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LONDON, TUESDAY, SEPT. 25.

THE CANAL JOKE.

Isn't it about time the Free Press dropped its Huron-Erie canal non-sense? Having been hoaxed itself, why continue trying to hoax the public?

The whole affair is a practical joke, the invention of a little coterie of wags in this city, who probably wished to test the limits of newspaper and public credulity. The use of the name of a prominent citizen of Sarnia, to give an appearance of good faith to the story, was, however, unwarranted, and he has disclaimed all responsibility.

Of course it would be a bonanza for this city if some one would build a \$60,000,000 canal past its doors. It would be also a capital thing if ocean steamers could sail right up the Thames and tie up at the foot of Dundas street. There are a lot of things the people of London would like to have, but they have some practical questions to deal with and are not flying kites.

IMPROMPTU LAWMAKERS.

The British North America act is a fetish, like the American tariff. We are, all of us, "standpatters," afraid to change it, for fear that there will be no end to the needed amendments. Is it not time to wipe it out altogether?—Toronto World.

If all the fathers of Confederation were alive today they would say that they builded better than they knew. The B. N. A. act has done its work well. It has not outlived its usefulness, and might not be chloroformed so easily and cheerfully as the World assumes.

The B. N. A. act is a contract, but solemn obligations of this sort do not weigh against the great designs of the impromptu school of statesmanship. The World could no doubt produce at a moment's notice a brand new constitution, with all the modern improvements. A genius for improvisation is one of the gifts of a heaven-born reformer like Mr. W. F. Maclean. Other men have to grope their way through problems which are illuminated for him by the flash of intuition. His specialty lies in finding short-cuts to the millennium; he is well for him that the invention of an up-to-date organic law for this country is a matter of inspiration, instead of reason, or he might halt before the task.

The fathers of Confederation thought they had made a watertight, copper-bottomed, fireproof, time-lock constitution, but they were soon disillusioned. The B. N. A. act has been in the courts, off and on, ever since, and it has been gradually licked into working shape, until the federal and provincial governments know pretty nearly where they stand. Now after spending forty years in getting it to fit snugly, Mr. Maclean coolly asks us to throw it on the scrap-heap, and go through the same performance again. No one doubts his ability to improvise the most impeccable constitution ever put on paper, but it would have to go through its legal jumps just the same, and the Maclean wouldn't be the ringmaster.

Mr. Maclean is asking the people of Canada to do many new and wonderful things all at once, but they draw the line at letting him throw the B. N. A. act into the melting pot.

THE POWER COMMISSION'S THIRD REPORT.

The report of the first Ontario hydro-electric commission, dealing with the water powers of the Georgian Bay district, cannot be squared with the policy of the Ontario Government, as applied in the lease of Healey's Falls.

The commissioners make these recommendations in their report to the Lieutenant-Governor:

"We respectfully submit that in the thickly-settled portions of this district water powers are scarce and limited, and valuable. A demand exists now for all the power which can be conveniently produced; in the near future demands will be made, in all probability, on the water powers of the Muskoka River for transmission to supplement the available power of the Severn and Beaver Rivers. It therefore is imperative that the water powers of the Severn, Muskoka or other rivers not yet leased by the crown be retained for the use of the many municipalities which must for all time depend on these sources for whatever electrical energy they may require for town water power, and should any lease of water power be granted in the future, such lease should specify the rates at which the hydro-electric power commission may obtain electric power in a condition and quantity at the generating plants ready for transmission, or at the point of delivery in the various municipalities.

"This is particularly applicable with respect to the Georgian Bay towns, where, if any widespread benefit is to be obtained, the concerted action of all the municipalities interested is necessary, as a private company would be interested in selling as much of the power as possible in those towns located near the water power, at rates which would approach as

nearly as possible to coal-produced rates; thus giving a maximum of profit to the company, and a minimum of benefit to the customers, leaving the more distant towns for all time without any benefit."

The recommendation that any person or company leasing water powers in the district shall reserve electrical energy for the municipalities at a stated price, suggests the agreement between the Ross Government and the Electrical Development Company. The latter, in consideration of a second franchise for the development of 125,000-horsepower, was required to set apart half of that amount for the use of the municipalities, at a rate to be fixed by the Government. This arrangement was canceled by the present administration.

In the Healey's Falls lease there is no reservation in the interests of the municipalities. The developing company may distribute the electrical energy without regard to localities. If factories should be erected in the vicinity of the falls, capable of using all the power developed, the towns in the district must do without, or one town might consume the full amount, to the exclusion of the others. The present hydro-electric commission, the Premier now explains, is given power to fix the rates, but the commission is merely a sub-committee of the cabinet.

