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The Toronto World.

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TENTH YEAR. THURSDAY MORNING MAY 16, 1889. PRICE ONE CENT.

OH, THE LITTLE MACHINE!

UNEARTHING AN OLD FRIEND OF THE FEDERAL BANK.

Mr. Samuel Nordheimer to be Proceeded Against by His Co-Directors for the Big Losses in the Commercial Loan and Stock Company—A "Confidential" Circular That Was Flying Around—The Ex-President Has Nothing to Say to Reporters.

The old story of the Federal Bank, its wonderful success, its sudden decline, and the startling revelations that were made to the public in the various stages of the investigation extending over a period from 1883 to 1887, is likely to be revived and told again with perhaps a great deal of additional matter.

The bank stockholders and all the shareholders of the Federal Bank were surprised to receive yesterday this circular:

A "Confidential" Circular.

FEDERAL BANK OF CANADA.
TORONTO, May 14, 1889.

To the Shareholders of the Federal Bank of Canada:

Having been advised by Edward Blake, Q.C., B. B. Osler, Q.C., and Z. A. Lash, Q.C., that upon the facts laid before them Mr. Samuel Nordheimer, late president of the Federal Bank, now a director and member of the Executive Committee thereof, is responsible to the bank for the Commercial Loan and Stock Company, and that it is the duty of the executive to take such steps for the recovery of the amounts, we have directed a suit to be instituted for that purpose, and we think it right, in view of the approaching annual meeting, to acquaint you of this fact

By order of the board,

H. C. HAMMOND, President.

As will be seen, the circular was marked "confidential," but as odd copies of it were knocking about brokers' offices and were freely shown by parties who had received them, The World does not consider itself guilty of any breach of propriety in unfolding it to the public, and printing it just as issued.

The present directors of the Federal Bank are:

H. C. HAMMOND, President.
JOHN W. LANGMUIR.
SAMUEL NORDHEIMER.
JOHN HOSKIN, Q.C.
WILLIAM HENDRIE, Hamilton.

And all these gentlemen, with perhaps the exception of Mr. Nordheimer, have been in deep consultation for some time, and the result of their labors is indicated by the circular given.

As far as The World could learn, the Federal Bank lost half a million of money by "The Commercial Loan and Stock Company," of which Mr. Nordheimer was a shareholder, as well as of the Federal Bank, and his co-directors are now endeavoring to recover from him what was lost in that concern.

The Commercial Loan and Stock Company.

The Commercial Loan and Stock Company is best known to the people of Toronto as the "Little Machine," the name given it by The World in 1883. It was organized in 1882, with a subscribed capital of $100,000, of which 30 per cent. was paid up. Mr. Nicol Kingsmill, the great railway lawyer, was president and H. S. Strathy, manager of the Federal Bank, was managing director of the concern. Among the nine or ten shareholders were Mr. Nordheimer, Mr. Kingsmill, Mr. Cattanach, Isaac Hellmuth of London and Mr. H. S. Strathy. The meetings of the board of the company were held in the lawyers' offices upstairs, but as a matter of fact Mr. Strathy was manager of the concern and did most of the business in his own offices in the bank.

The chief business of the "Little Machine" was the advancing of money on stock, and especially on the stock of the Federal Bank, it being a popularly known fact that when Federal was quoted at 160 the Commercial Loan was advancing 130 on it. The money being loaned on this stock was supplied by the Federal Bank itself, and it was only a thin disguise for evading that wholesome law which forbids banks advancing money on their own stocks for speculative purposes. But at that time the Federal Bank was "away up" as a speculative stock, and the "Little Machine" was sending right and left on Federal stock, till it soon had advanced Federal money on Federal stock to the extent of over $600,000. At one time Federal stock was as high as 160 and over, but when it struck a decline it kept going down till it got as low as 32½, but long before this had come about the "Little Machine" had gone completely to smash and the bank was compelled to reduce its capital one-half and was forced into voluntary liquidation.

Before the "Little Machine," however, was wound up, its several shareholders had to make good the odd 70 per cent. of their unpaid stock, and it stood a heavy loss to all of them, including Mr. Nordheimer. This latter gentleman's losses in connection with the "Little Machine" and with the Federal Bank were not less than $300,000, and probably a great deal more.

Sympathy With Mr. Nordheimer.

A great deal of sympathy was expressed for Mr. Nordheimer in financial circles yesterday when it became known what action had been taken. One gentleman who is prominent in the city's banking business said he regarded it as an attempt to follow Mr. Nordheimer simply because he had still left a part of his fortune, and he would not be at all surprised to hear of increased speculation in the stock, based on the proposed suit against the old president of the bank.

A prominent broker also expressed his opinion that the suit was instigated through ill-will, if not spite, against Mr. Nordheimer, and another financial authority said he didn't see how the directors could bring action against Mr. Nordheimer any more than they could against any of the other directors of the bank. He added that it would be better for the liquidators of the Federal to wind up the concern as quickly as possible rather than plunge that concern into further expenses.

