

HOME-MADE STRATEGISTS.

St. John Has a Board of Men Who Furnish the War Office With "Tips."

The City Building Strategic Board has not held a meeting for several days past, chiefly owing to the scarcity of important despatches from South Africa, and otherwise in dignified disapprobation of the rigorous censorship of Lord Roberts, who has unblushingly extended his veto even to the "special" news service of the aforesaid Board. This was indeed a cruel stroke and already several cables full of frigid words are hastening toward "Africa's sunny fountains" and will no doubt have the effect of cooling off to a considerable degree the inconsiderate commander-in-chief.

Perhaps the people of St. John, eye of the Empire, have been unaware that a strategy board of four members has been deliberating twice daily with unflinching regularity ever since the war cloud loomed up on the southern horizon. Those constituting the Board are, Mr. Clarence Ward, architect, Mayor's clerk, and officer of the N. B. Historical Society; Dr. W. W. White, alderman and Major of 3rd Regiment C. A.; Mr. George Hare, gentleman and for nineteen years an African resident, and Mr. Hurd Peters, city engineer. What more ideal board could be asked for?

As a life long student of history and man acquainted with men of all nationalities, through typographical mediums, Mr. Ward is eminently fitted for a chair at the strategy board's map-strewn table. He is naturally, through much reading, aware of the peculiarities and eccentricities of the Boers and their probable modes of warfare, even perhaps making a diagnosis of their mental make-up under the existing circumstances, arriving at some definite idea thereby as to what they intend doing next.

On the other hand he is capable of furnishing his conferees most materially in furnishing historical parallels and similar cases to those now being enacted on the veldt, which in turn prompts them to look up the receipts for gaining the needed victory in old military records, and in that way valuable "tips" are flashed to Lord Lansdowne at the War Office or "Bobs" himself.

Doctor White being a much younger man than his fellow war trickers, has the distinction already enjoyed by Lord Kitchener in that regard. Though sparsely mixed with grey his locks do not proclaim him old, but military experience and exalted rank in the local militia, stamp him as one of clear headedness in matters pertaining to the mobility, fighting capabilities and general manoeuvring of troops. Thus the well known city father and medic-militant yields no sinecure sceptre at the meetings of the Strategic Board.

Mr. George Hare is more of a stranger to the people, that is, in comparison with the gentlemen already mentioned. He is retired and for nearly a score of years lived with his family on the South African continent, several of his children being born there. Being well informed generally and possessing practical knowledge on the Strategic Board's subjects, he is indeed most a valuable member of the quartette. His vivid descriptions of the veldt, the kopjes, the kops, the kraals, the lager, the 'fonteins', 'burgs', 'smiths' and 'dorps' of the land of Kruger and Steyn are of the 'spellbound' order. Besides Mr. Hare can speak the tongue of the national enemy and knows considerable of the tribemen and their lingo.

The fourth but by no means the least important percentage in the strategic group is Mr. Hurd Peters, city engineer, whose clever draughting of plans for St. John's improvement and Sand Point's dock building have marked him as a genius in that profession. None the less a close student of the hostile relations between Queen Victoria and Oom Paul than the others he is a very potent factor at the Board's seances, pointing out by dots, lines and dashes on his well made plans the latest moves of the British forces, where they are likely to proceed, where they will probably retire, and with a keenness quite his own, draught out the best way to proceed in order to be successful. It is over these drawings of Mr. Peters the wit and wisdom of the Board, which combined is strategy, is born.

The bloodiest of battles which the strategists could see inevitable upon the map, have either been side-tracked or fished out, somehow or another Buller reached Ladysmith several weeks, days and hours ahead of the chronology of the city building war students and as for Generals Clements, French et al, they have most outrageously disregarded the tactical 'tips' so slyly smuggled to them from the Stra-

tegic Board. In fact the whole plan of campaign as charted out by Messrs. Ward, White, Hare and Peters has gone wrong, and yet these gentlemen ever had their strategy of months ago, which was thankfully returned from London, been used the first confederated South African parliament would even now be sitting and would have long since passed unanimous votes of thanks for their war directions, so effective in bringing together the republics under the British flag and into one parliament.

