solicitor General, whose prompt action in directing an investigation must be widely appreciated, will no doubt feel that the time has not yet come when the provincial authorities can afford to add the Creamer case to our list of unsolved mysteries. Much earnest work has been done, but there is much reason for still further effort.

AN APPEAL TO REASON

A subscriber in Haverhill (Mass.) sends the following letter to The Telegraph:

Under separate cover I send you a copy of a Socialist paper published in Kansas, called the "Appeal to Reason." This paper, as you will see, has recently been barred from Canadian mails because of the articles it has printed. It advocates Socialism as the logical outcome of the development and tyranny of trusts that has done so much to corrupt the industrial and political life of the country, and perhaps of Canada also. We hope you will read this paper and the comments of the Western Canadian newspapers upon its exclusion; and follow their example by protesting against a Russianized Press censorship in Canada.

The "Appeal to Reason" was excluded from the Canadian mails because of an article written by Eugene V. Debs, the Socialist, dealing with the case of the three members of the Western Federation of Miners who are now in prison awaiting trial for complicity in the assassination of ex-Governor Steunenberg of Idaho. The Postmaster General of Canada characterizes the Appeal as "indecent, immoral, seditious, disloyal and scurrilous." An examination of the number sent by our Haverhill correspondent would lead us to substitute "Socialistic" merely for the description quoted. The sheet is violently, rabidly, Socialistic, and its articles would have a tendency to breed anarchy among the ill-informed. Nevertheless to forbid the publishers of the "Appeal" the privilege of the Canadian mails will probably turn out to be an error of judgment. The better way, no doubt, would be to admit the shrieking Kansas journal, permit any whose curiosity led them to pay for it to examinine its contents, and so allow the publishers to prove by experiment that there is not a lucrative field for such literature in Canada.

There is, as the "Appeal" alleges, much in American life today that makes for Socialism. The party of discontent is rapidly increasing. Moreover, it is beginning to show signs of cohesion. But while there is cause for discontent there is no virtue in distorting the facts of the day and wildly exaggerating the sins and the influence of the wealthy. Comparatively few Americans believe there is a trust plot to murder the accused members of the Western Federation of Miners by the use of perjured testimony, a packed jury and a corrupt judge. The great bulk of the American people still believe that any man accused of murder will get a fair trial from his peers in nine cases out of ten, and that in the tenth case the miscarriage of justice is more likely to be due to error than to loading the legal dice.

Some Western Canadian newspapers criticize the exclusion of the "Appeal" from the Dominion, chiefly, it would appear, because they dislike to see anything resembling interference with the rights of a free press. Such interference is a ticklish business at best. The "Appeal to Reason" would do little harm in Canada, and the decision to exclude it was scarcely worth while.

In the United States, where many thousands of foreigners are just learning to read English and are ignorant of the country and the spirit of its institutions, a journal like the "Appeal" is certain to do a great deal of harm. Even there, however, to suppress the publication would probably only make the matter worse. The United States will have to grapple with Socialism sooner or later, and perhaps the sooner the common sense of the nation has an opportunity of splitting the difference between wildcat communism and corrupt and oppressive capitalism the better will be the effect upon the social and political health of the republic.

FOR THE CHILDREN

The Times, in advocating supervised playgrounds for the children of the city, speaks hopefully of the outlook for making a start at once if the Council and School Board will co-operate in assisting this important reform. As showing the lines along which progress is advisable The Times tells of Miss Marshall Saunder's work in Halifax, and says:

"Miss Saunders writes that it is intended to provide games, swings, parallel bars, teeters and other means of entertaining and teaching the little ones. It must be remembered that this work is not intended for the large children who are able to seek the fields and shores and other playgrounds, but for the little ones whose parents cannot or do not look after them, and who are therefore at large in the streets and alleys. To many of those vacation time is a long training in mischief, and the world is learning that it is as necessary to have supervised play as supervised intellectual work. Children in a model playground would not only be kept out of mischief but would be taught many useful lessons. It was found in Detroit that children who came with a disposition to be rough and unruly soon became so interested that they were a source of help instead of hinderance. After such a playground has been in operation for a time everything falls into orderly shape and there is no difficulty in conducting it successfully.

"It would be necessary to have two teachers, or one teacher and an assistant. In Detroit the Women's Club arranged so that two ladies would visit the grounds every day for a time after the experiment was started, to aid and encourage the teachers.