The World interviewed one or two of the directors yesterday afternoon, but they would say nothing, nor would they show the circular. They would not say what amount of claim they had against Mr. Nordheimer, nor on what grounds the action they proposed instituting would be based.

There were rumors going around that the amount which Mr. Nordheimer would be sued for was something like half a million. It was also said that several efforts had been made to get Mr. Nordheimer to compromise, but he steadfastly refused to fork over a cent, hence the threatened action.

The Federal directors, or some of them, were in session until a late hour on Tuesday night, and it is given out that at this meeting it was definitely decided to issue the circular.

Mr. Nordheimer Would Say Nothing.

The World saw Mr. Nordheimer yesterday afternoon at his King-street office. He was a little surprised to find the "private and confidential" circular in newspaper hands, and thought it would be unfair to publish it. However, when it was explained that it would only be a question of time when the matter would be made public, and that very likely the other newspapers would get a hold of it next week, he supposed it was inevitable that the news would be published. The Young Man then said that The World's columns were open to Mr. Nordheimer if he wished to make a statement. After some consideration he said he would think the matter over and probably say something in an hour or so. An hour later Mr. Nordheimer was again waited on, but after duly considering the state of affairs he concluded to say nothing. He lit a cigar and politely evaded all questions put to him. "You may say," he remarked at last, "that I have nothing to say."

"Does the decision of the directors trouble you any?" the Young Man queried as he was about to go.

"I don't look much troubled about it, do I?" the ex-President responded, calmly looking through the slowly curling smoke.

The World called at the Traders' Bank, of which Mr. H. S. Strathy is General Manager, late in the afternoon to see if that gentleman would talk about the matter, but the reporter was informed that Mr. S. was out of town.

RIOTING SHANTYMEN AT BRESSALON

The Belligerent Lumbermen in the North Sign a Treaty of Peace.

Provincial Detective Green returned from Thessalon, Ont., yesterday. He has had charge of the government force of officers sent to the Bruce Mines to maintain order among the rioting lumbermen there.

The contractors engaged by Timothy Nestor & Co. of Michigan, the owners of large limits near Bruce Mines, skipped out six weeks ago, leaving the men who were working for them their creditors to the amount of $11,000. The men became furious, made threats of violence and refused to allow the company to tow their logs down the river on the spring drive. The company offered the men a reasonable settlement, amounting to 75 cents on the dollar. They offered to make the men a present of $2500, and a surplus of 25 cents a standard on 50,000 logs after the expense of taking the logs down the river, which should have been met by the contractors, was deducted. The company held back certain portions of the money due the contractors as a guarantee that the work would be done. This amount they proposed to devote towards paying the men, together with their donation of $2500. The men, however, refused to accept the proposal, and wild times ensued for a while.

Finally, largely owing to the tact and good judgment of Mr. Green, a settlement was come to between the company and the men. The men will get a smaller percentage of the wages than at first offered, but will be continued in the employment of the company.

A SUSPICIOUS DEATH.

An Inquest to be Held To-day on the Body of a Married Woman.

Mrs. Rosebach, wife of Luke Rosebach, residing at No. 15 Mission-avenue, died on Tuesday under such circumstances that Coroner Duncan has issued a warrant for an inquest to be held at 11 o'clock this morning in the hotel at Gerrard and Teraulay-streets. The woman was taken ill on Monday, and shortly before her death Dr. McPhedran of College-avenue was called in, and it was on his report and subsequent post mortem examination that the Coroner has taken action. It is supposed that death was the result of an unlawful operation, but so far as can be learned the woman is alone responsible. One of the witnesses will be a Mrs. Armstrong, who was with deceased up to her death. The dead woman leaves a family of three children, the youngest of whom is 6 years old.

Drazging Slowly Along.

The Board of Works investigation continues to hang fire, and the small army of city officials and others whose characters lie under a cloud by reason of the "revelations" of Inspector Cooper see no near chance of being allowed to vindicate themselves. The special committee which has the matter in hand—the Mayor, Ald. McMillan and Ald. Gillespie—will meet at 11 to-day to pass accounts resulting from the investigation. One bill is for $80 15, costs of the motion against appeal, which Mr. A. W. Godson won against the city.

Terra Cotta Bricks.

The Ontario Terra Cotta Brick Company met and organized yesterday: President, L. M. Livingston; vice-president, E. A. Meredith; secretary, J. H. Dixon. They have secured the best machine in the United States and will start in to make bricks and terra cotta at their clay bank out near Milton. St. Louis and other American experts say they never saw such good clay as the company own.

A New Jerusalem Church Entertainment.

The young people of the New Jerusalem Church, Elm-street, held their seventh annual entertainment in the school room last night. Pastor G. L. Allbutt presided. A choice program consisting of songs, duets, violin and piano solos was very creditably gone through. Miss Law, late of Glasgow, Scotland, gave in good style a couple of recitations: "The Old Lieutenant and His Son" and "Houp-la, the Circus Waif."