Mr. Ward of the Strategic Board was horrified a short time since to find in a list of the most prominent Boer leaders one Commandant De Waard. With his characteristic honesty of heart the strategist imparted the fact to his fellow war wagers, confessing at the same time his relation to the hostile chieftain, who was undoubtedly a branchlet of the great Dutch family tree—the Waards. For a time this intelligence cast Mr. Ward into the shade of suspicion, but when to the Board's surprise the War Office backed up the statement that Ladysmith had been relieved on Thursday week the Dutch blooded anti-Kruger clinched the question of his loyalty by entertaining the Strategic Board in his office to a sumptuous repast of dried-apple pie and doughnuts. He promises other than an impromptu feast when General Buller carves that postponed turkey in Pretoria.

FACTS ABOUT THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

A correspondent has compiled for us the following array of facts to illustrate the vastness of the British empire.

Half the ships in the world are British. The best of them can be converted into war ships in 48 hours.

We have a million of soldiers in India. Some of them have been brought to Malta. As the sun rises the British drum beat follows it around the world.

We can travel entirely around the world without leaving the British Empire. There are 400,000,000 of people in the British Empire.

It is said that our Queen would have to live 70 more years to enable her to see them all pass before her night and day for all that time.

She is the greatest Mahommedan ruler in the world. 'God Save the Queen', is sung in twenty languages.

The total value of the United Kingdom is now said to be £10,000 millions. Added to this, several thousand millions are invested out of this country.

We own one fourth of the railways in U. S. America. And half of the railways in South America.

We own the largest part of North America, that is, Canada.

The house property in the British Isles is valued at £2000 millions; the railways at 900 millions; the shipping at 120 millions.

Olive Schreiner, authoress of an African Farm, says that, if any big misfortune were to happen to England, 60 millions of English speaking people in other countries would leap to their feet.

Neither of the ancient Empires, like that of Persia, Greece, nor Rome, were equal in size or wealth to the British Empire of to day.

British manufactures are now valued at 800 millions a year.

Two-thirds of the ship building of the world is done by the British.

As much as 2,500 millions sterling have been lent to other nations by the British. The annual revenue of the British Government is now 96 millions sterling.

One remark of the New Zealand Premier the other day is suggestive of the latent strength of British power. He was justifying the sending to England of a Maori contingent, and said that any foreign foe of New Zealand would have not only to reckon with its European settlers but with the Maoris fighting shoulder to shoulder with them, one of the finest fighting races in the world. That is true, too of the French Canadians, the fighting native races of India, and scores of diverse people under British rule.

The British have 689 ships of war. They could fire off 7580 guns at once.

Three-fourths of all the letters that are posted in the world are written in English and sent to persons who speak English.

The trade of Great Britain is worth £700,000,000 a year.

Half the exports from the U. S. America are brought to England, and for all this we pay 85 millions sterling yearly.

The British Empire, if cut into a strip a

mile wide, would reach round the world 450 times.—Montreal Star.

A GIRL WHO WAS SAVED.

HAD SUFFERED FOR NEARLY 12 YEARS WITH ANAEMIA.

Severe Headache, Heart Palpitation, Nervousness and Extreme Feebleness made Her Life Miserable—Her Doctor Told Her She Could Not Recover.

Doctors have given the Greek name anaemia, meaning "bloodlessness," to a disease which is much more prevalent among young women than is generally believed. In its early stages the disease is not marked by any decided symptoms, and often makes considerable advance before its presence is noticed. A feeling of fatigue after slight exercise, breathlessness and pallor of the face are the first noticeable signs. Unless there is prompt and effective treatment the disease makes rapid progress, and the victim presents every appearance of going into a decline or consumption. The only successful method of treating anaemia is to build up the blood, and the best medicine in the world for this purpose is Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People.