"This paper has frequently pointed out the need of something more than is being done for the welfare of the children of this city. A supervised playground during the coming vacation season would be a forward step in a branch of work that is of the greatest importance. As usual it will be necessary to overcome some prejudices and apathy, but business men understand the situation and should be willing to respond. The police magistrate has many times been moved to denounce present conditions of child life. The mayor has declared his sympathy with the proposed effort. The Women's Council has discussed the question and recognized its importance. The aldermen will no doubt be found ready to give their individual support and encouragement. St. John, therefore, should not be behind Halifax in taking up the question of supervised playgrounds in a practical manner, and providing at least one for the coming vacation season."

NOTE AND COMMENT

Sir Thomas Shaughnessy's Quebec speech will make no great hit in Halifax.

* * *

Britain is to send a fleet to Cronstadt this summer—not to bombard, just to look around. St. Petersburg is talking about an Anglo-Russian entente, which, it is felt, would help to keep the German Emperor quiet.

* * *

Some uncertainty as to the cause of typhoid still exists, but public opinion is tending to acquit the water supply. A definite announcement by the Board of Health cannot be much longer delayed.

* * *

Washington, May 21—The Russian Ambassador and Baroness Rosen gave a dinner tonight in honor of the Japanese Ambassador and Viscountess Aoki.

How time does fly! It seems but yesterday that Oyama was entertaining Kuropatkin at and about Mukden.

* * *

The portrait of the late Mr. Robert Sears, reference to which has before been made, was placed in the Free Public Library Friday—Loyalists' Day—and it will be regarded as an acquisition both from the standpoint of art and as recalling the life work of him it represents. It may be, too, that the presentation of this painting will induce to other such gifts.

* * *

"Why do we sit here like a lot of moral cowards and raise everybody else's salary and not raise our own?" asks Congressman John Wesley Gaines, of Tennessee. "A whole lot of us get a whole lot more than we ought to have, and others do not get enough," he adds. True, no doubt. But men who are allowed to fix their own salaries are generally inclined to include themselves among the number "who do not get enough." The country does not always agree with them.

* * *

Three correspondents write from Kings county discussing the beauties of the Scott Act as they see it. The people of Kings are not prepared to compel the enforcement of the prohibitory law. Moreover, they are not prepared to pay for carrying out its provisions. If they were they would prevent the acts of which the correspondents complain. In Northumberland county, and in Westmorland there is similar complaint constantly. It would pay to try the experiment, in some one of these counties, of enforcing the act, third offence jail penalties and all, and see what the people really thought of the law for which they vote. As the matter stands now there is no pretence at either observing the law or enforcing it, and constant scandals are the result.

* * *

In a letter to Senator Tillman ex-Senator Chandler, who was President Roosevelt's messenger to the Democratic senators, stoutly reiterates his statement that the President did say he had completely disagreed with Senators Knox, Spooner and Foraker who were trying to defeat the rate bill. This Mr. Roosevelt has as stoutly denied. Mr. Chandler somewhat caustically adds:

"On the whole, perhaps I ought to consider myself fortunate. If the old imperialist days had been fully revived at the White House, one whom I considered the best of friends, Senator Lodge, upon demand, would have cut off my head and taken it to President Roosevelt on a charger, and I should have spoken no more. Now, at least, I have left to me the power of speech. But I shall never use it again as a missionary from President Roosevelt to the Democratic party."

Twilight

The sunset fades, and once again the hills
Against the sky, majestic and supreme,
Loom spectrally and half unreal seem,
And mystery the misty valley fills.
Melodiously now the mountain rills,
Unheard by day, take up their lyric theme
Of ecstasy, like voices heard in dream,—
An obligato to the whippoorwills.
Invisible, the spirits of the dusk
Ply the swift shuttles on their shadow loom
And weave the wonder-fabric of the night.
The wind is but a whisper, sweet with musk
Exhaled from fragrant lips of bud and bloom,—
A whisper—and the one word is Delight.
—Frank Dempster Sherman in the June Scribner.

TO ACT IN NEW PLAY BY AUTHOR OF "THE MUSIC MASTER"

New York, May 21.—Miss Grace Filkins has been engaged by Henry B. Harris to create an important role in Charles

Miss Grace Filkins

Klein's new play, which he is preparing for production at the Hudson Theatre early next season.

The Cost of Living

(Boston Herald).

That the cost of living is increasing by leaps and bounds within recent years is indicated by a bulletin which has just been issued by the American bureau of labor. What is true with regard to conditions in the United States is also claimed to be true with respect to Canada. It is set forth in this exhaustive review that wholesale prices, considering all commodities, reached a higher point last year than at any other time during the sixteen years covered by the bureau's investigation, being 15.9 above the average for the ten-year period 1890 to 1899, 29.2 above the low price in 1897, and 2.6 per cent above the average for 1904.