All About the Voice.

Last night Dr. Ryerson, one of the lecturers to the Toronto Conservatory of Music, delivered a very interesting and instructive address before the pupils of that institution in the Y. M. C. A. lecture room. The subject dealt with was "The Voice and its Preservation," and with the aid of models, used for illustrations, the lecture was simplified and easily understood by every one present.

Don't fail to hear the famous Tennesseeans in the Pavilion to-night.

Insurance Changes.

General Manager Laing of the Glasgow and London Insurance Company has just arrived in Canada. He has removed Messrs. Stewart Brown and Hugh Brown, the agents of the company at Montreal and Toronto, for alleged violation of the tariff. New men have not yet been appointed. Mr. Laing will be in Toronto to-day.

Hear the Spadina-avenue Orchestra and see the Calisthenic Performance to-night at Broadway Methodist Tabernacle.

Another Heavy Writ.

Mrs. Minnie Britton has issued a $3000 writ against the city for compensation for land the city has expropriated on the corner of Christie and Bloor-streets, which, she claims, belongs to her. This is a portion of the land which Ald. Bell contends is a public roadway, though never properly opened up until this year.

Music, Calisthenics, Solos, Duets, etc., Broadway Methodist Tabernacle to-night.

Purchasers Make Their Own Prices.

Those who read the papers carefully to-day will observe that tweed waterproof coats may be purchased this week from $1 each at 92 Yonge-street. A special offering by auction for the next few nights of umbrellas, suspenders and linen bordered handkerchiefs. Goods sold at your own prices.

Very delicious—Adams' Tutti Frutti Gum

THE COURT HOUSE BYLAW.

A GREAT DEAL TO BE SAID IN FAVOR OF VOTING THE MONEY.

A Large Vote Expected—Judge McDougall's Views—The Site and Buildings to Come Within $1,600,000—Tommy Thompson in Favor of the Bylaw.

Saturday promises to be a great day in Toronto's history as far as voting on bylaws is concerned, as on that occasion the electors are to pass judgment on the additional $600,000 asked from them for the purpose of erecting the new municipal buildings. Great interest is manifested in the matter and there is every probability that a very large vote will be polled, as the aldermen and others in favor of the scheme purpose doing their best to have it carried.

Against the bylaw the main arguments are that the cost is excessive, the buildings will not be fire proof, that there is no guarantee that the estimates now to be voted will not be exceeded.

The members of the Court House Committee and the architect say in answer to these objections that if the citizens desire to fireproof the building that can be done any time within two years hereafter, that considering the accommodation to be provided and the style and character of the architecture the money proposed to be spent is not extravagant, and that as far as the other objection is concerned there is no reason why the estimates should be exceeded to the extent of one dollar, as, with the exception of the plumbing, the tenders are all in and can be kept close within the proposed cost of $1,600,000. They say furthermore that the present time is favorable for building and that to put off the work will only entail litigation upon the city and probably bring the work into a period when prices are much higher than now obtain.

As many of the citizens who have the right to vote on Saturday are still unable to make up their minds, The World this morning republishes an article from The News of last Saturday dealing with the whole question from its inception up to date, and also the opinion of Judge McDougall, who holds that not only is the city bound to put up the buildings, but that if they are not started right away the city will be sued therefor and the cost thereof levied upon the property of each taxpayer, to be collected forthwith, and if not paid to be distrained by the sheriff, and the whole sum to be raised in one year instead of over a period of a long series of years as proposed by the bylaw. We also publish a very strong letter addressed to The World from the pen of Mr. Thos. Thompson, the well known merchant of King-street east, who comes out very decidedly in favor of the proposed buildings. His main point is that to refuse the money is to pass a vote of want of confidence in the city.

From all The World can learn the workingmen who are property owners and entitled to vote are inclined to favor the expenditure, as they believe it will greatly increase the demand for labor in the city.

THE NEW COURT HOUSE.

And Why So Much is Required—Sketch of the Matter From Its Inception—Combined City and County Buildings to be Erected, Instead of, as Originally Intended, a Court House Alone.

[From The Evening News, May 11.]

One week from to-day the ratepayers will vote on the bylaw to raise $600,000 to add to the sum already provided for the erection of a combined city hall and court house. A brief review of the steps that have brought the scheme to its present condition will be in order.