It is anomalous that the report of the first hydro-electric commission on the Georgian Bay water powers is signed by a member of the very Government which has adopted a different policy. The only explanation must be that Mr. Beck was not consulted, or was overruled, in the framing of the Healey's Falls lease.

The addition of "new provinces to Confederation will make the Canadian emblem on the British flag look more than ever like a quarter section of a crazy quilt. It is time that a simple and intelligible device replaced it.

The manager of the Industrial Exhibition explains that the American flag was not hoisted on the official flagstaff, but on a staff constructed by the Canadian branch of an American firm. He points out that the royal standard is hoisted down at Buckingham Palace, and the Stars and Stripes hoisted in its place, as a method of honoring the United States. Some Canadian newspapers and political organizations have been positively childish in their treatment of an insignificant episode.

PROSPERITY'S SHORTAGE.

[Hartford Times.]

Probably no such widespread shortage as was ever known in the United States as may now be found.

The agricultural interests of the country have been experiencing a great shortage of help and the total supply of farmhands is far below the demand. Many of the great manufacturing concerns, notably in some of the steel and iron districts, are handicapped by a shortage of labor.

The railroads are embarrassed by a shortage of cars, and the facilities for the prompt moving of the great crops are strikingly inadequate. The money market is suffering from a shortage of funds with which to conduct the tremendous commerce of the country.

These various shortages, which are all pronounced and which might be supplemented by others, are born of the abounding prosperity which the United States is experiencing in this record-breaking year. The volume of agencies and of accommodations needed to handle the business which this country is now transacting from day to day is enormous.

MAKING IT FIT.

[Harper's Weekly.]

When Dean Swift was called to the living of Laracor he inaugurated the custom of reading prayers on Wednesday and Friday. At the first Wednesday service he waited in vain for any one to appear except his clerk, Roger. At length he began, "Dearest beloved Roger, the Scriptures moveeth you and me in sundry places," and so proceeded to the end of the service.

WOE IN OTTAWA.

[Hamilton Times.]

There is woe in Ottawa. Six o'clock dinner, the last remaining mark of distinction between the true aristocrat and the vulgar Canadian who gaze at "Sassley" from without, has been obliterated, abolished—cooked, so to speak, seen that the "cockades" and "waistcoats" and "dishwashers" objected to fuddling over dinners when they should be titivating themselves to welcome Willie dear, and they delivered an ultimatum. Henceforward Ottawa will dine at noon. Some time parliamentarians will do their work in the daytime, too, instead of getting to work when people should be getting ready for bed.

THE BRITISH AUTOMOBILE BOOM.

[New York Sun.]

In the British automobile industry \$30,000,000 is now invested and 20,000 operatives are employed. The present demand is unprecedented; so great indeed that the home factories cannot fill it, and supplement their output by importing foreign cars and parts. In the first seven months of this year more than 3,000 foreign automobiles were imported, costing \$5,000,000, and also \$5,000,000 worth of parts of machines. In the fiscal year ended June 30, 1906, the United States sold Great Britain \$348,995 worth of automobiles, but did not import any from that country.

THE DOMESTIC HELP PROBLEM.

[Detroit Free Press.]

Evidently the modern servant girl won't wash; she won't clean house; she wants \$5 a week and "found," she insists on staying out nights; she plays the "piano;" must entertain her beaux in style and won't sleep in the attic. The reason is not far to seek. Side

by side with these "wants" are flamboyant "ads." calling for girls at grobe wages while learning to operate sewing machines in modern factories; girls to put up pills at good wages; girls to do this and to do that in well-lighted, humanely-conducted factories with all the glamor of factory life thrown in.

SCARCELY.

[Chicago Tribune.]

Member of Investigating Committee—Have you ever had any confidential relations with the beef trust?

Witness—No, sir. I have an uncle and two cousins working for it, but they've never told me a blamed thing.

HONORS EVEN.

[New York Sun.]

Knicker—In India more than 20,000 persons a year die from snake bites.

Bocker—Well, I suppose as many die from the cure.

COSTLY RIVALRY.

[Chicago Record-Herald.]

England has just launched the longest armored cruiser in the world. Germany may be expected to launch a longer one as soon as circumstances will permit.

GRAY HAIR IS POPULAR.

[New York Dispatch.]

New York society women and stage folk are taking kindly to a robe which has been quite busy during recent years. It is the chromophage. He makes your hair white before your time. In other words, he will turn your October brown hair or your raven locks into silvery threads before the wrinkles begin to appear on your brow.

The handsome actor who has those white hairs on his temple that the women admire so is full of the chromophages. Bald-headed men are immune from the microbes. He only attacks the hair, and a man without hair need not worry about the chromophages. For several years it was thought that a process of the blood killed the coloring matter of the hair cells, but scalpologists in New York combat that theory. They say it is the chromophage. The microbe does not like heat, and for that reason the woman who uses the curling tongs is less likely to have gray hair than the one who puts her hair up in papers. Gray hair and white hair are now very popular, and it would not be surprising were some enterprising person to cultivate the chromophage.

