

## ..The Planet..

S. STEPHENSON, — Proprietor.

## SHAMROCKS FROM QUEEN ALEXANDRA.

Warm-hearted Irishmen the world over will be pleased with the action of Queen Alexandra in sending shamrocks to the Irish soldiers of the King. It recalls to their minds that Queen Victoria gave orders a year ago that Irish soldiers should wear shamrocks in honour of St. Patrick. Queen Alexandra will get a warm welcome when she goes to Ireland, and if she should come to Canada, what a reception she would get from Canadian Irishmen.

## THE WAR GOES ON.

General Botha's rejection of the peace terms proposed by Lord Kitchener will be learned with regret in Britain and throughout the Empire. It is not improbable that Botha agreed to consider terms of peace and secured an armistice for this purpose only—for the purpose of giving the commandos a chance to recuperate and concentrate. But whatever his motives may have been, his decision to continue the present guerrilla warfare, which is devastating his country, cannot be regarded as either heroic or patriotic. The result is inevitable; by continuing in the field the Boers only delay that result for a little.

Kitchener will now be justified in resorting to the severest measures permitted by the military code to bring about a speedy termination of the war.

## THE RIGHTS OF THE PRESS.

The proposal to exclude the London Times from the British House of Commons for having printed the Government's civil list, showing the proposed allowances to the King, recalls the fact that one of the most remarkable rows that ever disturbed the dignity of the House was provoked by a proposal to enquire into the expenditures and allowances of the crown. The threat to exclude the Times will probably not be taken seriously. Not so very long ago, comparatively speaking, it was an offence against the laws of England to report the debates in the House—indeed, we are not sure that the law does not remain un-repealed to this day—but times have changed, and now reporting of debates is not only permitted but is considered, and properly so, an important feature of popular government. It is probable that any attempt to exclude the Times would provoke such a row that the end would not be heard of it for many a day. It is doubtless true, too, as the Daily Mail says, that "should the Speaker, as he certainly won't, decide to have the Times reporter thrown out of the House, our contemporary would have no difficulty in employing further honorable members or officials to supply it with such news as it may desire to publish."

## STATE CONTROL.

The London Daily Mail publishes an interview with Hon. Mr. Mulock, as reproduced in The Planet of yesterday, and reports him as having a project for a direct and exclusive cable connection between England and Canada by which messages can be sent at half the present rates.

So far as the landing of wires on Canadian and Newfoundland soil is concerned, the majority of the cable companies make more direct connections with British North America than with any other part of America.

Mr. Mulock, therefore, must mean something more than direct connection. The probability is that he has in mind the establishment of a state-owned Atlantic cable on the same plan as the Pacific cable. This would be in line with Sir Sanford Fleming's plan for state-owned cables connecting all parts of the British Empire. It would undoubtedly result in a great reduction in cable rates and bring Canada and the United Kingdom into closer touch. It seems to be the natural sequence of the state-owned cable between Canada and Australia.

It may be presumed that Mr. Mulock's idea is to have the proposed new Atlantic cable jointly owned by Canada and the United Kingdom. It is not probable that the Australian colonies would be asked to contribute to the cost of it, as it would not touch Australian soil, but it would benefit Australians by reducing rates between Britain and Australia, and perhaps Mr. Mulock may sound the Australian Government on the question of taking an interest in it when he visits the Commonwealth. In any case, they could not be expected to pay a very large share of the cost, in view of the fact that Australasia pays more than Canada toward the cost of the Pacific cable. But whether Australasia should have a share in the ownership or not, the business between Britain and the Australasian colonies would help to make the line pay.

One effect of the cheaper rates would be the publication by British newspapers of much more Canadian news than they do at present. The British people often get distorted views of Canadian affairs owing to

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the brief reports their newspapers publish. Even the editors of British newspapers are often misled by the cabled reports of Canadian affairs.

## GREAT FORTUNES.

It has become the fashion to regard great fortunes such as those piled up by successful manufacturers and business men in the United States as an unmitigated evil, says the Ottawa Citizen. No doubt, in a sense it is an evil but one that has existed since prehistoric times and will always exist. Social economists to the contrary notwithstanding. In the stone age, the hunter who could fashion the most cunning club or stone projectile and followed the chase with the greatest skill or was most sagacious or valiant in war won wealth in pelts or plunder and rose above his fellows. In these latter days the accumulation of fortunes has reached an unprecedented stage under a government which gives the freest scope to individual effort, and it came to pass that a young man, starting with nothing but a good constitution, a pair of hands and feet and a brain to direct them can amass a fortune of \$250,000,000 as Mr. Carnegie has done.

But all evils work their own cure. There comes a time when a man is satisfied with accumulating wealth and he turns for relief for the other pleasure of spending it. He recognizes that if he holds on to it until death parts him from his millions, others will have that pleasure, which rightfully belongs to him, and a huge sum may be frittered away and wasted without leaving any adequate benefit to the world as a memorial to the man whose sagacity and toil got it together. Carnegie is the first man of great wealth who seems to have thoroughly grasped this new idea, and he is nobly carrying it into effect. Al-

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of cod-liver oil is the means of life, and enjoyment of life to thousands: men women and children.

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