Five years ago the sum of $300,000 was placed in the estimates for the purpose of erecting a court house and to buy the site. Of this $100,000 was to be expended for a site, and the balance for the building. The site was settled upon, but by the time negotiations were concluded the cost was $227,000 instead of $100,000. This left only $73,000 for the building. In the meantime plans had been advertised for for a court house only, to cost $200,000. The architects of the city saw at once that a building with the requirements asked by the committee could not be put up for the sum of $200,000 and they held a meeting and sent a deputation to lay the matter before the council. Notwithstanding this, the council persisted, and sixty designs were received, about thirty being from the United States, and the balance from Canada. The council then appointed three experts to judge the plans, and out of the sixty competitors the design of E. J. Lennox of Toronto was accepted. The committee sent for Mr. Lennox at its first meeting, and asked him if he could put up his building for $200,000. He replied that he could not. The committee then decided to have the plans gone on with, to see what the buildings would cost, now that they had the requirements. The first intention was to have only a three-story building, and the plans for the basement and the ground floor were prepared for tendering. It was estimated that this portion of the building, about one-third, would figure up to $100,000. The council saw that it would be impossible to put up building to meet all requirements for the sum appropriated, and the scheme came to a standstill for want of funds. Then Mr. Howland, at that time Mayor, conceived the idea of a combined City Hall and Court House. He sent for the chairman of the committee and Mr. Lennox and asked how much the city would save by a combined building. Mr. Lennox stated that about $500,000 or more would be saved, as it would save the purchase of one site. At Mr. Howland's request Mr. Lennox then examined the site and found that it would hold the combined building. He further prepared a rough sketch, one-sixteenth of the ground floor. The scheme for a combined building was brought before the committee, recommended to and accepted by the council. Mr. Lennox was appointed architect. Mr. Howland suggested that practical builders be asked to estimate on the rough sketch, but the chairman and Mr. Lennox objected that it was impossible to make any estimate without plans having been prepared. Here came in the whole difficulty. Mr. Howland said they had no appropriation to pay for plans, and he did not know that the ratepayers would approve of the scheme. So five builders were called in and asked to guess the cost. They did so honestly and to the best of their ability, with the rough sketch as their only guide. They fixed upon $750,000 as the cost of the building only, and with this estimate a by-law was submitted to the ratepayers and approved of. Then Mr. Lennox was instructed to prepare proper contract drawings and specifications. He did so, and they were approved and accepted by the council. Tenders were then ordered to be advertised for. The advertisements were sent all over Canada and the United States, to insure the lowest bids for everything. Many tenders were received, and the contracts were awarded to Canadian firms, all but two being from Toronto.

The tenders for the various works are as follows:

Masonry, rubble, cut stone, brickwork, etc.	$ 338,061
Copper and galvanized iron work	7,900
Painting and glazing	21,212
Plastering	32,374
Wrought iron and cast iron work	91,130
Roofing	34,459
Carpentering	149,887
Plumbing and steam heating	80,000
	$1,305,304

To this must be added $227,000 for the site, $25,000 for contingencies, and $75,000 for furniture and architects' fees, making the grand total cost of the buildings $1,632,034. Of this $1,050,000 has already been voted by the ratepayers, and the bylaw to be submitted next Saturday calls for the balance, $582,034.

Now comes a point to be carefully remembered. Much has been said to the effect that the building will cost three million dollars before it is completed. It will not, if Architect Lennox knows what he is talking about.

He said to a News reporter this morning: "There will be no extras. Every single item is included in the tenders, and the building will be completed, ready for the city to move into, at not one cent more than what the bylaw calls for, and we may be able to save $75,000 on that. Along with the tenders we have sureties and marked checks, giving guarantees that the work will be executed according to tender for the amount estimated. The committee has been working on the scheme for five years, and they have it in good shape. It is now in the position that any private citizen would have a building he was going to erect himself."

There is another point to be considered. Two lots of tenders were called for, and during the interval of one year the advance in wages and other prices has cost the city at least $100,000. Should the present bylaw be defeated, and the work deferred, future tenders will show a still further advance. Year by year the cost of buildings will go up. The contractors have taken great risks, and have put in tenders at a rate that four or five years from now they will be unable to quote.

Judge McDougall and the Court House.

[From The Globe, May 9.]

Judge McDougall, Mayor Clarke and the Assistant City Solicitor, Mr. Caswell, discussed the new Court House Bylaw yesterday morning. After the conference a Globe reporter spoke to the Mayor and Judge McDougall regarding the position the city will be in in the event of the bylaw being defeated. Judge McDougall stated that in that event the city would be involved in a huge expense, as great as the expense of putting up the building. By the terms of agreement the city is bound to have the Court House completed by the 29th of June next. Of course it is impossible that can be done now, and as a matter of fact the city can be indicted at any moment for non-fulfilment of contract. But aside from that, if the bylaw be defeated and no commencement made by June 29, then the city will be indicted and will certainly lose the case and be fined an amount equal to the proposed expenditure. Another point about this fine the ratepayers should remember is that it must be paid within a year, and the way it would have to be paid is as follows: The City Assessor goes over the assessment roll and assesses every ratepayer on it, dividing up the amount of the fine among them and adding it to that year's taxes. Should it not be paid in any case, the sheriff makes a seizure and a sale. As the matter stands at present it is thus: Carry the bylaw and the city, for the expenditure, gets the building. Defeat the bylaw and the city pays the expenditure and gets no building. The city is at the mercy of the County Council or any ratepayer who chooses to indict it.