MUSICAL CLASSIFICATION.

[Cleveland Leader.]

Teacher—How many kinds of poetry are there?

Pupil—Three.

Teacher—What are they?

Pupil—Lyric, dramatic and epidemic.

MODEST.

[Tit Bits.]

"I'll give you a position as clerk to start with," said the merchant, "and pay you what you are worth. Is that satisfactory?"

"Oh, perfectly," replied the college graduate; "but—do you think the firm can afford it?"

"FIGHTING BEFORE LADIES."

[New York World.]

The Hon. Thomas Sharkey, refereeing a lightweight bout at the Englewood carnival, rebuked a too-energetic pugilist. "Remember," he said, severely, "you are fighting before ladies!"

The refining influence of women upon all conflicts, from polo to politics, is a pleasant theory. A greater man than Sharkey once disputed it. Telling how the wife of an opponent had been admitted to a famous ring-side, he said:

"Refrain influence of woman, huh! I'd got him good and licked when she sings out 'Give it to him!' and in less'n a minute he'd splunk me in the shin."

Women watched the fiercest jousts of helmeted knights in the days of chivalry, when broken necks were not uncommon. They witnessed the combats of gladiators, as they still do the bull-fights in Spain and Mexico. They take joy from the hot fights of the football field, a more prolific source of serious injury than the prize-ring. Women are the cause of most private warfare, as land is the cause of most national wars.

EMPIRE BUILDERS.

[Hamilton Herald.]

The names of Orontyatekha, Hon. George E. Foster and Hon. Dr. Monteth may yet be inscribed in golden letters in some future western temple of fame as the names of the great trio of Foresters who united to build up the Canadian West by speculating in western land.

TOUGHER STILL.

[Half Holiday.]

Diner—Waiter, this is the toughest bit of meat I ever tried to eat.

Waiter—Ah, you should try our roast chicken, sir!

A MODEL OF INDUSTRY.

[Toronto Star.]

Apparently, Rev. Dr. Sutherland is that rare bird on the earth, a man who objects more to seeing his work halved than his wages.

BY LIMITATION.

[Chicago Tribune.]

Canby Dunn—Yes, I was baptized when I was a baby.

Y. Knott—Well, you'd better have it renewed. It's expired in your case.

SUPPOSITION CORRECT.

[Chicago Tribune.]

"I suppose," said the man with the bill, "there's no telling when the colonel will be in?"

"Not by me, sir," loftily responded the colonel's butler.

RELIEF AT LAST.

[Puck.]

Housekeeper—I hear your brother, who died in California, left you \$1,000, Dinah. That will be a great help to you.

Washday—Deedly it will, miss! Ah! he's been needin' a pianer, an' a phonograph, an' a oil paintin' ob mah-sin in a gilt frame fo' yeahs, an' now, bress de good Lord, Ah kin hab 'em!

RAINS DAMPEN ARDOR OF CUBANS

Insurgents Incline to Seek Shelter in Armistice—Taft's Proposals.

Havana, Sept. 24.—Heavy rains are prevailing and the insurgents are inclined to seek the shelter of the armistice during the continuance of the peace negotiations. Heretofore there was merely a verbal agreement without any definite terms, but a document was prepared and taken yesterday to the camps of Gens, Guerra and Castillo, and these chiefs attached their signatures to it.

The document was signed today by acting Secretary of the Interior Montalvo, in behalf of the Government.

Alarming rumors of the lack of the discipline in the insurgent camps were brought to Secretary Taft and Assistant State Secretary Bacon today, at a time when the prospects of peace looked the brightest.

These reports came from the most confidential sources, and whether full credence is placed in them or not, the confidence of the American mediators in the insurgent leaders and their ability to guarantee the conduct of their forces has been shaken.

Despite the truce the insurgents unquestionably are preparing for continued warfare.

The following is the text of Secretary Taft's armistice, as agreed upon absolutely by the insurgents, and on one condition by the Government officials:

"A truce or suspension of arms having been decreed by the President of Cuba, and proclaimed to the forces of the Liberal party by their leaders, I, as intermediary for the purpose of arranging a permanent peace, have the honor to request the opposing parties specifically to agree during the truce to refrain from all acts of hostility, and to desist from all military operations of a hostile character, and all preparatory movements or maneuvers which could not have been performed during the continuance of hostilities, or which would have been performed under the flag of the opposing party."

1. No movements of troops shall take place on either side without a notification to the opposing authorities, viz., the secretary of the interior of Cuba, Alfred Zayas, representing the Liberal party, and the American peace commission.