Miss Adeline Dumas is one of the thousands of young ladies who can testify to the efficacy of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills in cases of anaemia. Miss Dumas resides with her parents on a farm near Lindsay, Beauco. Co., Que. To a reporter who called upon her for the purpose of getting the particulars of her illness and cure, Miss Dumas said:—"Since I was about sixteen years of age I have been ailing more or less, but for a long time, except for periodical headaches, the trouble did not seem serious. About two years ago my case began to assume an alarming nature. The headaches came with greater frequency, I became very pale, and the slightest exertion would leave me breathless. I tried several medicines, but instead of finding benefit I was steadily growing worse, until at last I was unable to do any household work, and had to sit in a chair almost the entire day. I had now become extremely nervous, and the least noise would set my heart wildly palpitating. I had neither desire nor relish for food, and the doctor who attended me finally said that he could do nothing more for me. I did not despair, however, but tried other medicines, but still without relief, and then I began to feel that death only would release me from my suffering. At this time a friend brought me a newspaper in which was the story of the cure of a girl whose symptoms resembled mine, through the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and urged me to try them. I set for a box, but they did not seem to help me, and I was afraid they would prove like other medicines, not suited to my case. My parents insisted that I should continue their use and my father got me two boxes more. Before these were all used I had no longer any doubt that they were helping me, and I procured another half dozen boxes. They completely restored my health, and I am able to go about and do work with an ease I have not enjoyed for years before. I think Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are a great blessing to the sick, and I always urge my friends who are not well to take them, and I will be glad if this statement is the means of bringing new courage and health to some other sufferer."

Depravity of the Stage.

Speaking on the depravity of the stage at the present time the St. Louis Globe-Democrat says: During the present theatrical season a startling number of vile plays has been placed before the public. Their main theme is the dissolute life of women. Some gloss it over, others make light of it and turn social evil into what pretends to be a merry lark. Protests against the invasion of rottenness have become general of late. There are laws against obscenity and societies organized to suppress obscene literature. A play in itself is a literary production, and if meant to catch the patronage of those confirmed in evil ways, the foolishly curious and the moths that flutter around, is doubly hurtful, for to the suggestion of the text is added that of the acting and the setting. A low play made glittering by the modern art of the stage is vice intensified. Some apologists contend that such dramas pay and therefore meet a public demand. The circulation of obscene books also would pay if the crime of dealing in them were not sternly repressed. Practically, an obscene play and an obscene book are offered from precisely the same motives, and appeal to the same forms of moral weakness. The police court is the proper place to investigate the new theatrical raid upon public decency.

Remarkable Experience of a Bell Ringer.

A singular accident occurred at the People's Church at Galesburg yesterday morning. The regular sexton being ill, a colored man, formerly body servant to Gen. Shafter, was engaged as a substitute. While ringing the bell for the morning service his neck by some means became encircled by a loop of the rope, and he was drawn upward with such terrific force that his head penetrated the ceiling, breaking an oak joist three by twelve inches in size. Beyond a slight abrasion of the scalp the man suffered no injury.

ST. JOHN'S FIRE TRAPS.

Dangerous Districts and Buildings That Menace Public Safety.

A few days ago the attention of Progress was called to the dangerous state of the old Everett foundry property on Bruscel street. After years of disuse and no care having been taken of it the big building has grown very much a wreck. The dwelling apartments in one end of it are still occupied, but are not very desirable lodgings, and at the other end of the huge structure the police authorities have a look-up. However, this fact of the look-up being on the premises does not lend support to any plea that might be put in for the building's existence, as in such matters the police are not considered a criterion.

In times gone by Everett's foundry was famous for its fires. For a stretch of years the fire department was called out with unflinching regularity about once a month to extinguish some puny blaze or another on its expansive shingle roof or spacious interior. However, as it grew older and moss-grown, with the clang of hammers ceased, the danger from the fiery element grew less, but now the old foundry stands a menace to the safety of pedestrians and those living nearby, as well as a first class conflagration conductor. And the town is simply treckled with such dangerous buildings.

When Chief Kerr of the fire department was asked about these menacing structures he referred Progress to the Act of Assembly and Bye Laws regulating the construction of buildings in the city of St. John, which was formulated in 1877, directly after the big fire. He said he was well aware of the presence of these old and delapidated fire traps and had used his best endeavors to have them removed. They were certainly of great danger in thickly settled localities.

Shingled roofs are also forbidden in the law, and a slanting roof of this make is one of the greatest problems a fire fighter has to deal with. Instances were given of fires in recent years where slanting shingle roofs proved puzzles, on account of their inaccessibility. One house in particular situated on the corner of Adelaide and Main streets, has an exceptionally long shingle roof of the sloping build, and being a high structure the firemen have had several serious struggles to save it, owing to their failure to get directly at the seat of the blaze about the chimney.

Traversing Main street from one end to the other the rear of the long blocks of buildings is thickly settled with rookeries and shanties, which in a time of conflagration would indeed prove themselves of invaluable assistance to the fire fiend. The corner of Duke and Pitt streets, with its block or so of "hinder boxes" would prove a dainty morsel for the maw of a big fire, as would also certain rear sections of Union street, Waterloo, Brussel, City Road, etc.