IN FAVOR OF THE SCHEME.

A Well Known King-street Merchant Says to Defeat the Bylaw Would be to Vote Want of Confidence in the City.

To the Ratepayers of the City of Toronto:

A bylaw to provide the sum of $600,000 for the erection of a new city hall and court house is to be voted on by the electors on Saturday next. As a citizen and business man, and as one who takes a lively interest in the prosperity of our good city, I take the liberty of giving my views upon this question.

I am firmly of the opinion that the bylaw should receive the assent of the people and that the time is now ripe and opportune to erect the buildings proposed. It is now six years since the question was first mooted. Ample time has been given for its thorough discussion, and the pressing need for the required accommodation is now an admitted fact. The plans adopted are very complete and if carried out will be a credit to the city. The architect, Mr. Lennox, has proved his ability to carry out his own excellent design, as witness the new Medical Council building, the Manning Arcade and other important buildings, and although the entire cost of the undertaking is large yet when completed the city will get full value for the money expended and have the necessary room for the better government of both city and county. The ratepayers should remember that Toronto is a rapidly growing city and in less than 20 years the population will probably be half a million or more and that this increase will lighten the taxation—that sixty per cent. or more of the money expended will go directly into the pockets of the artizan and laborer. This, coupled with the fact that our city bonds can be floated at 3 per cent. to pay the cost, and with an increasing population to meet the liability, it surely seems a reasonable enterprise for the city to undertake. Indeed to vote down the bylaw would seem to insiders to mean a *vote of want of confidence in our own city*, and to do so at the present juncture would be very unwise, especially as banks and private corporations, loan societies and merchants are showing their confidence in the growth of the city by erecting costly and magnificent structures.

The objection brought against the erection of the buildings is that they will cost so much more than was spoken of six years ago and the cost has grown into such a large amount that there must be something extravagant and unnecessary in the plans. To this objection a reply can easily be made, viz.: the city has outgrown the needs of six years ago, and that very fact is a strong argument; that provision should be made for a much larger city—a city indeed of half a million. How often in the construction of a private residence the plans have to be revised and enlarged, and the expense necessarily increased before they are finally adopted, the meaning of which is the first plans were crude and rudimentary, and that only after careful study and looking ahead for the coming family were the right plans adopted!

In the case of the city with an increasing income and increasing needs the same course should be pursued. The citizens should see to it that the bylaw is carried. Surely there is a fitting time for boldness and enterprise, and there is a tide in the affairs of cities as well as individuals which taken at the flood leads on to fortune. When the narrow gauge railways were introduced a few of us took stock in the enterprise, and although no direct dividend was paid the sequel has proved that it well repaid the citizens. That was a critical time in the city's history.

The present is also a critical point and it is for the citizens to say, shall we be wise to-day to embrace the passing opportunity of making this city one of the foremost on the continent? Not long ago I visited all the large cities from here westward to San Francisco and was surprised at their fine public buildings, also at the pride of the people in showing them to strangers. Let us bear in mind ours is no mean city, that the wholesale business is yearly increasing, that the retail business is larger than that of Montreal, Buffalo or Detroit, that the surrounding country is the richest in this province; that people are settling here from all parts of the Dominion; that to adopt a "cheese-paring" policy in our city and county buildings would be the height of folly; indeed, every business man, every artisan and laborer, all who are interested in the progress of the city—who have a stake of any kind in it—should not only vote but use their influence for the passing of the bylaw and see that it is carried by a big majority.

THOMAS THOMPSON,
Mammoth House, King-street east.

The Buildings are Necessary.

Editor World: There is more or less a unanimous feeling amongst the citizens of Toronto that a court house combined with city municipal offices is requisite.

People do not so much object to the outlay necessary for such buildings provided they have confidence in the judicious expenditure of the money, but the jump from the original proposition of $200,000 to fully eight times that amount shakes their reliance in the men who are manipulating the scheme. The building ought to be as far as possible fireproof. This however is not, it appears, contemplated by the architect. Since such will have now taken into account at least another 3 or 4 hundred thousand dollars will have to be provided for, and very probably when this fireproof necessity is decided upon it will be found that the whole of the plans will have to be recast and then "extras" which no one could calculate on will have to be met.

Before people vote on the bylaw they should know whether the building is to be fireproof or not and whether the extra sum necessary to cover that necessity has been included. The architect's design is one that calls for no comment, as its prototype is to be seen on a smaller scale in the church on the corner of College-street and Spadina-avenue.

A new court house is required and if the building is fireproof the people will vote for it, if not the people will assuredly vote against such a useless expenditure on a building lacking such an essential demand. TAXPAYER.

Toronto, 15th May, 1889.

The New City Hall.