2. This peace shall be effective throughout Cuba.

3. If either party violates any of the expressed conditions, the opposing shall not take hostile action until after a complaint notification to the peace commission.

4. Hostilities shall not be resumed for at least 24 hours after notification to the peace commission.

It is requested that acceptance of these conditions be made in writing to me (Signed), Very respectfully, Wm. H. Taft, secretary of war of the United States.

The condition which the secretary of state, Montalvo, made to signing the document was that he should notify Secretary Taft instead of Senator Zayas (president of the Liberal party), if the Government desired to move troops.

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Grand Fall Opening of Millinery

AT J. H. CHAPMAN & CO.'S

Tomorrow, September 26th,
and Following Days

Welcome It is the largest opening in our history, and it is the best. Come and pass a pleasant hour with us.

The Fashion Show all over the store brings into prominence a richly interesting collection of new fall merchandise—Dress Goods, Silks, Dresses, Suits, Coats, Wraps, Skirts, Waists and Furs. Now is your time to see these perfectly rounded Fall Stocks.

J. H. Chapman & Co.
126, 128, 128½ DUNDAS STREET.

PRINCESS HENRY FEARS FOR ENA

Sorry That Her Daughter Made the Match With Spanish Monarch.

London, Sept. 24.—The intimate friends of Princess Henry of Battenberg declare that she is now beginning to regret more than ever that her daughter, Princess Ena, made the Spanish royal match. Under the glamor of the brilliant doings in Madrid, and carried away more or less by the extremely apparent devotion of the lovers to each other, the after considerations did not loom very large.

When she left her daughter in Madrid, however, there was a most affecting farewell, and again at Cowes in August some of the scenes between mother and daughter were most touching. For it has been borne in upon Princess Henry that the opposition to Princess Ena at the Spanish court is not only not subsiding, but is increasing. This was prophesied by the Empress Eugenie.

Almost everyone of any importance in Spain was opposed to the union of King Alfonso with the British princess. Added to this there is the constant manifestation of an anarchistic feeling in Spain, and the question of the safety of her daughter is now giving Princess Henry frequent anxiety.

During the recent cruises with Sir Thomas Lipton the princess insisted upon being in frequent touch with the telegraph offices, and many of her telegraphic messages were exchanged between her royal highness and the queen of Spain. In the Isle of Wight a good many visits from Queen Ena by yacht and by train are being looked forward to.

There are tangible grounds for the revival of rumor that a marriage is to take place next spring between the new Marquis of Anglesoy and Princess Patricia of Connaught. The young people have met on several occasions lately, and they get on particularly well together.

The Duke of Connaught, father of Princess Patricia, is not only a keen-sighted man of the world, but also a good father, or he might have been tempted a little while back to try to coerce his daughter into marrying King Alfonso.

She was the first choice given the young King of Spain among British princesses. When the marriage was proposed to her she shuddered at the suggestion. She threw herself down on the floor and screamed and declared that she would "not marry that horrid little man." The Duke of Connaught is a man of sound common sense and he never pressed it.

But it isn't certain that you will find yours sins out if the police do not lend a hand.

DEATH MYSTERY AT SYRACUSE, N. Y.

Poisoning and Incendiarism Figure in the Case—Small Boy Victim.

Brewster, N. Y., Sept. 25.—A series of incendiary fires and the death of a baby by poison has caused a rigid investigation to be commenced by the county authorities.

The victim is Harry Washington Winslip, the 2-year-old son of Herbert Winslip, a wealthy farmer who has lived for twenty years at Cole's Corners. The members of the household were his wife and three sons, aged 15, 9 and 2 years old respectively, and Jennie Birch—a 14-year-old girl, who has been with the family for three years as a helper to Mrs. Winslip.

A few days ago Mr. Winslip went to Otego on business. The day after he left his cow stables and barn were burned to the ground. The next day someone attempted to burn the house. Six attempts were made throughout the day. One fire was discovered in a closet, one in bed ticking in an upper part of the house, and another blaze started in a trunk in the garret.

Jennie Birch discovered most of the fires and gave the alarm.

Jennie Birch yesterday came in from the yard with a peach, which she said she had just picked from a tree in the orchard. Harry Washington Winslip, 2 years old, asked for the fruit, and Jennie peeled it and gave him a portion, keeping part for herself.

The child had barely swallowed his first bite of the peach when he fell to the floor in violent convulsions. Jennie immediately began to complain of a pain in the stomach, and she, too, fell to the floor, and her body bent backward like a bow, her head and heels almost touching.

Dr. Birdsall, of Patterson, N. Y., was summoned by telephone. He found both children in convulsions, with all the symptoms of strychnine poisoning