It is further stated that the 1905 average, compared with the year of lowest average prices during the sixteen years from 1890 to 1905, in each of the general groups of commodities shows farm products 58.6 per cent higher than in 1896; food, etc., 29.7 per cent higher than in 1896; cloth and clothing, 22.9 per cent higher than 1897; fuel and lighting 39.4 per cent higher than in 1894; metals and implements 41.8 per cent higher than in 1898; lumber and building materials, 41.4 per cent higher than in 1897; drugs and chemicals, 24.1 per cent higher than in 1895; house furnishing goods, 21.5 per cent higher than in 1897; and the articles included in the miscellaneous group, 23.4 per cent higher than in 1898. Prices reached the highest point in December, 1905, when they were 29.9 per cent above the average for the ten-year period 1890 to 1899 and 33.7 per cent above the low price in 1897. Prices in December, 1905, were 5.6 per cent above the prices in December, 1904.

While the wholesale prices of living commodities have kept on soaring, there has naturally been a relative increase of retail prices to consumers. Last year showed the highest point yet reached. Hardly will the claim be made that wages and salaries have kept pace with the constant advance trend of prices. The people will know for themselves from actual experience by the way they found their balance at the beginning of the new year whether such is the fact or not. The general expansion of the cost of living if it goes on unchecked must inevitably result in a reaction and the lowering of prices on all commodities.

The West Doesn't Care

(Montreal Herald.)

The Winnipegger and the western farmer look at the matter from a common standpoint. They see in Mr. Hill's proposition larger markets, and the possibility of cheapter transportation. They see higher profits on the products of the wheat fields, granaries and elevators. As a western contemporary put it the other day, "The prinicpal object of every farmer is to get the best possible price for his grain, and a good healthy competition between buyers is just exactly what he is looking for. He doesn't care two straws, nor need he care for that matter, where his wheat is ground. It has been bought at a good price and he has the money in his pocket."

It is useless to find fault with this attitude. We have to accept the condition and make the best of it. We have to accept Mr. Hill, too, since the west and he will have it so. What we have to do is to make sure that the cheapest path, as it is the most direct, from the Canadian prairies to the European market, will be through Montreal and Quebec, St. John and Halifax.

A Great Discovery by a Canadian

(Montreal Gazette).

Dr. Morgan, editor of Canadian Men and Women of the Time, Ottawa, is in the receipt of a letter advising him that Dr. W. J. Goodhue, the medical superintendent at the leper settlement at Molokai, Hawaii, who has devoted many years to the investigation of leprosy, clinically, bacteriologically and chemically, has discovered the germ of leprosy in the mosquito and in the bed-bug (culex pungens and cimen lectutaria). This is considered a very great discovery in the medical world, and will be especially interesting to Canadians, as Dr. Goodhue, to whose painstaking studies the discovery is due, is one of themselves. He was born at Arthabaskaville (Que.), October 8, 1869, and is well known to Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Relief Refused

A million from the Germans and a million from the Spanish,
A million from the Russians and the Prussians and the Danish
Seem hateful to the President, with ethics well acquainted,
He says that 'Frisco sha'nt be built on foreign brands of "tainted."

Donations sent by Englishmen or Irishmen or Swedes
Are, somehow, quite unsuited to the stricken city's needs.
All foreign ships so laden must as pirate craft be rated,
Must stand in quarantine and be returned unfumigated.

Though San Francisco in her rags is clamoring for clothing,
Our Teddy looks on Chinese gifts with nothing less than loathing.
He rather thinks a refugee might scorn, as would his neighbor,
A shirt that's "made in Germany" by humble native labor.

Though we return the food and coin which Europe fain would lend us,
We aren't so hasty to return the immigrants they send us,
And in the case of foreign Powers one fact might be detected:
When there's a flood or famine our donations aren't rejected.

Our People have been generous; but need we as a Nation,
Stop up our ears and pocketbooks to foreign consolation?
Or shall a City's gaping wounds still bleed, for lack of ointment,
And wait, perhaps till Doomsday, by Congressional appointment?
—Wallace Irwin, in N. Y. Globe.

GIRL MARRIED ON HER DEATHBED

Weds Fiance, Who Shot Her While They Were Arranging Their Future Home

CHURCH READY FOR THEM

Coldren Taken in Patrol Wagon to Ceremony Requested by the Dying Girl.