Editor World: In old times, when a monarch had conquered a territory and commenced to levy exactions on the inhabitants, he never was at his ease till he built himself a grand palace to do it in. So our council, who are, I think, about the most oppressive tyrants known, considering how much they take and how little they give, mean to do when they erect the big City Hall. Or is it that they can no longer cram any more of their friends into the little one? If they fill the big one as they do this we shall have an army to pay indeed.

Comparing Toronto with other cities where a different class of people administer affairs, it is fair to say that considering the great revenue now derived from streets which were fields a year or two ago, there should be plenty of money in our treasury and light taxation. But the very contrary is the case. Assessors are instructed year by year to heighten the assessment, till houses which ten years ago were taxed moderately are now taxed double. Take in connection with this the fact that the city has been overbuilt and that thousands of houses are now to let, it is no time to increase debt and taxation. The city hall bylaw should be voted down and a moderately sized court house built for a low figure. It is time a stop was put to municipal extravagance. People say: "It is for the credit of the city." When his tax bill comes round I never knew one of them anxious to increase it for the credit of the city.

Toronto, May 15, 1889. R. W. PHIPPS.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Meeting of the Conference of the Methodist Church.

VICTORIA, May 15.—The British Columbia Conference of the Methodist Church began its third session at 9 o'clock this morning in the Pandora-street Church in this city, Rev. Dr. Carman, General Superintendent, in the chair. The transfers to and from the conferences having been reported and recorded, the voting for president and secretary was proceeded with, which resulted in the election of Rev. Joseph Hall for president and Rev. C. Bryant for secretary, the election being decided by the first ballot in both cases.

A Victory For the Antis.

COBOURG, May 15.—At the annual meeting of the Alumni Association of the Victoria University, these officers were elected: President, H. McMullen, M.A., Picton; first vice-president, Dr. Downey, St. Catharines; second vice-president, N. Gordon Bizelow, Toronto; secretary-treasurer, John Hayden, B.A., Cobourg. Wm. Kerr, Q.C., was re-elected vice-chancellor and Messrs. H. Hough and C. A. Master, M.A., of Toronto, were chosen for the vacant seats in the senate. They are anti-federationists.

A Monomaniac's Crime.

INDIANAPOLIS, May 15.—John Shroder, a grocer and saloonkeeper, this morning walked up behind his wife as she was standing with their 2 months-old infant in her arms and cut her throat from ear to ear with a razor, killing her. The baby was seriously injured by the mother falling upon it. Shroder then walked across the street to a vacant lot, where he cut his own throat and died in a few minutes. He was suffering from an insane freak and imagined his family would come to want, though he was in comfortable circumstances.

A Unique Exception.

BUFFALO, May 15.—The constitution of the United States and the constitution of the State of New York provide that no "cruel or unusual" punishment for crime shall be inflicted. When Judge Childs yesterday sentenced the Kemmler, the murderer of Tillie Zieler, to death by being executed by electricity, Attorney Hatch, for the prisoner, excepted to the sentence on the ground that it was cruel and unusual. The exception was noted and will be raised in the higher courts.

A Blaze at Forest.

FOREST, May 15.—A fire broke out at 8 o'clock this evening in the frame building occupied by R. Stirrett as a general store, caused by the explosion of a lamp in the upper story. The flames were confined pretty much to the upper flat. The building is owned by Mr. Wm. Stonehouse and is insured in the Gore District, Montreal. The stock, part of which was saved, is insured in the Gore District for $3000, Ontario Mutual $4000, Royal Canadian $1000.

Ferry-boat Collision.

PHILADELPHIA, May 15.—The ferryboat Peerless plying between here and Gloucester, N.J., collided with the Philadelphia and Reading ferryboat J. S. Schultz to-day, badly injuring five young women passengers on the Schultz and carrying away a portion of the ladies' cabin. Flora Jackson and Annie Quinby are badly injured and will probably die.

Visited by the G.M.

INGERSOLL, May 15.—Queen Victoria Lodge C.O.O.F., M.U., Ingersoll, was paid a fraternal visit by G.M. Bro. Henry Richards, who made a brilliant address on the inauguration of the great Manchester Unity, together with the rapidity of the growth of this society in the Dominion during the last year. Mr. Cursley was initiated. A proposition was also laid on the table.

Mr. Thompson, familiarly known as the "Lion Basso," who sings in the Pavilion to-night with the famous Tennesseeans, is said to possess the finest bass voice in America.

More Breweries Anglicised.

NEWARK, N.J., May 15.—Two more breweries here have been added to the English syndicate—the ale brewery of D. M. Lyon & Son, and the beer brewery of Franz Kustner. Six hundred thousand dollars was offered for the Balantine Company's brewery, but it was refused. A brewery in Jersey City, Hopwell's in New York and two in Ohio are said to be in the combine.

The Fisk Jubilee Singers and the Original Famous Tennesseeans who sing in the Gardens to-night are the strongest company of colored vocalists in existence.