In fact St. John is divided on the insurance charts into risky districts, more risky

and most risky. 'Fire belts' is an insurance term and if you are living in a thickly settled wooden neighbourhood, with innumerable back yard shanties and iceseries or blacksmith shops about you, you have a right to realize that you have the distinction of laying your head down to rest each night in a treacherous locality—treacherous from the standpoint of a conflagration and the insurance companies. And you have to pay more for your insurance on this account.

These insurance companies, they are very susceptible organizations. If a brick building or two goes up in a "risky" neighbourhood the insurance rates lower, but if a "bad risk" is installed in the midst of a low rate locality the percentage on a \$100 worth of insurance shoots skyward. Thus it is seen the men who furnish us with policies and run the chance of our being burned out and losing our chattels, have the keenest eyes about town. They don't stop and look at the house from the front, but the rear apartments, the surrounding buildings, the manufactories nearby etc, are all summed up in the expert mind of the inspectors, before the rate of your policy is fixed.

Generally speaking St. John is not the safest city in the world in time of blazes, despite the fact that its protection from the most dreaded of the elements is fairly good, with promises of being better. However there are worse places in this regard.

The old building law above referred to, does not have any influence over North End, which at the time of the Act's becoming law was the town of Portland. However the Indiantown fire has proven that some stringent measures are necessary in that part of the city to guard against a succeeding nest of fire traps, such as aided the big blaze of last May to climb up the hill and sweep whole blocks in its career. To this end a bill is now under consideration in the Local House of Assembly, amending the Act of 1877, so as to include North End in its grasp.

Following are a few extracts from the Act of 1877 regarding dangerous buildings and compulsory precautions against fire:—

It shall be the duty of the Inspector to examine buildings reported dangerous, or damaged by fire or accident, and to make a record of such examinations, including the nature and amount of such damage, with the name of the street and number of the building, the names of owner, lessee, and for what purpose occupied, and in case of fire, the probable origin thereof; to examine all buildings under application to raise, enlarge, alter or build upon, and to make a record of the condition of the same. Such records shall always be open to the inspection of the Common Council, or any officer of the city or other persons as they may direct.

All chimneys shall be built of brick, or stone or other non-combustible material. All flues shall be topped out at least

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ITCHING LIMBS

And all Forms of Itching, Scaly Humours Are Instantly Relieved and Speedily Cured by CUTICURA.

The itching and burning I suffered in my feet and limbs for three years were terrible. At night they were worse and would keep me awake greater part of the night. I consulted doctor after doctor, as I was travelling on the road most of my time, also one of our city doctors. None of the doctors knew what the trouble was. I got a lot of the different samples of the medicines I had been using. I found them of so many different kinds that I concluded that I would have to go to a Cincinnati hospital before I would get relief. I had frequently been urged to try CUTICURA REMEDIES, but I had no faith in them. My wife finally prevailed upon me to try them. Presto! What a change! I am now cured, and it is a permanent cure. I feel like kicking some doctor or myself for suffering three years when I could have used CUTICURA REMEDIES.

H. JENKINS, Middleboro, Ky.

COMPLETE TREATMENT

Consisting of CUTICURA SOAP, to cleanse the skin of crusts and scales and soften the thickened cuticle, CUTICURA Ointment, to instantly allay itching, irritation, and inflammation, and soothe and heal, CUTICURA RESOLVENT, to cool and cleanse the blood. A single set is often sufficient to cure the most torturing, disfiguring skin, scalp, and blood humours, rashes, and irritations with loss of hair when physicians, hospitals, and all else fail. Sold throughout the world. POTTER DRUG AND CHEM. CORP., Sole Props., Boston. "How to Purify and Beautify the Skin," free.



Use only CUTICURA SOAP for baby's skin, scalp, and hair. It is not only the purest, sweetest, and most refreshing of nursery soaps, but it contains delicate, emollient properties, obtained from CUTICURA, the great skin cure, which preserve, purify, and beautify the skin, scalp, and hair, and prevent simple skin blemishes from becoming serious. For distressing heat rashes, chafings, inflammations, and eruptions, for crusted, itching irritations of the scalp, with dryness, and falling hair, for red, rough hands, and shapeless nails, and simple infantile humors, it is absolutely indispensable.