A Philadelphia despatch to the New York Herald says:

Within a few hours of the time set for their marriage today Davis J. Coldren accidentally shot his fiancee, Bessie Regent, while they were arranging the furniture in their new home, No. 418 Budd street. The wound has been pronounced mortal. No sooner had the girl been informed that she would probably die than she asked that Father O'Connor be sent for, and while she lay gasping for breath upon a cot in the Presbyterian Hospital the marriage ceremony was performed. It was followed immediately by the last rites of the church.

It was a most dramatic wedding. The sobbing bridegroom, the dying bride holding his hand and endeavoring to comfort him, the priest reading the solemn words, while policemen stood by ready to take the man to a prison cell, combined to make the scene most impressive.

Coldren is several years younger than his wife, who is just twenty-five. He works in a furniture factory at Thirty-ninth street and Powelton avenue and has an excellent reputation. The invitations were out for the service, which was to have taken place at 3 o'clock this afternoon. Miss Regent had tried on her wedding dress. She had then only to put the finishing touches on the furniture and their future home before the wedding.

They began moving around chairs, dressers, tables and sofas, and were about ready to dress for the wedding when Coldren said:

"Here, Bessie, put this thing away in some corner where it won't do any damage."

The girl had not had time to turn when there was a flash and a report.

"Oh, Dave, I'm shot!" she cried.

She was hurried to the Presbyterian Hospital, near by.

She revived, and her first sentence was: "Send for Dave; I want to be married before I die."

Father O'Connor was summoned by telephone. Coldren was taken to the hospital in the patrol wagon.

"You didn't mean to do it. Don't let them arrest you," said the bride on her deathbed.

Coldren will have a hearing tomorrow.

TROUT THAT WEIGH TWO POUNDS AND MORE

Man from Pocologan Comes With Fine Fish, and Story of a Lake Full of Them.

There came a man to town last evening with fish that made the eyes of anglers bright with joy and admiration. Handsomely marked, stout and gamey-looking trout they were, and they weighed from a pound each to two and a half. They came from Bear Lake, apparently a newly found and rich spot to attract the anglers.

William J. Lorimer is the man who had the fish and will lead fishermen to the lake which is such a populous haunt of trout. He is proprietor of the hunting and fishing grounds near Pocologan. Bear Lake is situated five miles in from Pocologan, which is thirty-three miles from the city on the N. B. Southern. He says that one can leave here on the morning train and find him at the station, fish the river or lake and be back next day with a basket which it would do a man's heart good to look into. The lake, he says, has apparently never been fished. He says he has trusty guides to attend woul-be anglers.

Mr. Lorimer is not unknown here. He was a member of The Telegraph mechanical staff in the days of Mr. Livingston and Mr. Elder. He has been the proprietor of newspapers in St. Stephen and St. Andrews. A year or more ago he took up his residence at Pocologan.

He plans to make it one of the headquarters for sportsmen, both in the hunting and fishing season region. In the near future he will erect a number of buildings near the station in order to have the place more convenient for intending visitors. For the present there are camps at the fishing grounds but he says those who intend to stay there overnight should bring blankets. The fish Mr. Laurimer brought with him attracted a good deal of attention last night. They will doubtless attract a good deal more today as some of the best have been put on exhibition in the window of W. L. Williams' store, formerly M. A. Finn's, Prince William street.

THREE HUNDRED MEN ESCAPE FROM BURNING MINE IN NICK OF TIME

Pittsburg, May 21—Three hundred miners were today rescued from a fire in the Hazel Kirk mine No. 1 of the Pittsburg and Westmoreland Coal Company at Washington, and are tonight fighting the fire to prevent the destruction of the plant. The fire has already caused a damage of $25,000 and is beyond control of the surface. The blaze started in an engine house which was soon destroyed, together with a warehouse and tipple. The 300 miners in the works were in danger and a trapper boy volunteered to go into the mine and warn the men. He gained an entrance through a winding stairway in the airshaft. While the men outside fought the flames with buckets of water and kept the blaze from the air shaft miners poured from the pit. The cage shaft was soon ablaze and as it would be a short time until burning embers from the shaft timbers would ignite the coal, a trainload of buckets was rushed from Monongahela and a bucket brigade of 300 miners was formed. Water was taken into the mine through the airshaft and the bottom of the cage shaft was deluged.

The C. P. R. have brought fifty Italians here from along the line to carry on the ballasting and bridge work on the extension between Fairville and St. John.

Boots for dogs are declared to be the latest fashionable novelty. But it has long been the custom to supply these articles to cats when they sing too much at night time.