Robbed by Footpads.

MONTREAL, May 15.—While Miss Leona Fontainbleau, a member of T. J. Farron's Help Company, now playing at the Theatre Royal, was returning from the theatre last night she was knocked down in Craig-street and robbed of a small hand valise containing a gold watch, chain and other trinkets, presents from her mother.

Only 25 cts. to hear the Famous Tennesseeans in the Pavilion to-night.

A Smuggler's Schooner Seized.

QUEBEC, May 15.—The customs authorities seized at St. Thomas a small schooner on a charge of smuggling liquor. The vessel has been brought here and placed in charge of the guardians. A quantity of spirits were found on board concealed under a lot of shingles.

Hear Mr. Thompson, the "Lion Basso," with the famous Tennesseeans to-night in the Pavilion. 25 and 50 cents.

Catholic Knights.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., May 15.—The Supreme Council of the Catholic Knights of America met here yesterday. The total disbursements during the year were $960,000. Increase of branches during the year, 420. Total members, 17,782.

FOLKS OF HIGH DEGREE.

LABOUCHERE GOSSIPS ABOUT KINGS AND QUEENS.

The Irish Leaders Take Kindly to the Suggested Appointment of the Prince of Wales as Viceroy—Fighting in Sumatra—General Cable News.

LONDON, May 15.—The recovery of the King of the Netherlands has been a great surprise to his subjects. More than half the well-to-do families of the country had made ready their mourning and immense quantities of black cloth had been purchased for hanging the churches and other public edifices directly the King had expired. But now that His Majesty has undergone a species of mental and physical resurrection, all these funeral trappings are useless and their purchasers are almost as much depressed as they would have been had the worst occurred.

The Duchess of Marlboro was the first lady of the ordinary circle to be presented at the last drawing room. This was owing to the fact that her mother-in-law, the dowager duchess, who accompanied and presented her, possesses the high privilege of the entree for life. In consequence thereof, two duchesses were able to enter by the entrance reserved for the ambassadors, to escape the crowding of the salons, and to get to the Queen immediately after the diplomatic corps had been received.

I hear that the Queen is very far from pleased at the prospect of having to defray all the expenses of the Shah's visit to London, which will amount to at least $125,000, as he intends to stay for nearly a month. The Marquis of Salisbury has been sounded as to whether it will not be possible to make the country pay at least the greater portion of the cost, inasmuch as the Shah is a state guest. The Shah, who will be accompanied by a suite of 65 persons, will occupy the Belgian rooms at Buckingham Palace, which are one of the best suites.

The German Emperor will be present at the Goodwood races at least on two days.

The indefatigable Princess Clementine of Orleans has been endeavoring to arrange for a marriage between her youngest and favorite son, Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria, and the Princess Helene d'Orleans, the second daughter of the Comptes de Paris.

A German merchant discovered during the recent fair at Nijni Novgorod that as far as the turquoises offered for sale by Persian traders there are concerned, these stones are nearly all false. These rogues have been imposing paste upon their customers for the last six or seven years. It is estimated that out of about 100,000 turquoises which have been sold during that period not more than 10,000 have been genuine stones. The imitation is described as marvelously clever. One mode of selling turquoises at Nijni Novgorod is curious. On the payment of a fixed sum the person is allowed to plunge his hand into a bagful of them, and to become the possessor of a handful.

My Paris correspondent writes: "At Mme. Marchesi's annual concert for the benefit of divers charities at Montmarie on Saturday at the Hotel Centennial, the impresarios had an embarrass de richesse. Mme. Stoddart and Mme. Elliott sang charmingly together, but the success of the evening was Mme. Eames' sympathetic rendering of Fleurez mes Tux, and the brilliant singing of the Printemps Nouveau. The last named song was encored twice." HENRY LABOUCHERE.

The Appointment Would be Popular.

LONDON, May 15.—It is said that the Prince of Wales has intimated that he would not be averse to residing in Dublin for half the time, and that this hint has been widely circulated as evidence that His Royal Highness will be the next Viceroy of Ireland. All the Irish leaders who have as yet publicly expressed their opinion on the subject avow their belief that the Prince of Wales would exercise his power with more fairness and generosity toward the Irish peasantry than any man who has yet served or is likely to be asked by the Tories to serve in the capacity of Viceroy, and his acceptance of the office, even for the brief period mentioned, would give general satisfaction.

The League and Crime.

LONDON, May 15.—Father Egan testified before the Parnell Commission to-day that the leading men of Loughrea belonged to the branch League. No serious crime had been committed from the time of the formation of the Loughrea branch until it was suppressed except the murder of Policeman Lynton. This crime had been condemned at a meeting of the League and witness had denounced it from the altar of his church.

The Welsh Dis-Establishment Bill.

LONDON, May 15.—In the House of Commons last evening Mr. Dillwyn's motion in favor of the dis-establishment of the Church in Wales was rejected by a vote of 234 to 231. Most of the Unionists voted with the majority. Mr. Chamberlain voted with the minority. Mr. Gladstone and Lord Hartington were absent.

A Ritualist Defeat.

LONDON, May 15.—An important decision has been rendered by the Archbishop of Canterbury in the case of the Bishop of Lincoln, who is under prosecution for ritualistic practices. The Bishop's friends, and indeed all ritualists, claim that the law of Henry VIII., snapping the last link which bound the Established Church to Rome, deprived the archbishops of the power which they exercised over all ecclesiastical dignitaries within their supervision, and they attest that no legislation has since restored that control or assigned it a certain residence in any Church Court. The Archbishop, however, has adopted the contention of the Low Church party in the Communion, and asserted his right to dispose of Dr. King's case as he sees fit. It is believed by some that Parliament will yet have to settle, by unambiguous legislation, the uncertainty as to what constitutes a final Court of Appeal in matters affecting the Established Church. There is only one thing certain at this stage of the proceedings, and that is that the fight will be long, bitter and costly.

Able but an Atheist.

LONDON, May 15.—Herr Gnauth, a prominent councillor of Giesson, Germany, and widely known as a leading atheist, has been elected mayor of that city. The religious element have made a great outcry against his taking his seat, and it is doubtful whether the Government will confirm his election. He was elected by his fellow-councillors without a dissentient vote and solely upon the ground of his administrative fitness.

Insulted the Crown Prince.

LONDON, May 15.—A potter at Gross Litcherfeld has been sentenced to a month's imprisonment at hard labor for insulting Crown Prince William, aged 7 years. The young prince, accompanied by his nurse and one of his brothers, was passing the potteries in a carriage when the potter, standing by the roadside, applied an insulting epithet to him.

Fierce Fighting in Sumatra.

LONDON, May 15.—War is reported to have broken out again between the Dutch and Malays in Sumatra. Immense numbers of natives attacked the port of Atchen, but were repulsed with the loss of 160 killed. The garrison lost five men killed and 25 wounded. Reinforcements have been sent.

Perrin to Get Off Easy.

PARIS, May 15.—The case of Perrin, who fired a shot at President Carnot, has been sent back to the Police Tribunal. A light sentence will probably be imposed.

Paris Night Call on Dan.

BERLIN, May 15.—Several mine owners in Essen and Dortmund have conceded the demands of their employes and the men have resumed work. It is estimated that if the strikers are able to hold out for a fortnight they will paralyse the gas works in Paris.

At the conference yesterday between the miners' deputation and the Emperor, the spokesman of the deputation stated that the miners attached the greatest importance to obtaining an eight hour shift. The Emperor specially enjoined the miners not to hinder comrades from working.

A Judge for 60 Years.

VIENNA, May 15.—Judge Von Schwerling, President of the Supreme Court of Austria, completed his sixtieth year in office to-day. Emperor Francis Joseph, accompanied by a large number of high officials, waited upon the judge in person and tendered congratulations.

Paris News.

PARIS, May 15.—Le Paris says that the Government has decided to introduce in Parliament a bill to aid the Panama Canal Company.

The Eiffel tower was opened to-day and was thronged with visitors.

Brigands Hanged at Sofia.

SOFIA, May 15.—Five brigands were hanged in the court yard of the prison here to-day. They were led separately to the scaffold and were hanged in succession. Each was enveloped in a bag passed over the head and reaching to the waist. Their struggles were prolonged several minutes. A mob broke the cordon surrounding the jail and the gendarmes had great difficulty in keeping them from the scaffold.

The Shah Gorgeously Received in Russia.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 15.—The Shah of Persia, who is now journeying from Teheran to St. Petersburg, is meeting with a grand reception in Russia. In Erivan the streets through which he passed were lined with troops, and at several points there were triumphal arches bearing the inscription "To the Shah's sacred person." The entire town was brilliantly illuminated at night.

AMBITIOUS CITY NEWS.

The Junction Cut Inquest Resumed—The P. M. G.'s Competitors.

HAMILTON, May 15.—The inquest into the circumstances of the late accident on the Grand Trunk Railway was resumed at 3 o'clock this afternoon at No. 3 police station. The coroner and jury are about tired out, and it is altogether likely that the investigation will soon be brought to a close.

Several agencies are being formed here to compete with the post office in delivering city letters and parcels. One agency has offered the Masonic lodges of the city to deliver their notices at 75 cents per hundred. Another has two deliveries a day for letters and charges only 1 cent each.

The Hamilton Fertilising and Casing Company were charged at the Police Court this morning with maintaining a nuisance at their premises. Considerable evidence was given as to the unpleasant odor which arises from their factory and the case was adjourned for a week.

The summer carnival will be held August 19-23. The city council has granted $1750 towards the fund.

Rev. Mr. Crawford of Trinity Church, Brockville,