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LONDON, ONTARIO.

Wednesday, May 1, 1907.

A LOST WITNESS.

An obstacle has been thrown in the way of the conspiracy trial by the mysterious whereabouts of an important witness, Mr. W. T. R. Preston.

This gentleman was, it is well known, the organizer of the electoral machine which did such effective work in various ridings in corrupting electors and manipulating ballot-boxes. It was to escape the consequence of investigation that he was sent to Europe in the employ of the Laurier government. After West Elgin there was a "grand search" for the person who had, on Mr. MacNish's confession, been "sent into the riding" to play criminal tricks in his behalf.

Mr. Aylesworth, the attorney in the case, forced Mr. MacNish to confess and resign so that bigger men might not be implicated. One of the machine operators, Mr. Duerksen, a person of note, and a ballot-switcher, turned up later in Jamaica. Mr. W. T. R. Preston, being an important ringleader, was sent posthaste to Europe at a high salary as immigration commissioner. He is now very much wanted as a witness in the conspiracy case examined before Mr. Denison in Toronto.

But where is he? Now he is heard of as a letter writer in an English paper boosting South Africa as a better field for the immigrant than the Dominion. He declared that South Africa from the Cape to the Zambesi, was a better country than the Canadian Northwest from Lake Superior to the Rocky Mountains.

This queer saying in a Dominion official was quoted in parliament, yet the government saw no wrong in it. It can see no wrong in anything that Mr. Preston either says or does, he has it, individually and collectively, under such a "spell." He knows so much that he is "master of the administration."

Now that he is wanted to give evidence on a point of more present interest than the relative merits of Canada and South Africa, as fields for settlement, Mr. Preston is not to be found. He may be in China, Japan, or Korea, his present commission covering all those foreign territories. The proverbial bottle of hay is not in it with China as a losing place for an elusive human needle who does not wish to appear in court. But he cannot long escape service if his chief, Sir Richard Cartwright, were to be summoned to tell of his whereabouts. He probably knows.

Every time Mary Manning thinks of coming to London the thought makes her ill. Or are these disappointments mere coincidences?

ENCOURAGE THE BEEF TRADE.

Mr. W. Jackson, M. P. for West Elgin, had some sharp words, and sensible, in the House of Commons lately against the waste of public money in alleged harbor improvements.

In the light of facts, his more recent criticisms of the cattle interest, so far as the Dominion government is concerned, should have weight. Mr. Jackson voices the opinion of many good judges of the situation when he says that the cheese trade is pursued to the detriment of the beef raising industry.

The present competition of the cheese market in England, as yesterday referred to in these columns, should warn our farmers to build less this year on this branch of industry than hitherto, from the ease with which it can be overdone.

The scarcity of farm help is another very strong reason adduced by Mr. Jackson for giving more heed to the perfection of beef cattle, not only for the export trade but for home consumption. It is a common complaint of butchers in our cities that well conditioned beefs are hard to be obtained, that they have to ramble the townships over to secure stock for their own shambles. Why should "the pick of the herds" be sent abroad, and our own people left with culls? They pay the highest price and should get the very best for their money. Why should there be any "pick" if cattle raisers would give the attention to breeding and feeding that they might do, and which the market justifies.

No country in the world is more suitable for grazing than Western Ontario, yet we are told that the Chicago packers are finding a ready market for their fresh beef amongst us.

In such light, the words of Mr. Jackson seem well-timed: "Do not put your energy to the production of cheese to the detriment of the beef trade. The beef trade is an industry that does not require the labor that the making of cheese does. By raising good beef you will increase your revenues by millions of dollars."

If the Dominion government has been remiss in efforts for the improvement of cattle breeds, and the stimulation of the beef raising industry, under the impression that "butter and cheese are everything," the words of Mr. Jackson may set the minister of agriculture thinking.

A GREAT WORK FOR CANADA.

The way in which Canada has taken the lead in agricultural education is the subject of a highly appreciative article in the current fortnightly from that eminent authority, Sir Francis Channing. The work done by the model farming institutions established in Ontario and for the Dominion at large has long since received, it is not overstating it to say, worldwide recognition and approval.

This advanced position must always be associated with the name of London's old and honored representative, Senator Sir John Carling. He was the ardent and far-seeing pioneer in the movement which gave Ontario first, and afterwards, the Dominion schools of agricultural training which are at present unsurpassed in any country.

As agriculture was to be looked upon as the mainstay, Sir John, when minister of agriculture for Ontario in 1897-71, took time by the forelock in public measures for its promotion. A Model Farm and College was begun by him at Mimico, and in the change of administration the plans that he had mapped out were adopted and carried on, although the scene was changed to Guelph. The grand design was not departed from.

As Minister of Agriculture in the Dominion government, Sir John Carling took no time in persuading his colleagues to authorize a similar and larger experiment for the whole country. He became the prime mover in the scheme of experimental farming that has proved a success at Ottawa and at the agricultural stations that are branches in the Northwest, in British Columbia and the Maritime Provinces. The work carried on has been of incalculable benefit to the whole country, well repaying every dollar that has been expended upon it.

It must be a source of great pride and satisfaction to the hon. gentleman to know that his ideas and early struggles in this direction have borne such generous fruit, inasmuch that every land where agriculture is a staple industry looks to Canada as having led the way in assisting and introducing the best methods of farming. That the value of these institutions is recognized by Canadian farmers is proven by the vast correspondence with the department, covering about 40,000 letters each year.

The testimony given by Sir Francis Channing as to the status of Canada in these matters is an indirect recognition of the practical insight and administrative good sense shown by London's venerable citizen, Sir John Carling, while a member of the government of Sir John Macdonald.

Dr. Graham Bell's opinion that the United States will be first to perfect aerial battleships is founded, of course, upon the generally understood fact that the Americans are familiar with hot air.

"PEWEE ARE, MR. SEXTANT."

A minister in a St. Catharines church startled his congregation on Sunday by reminding them that they had been sleeping while he was preaching at his very best. But, it may be asked, was it not the worst still, or worse still, the fault of the sexton? Might it not have been a case of wholesale poisoning by carbonic acid gas?

Preachers, wardens, sextons, et al., have often much to answer for regarding the ventilation of churches. In many of which the winter the windows are scarcely opened from Sunday to Sunday. The atmosphere left over from numerous services becomes at last insupportable. The congregation drop off to sleep one by one into what seems like pleasant slumber. It may be in such case but the sexton is the culprit.

The ill-ventilation of churches and other places of public assemblage in winter time may be due to the overpowering sense of economy in fuel, or the saving of labor in re-heating. Quite as often, no doubt, it should be laid at the door of ignorance or thoughtlessness, about the same thing.

Whichever of these causes such criminality may be owing, it should be corrected along with other spring duties. Before perorating to a sleeping congregation in a way to spoil their Sunday dinners, the preacher might take thought of the responsible caretakers, whether some proper duty had been left undone, and how far he might himself be blameworthy as one with whom hygiene should be a part of necessary education.

There is an old line of verse, the burden of which is "Pewee are, Mr. Sextant." These might be searched up and copied printed for use where congregations are caught napping. In houses where the air is deficient in oxygen, let the preaching or singing be ever so bright and exhilarating, there is excuse for nodding.

Mr. J. S. Willison told the Canadian Club at Toronto that the Senate is merely a party agent. The truth of Mr. Willison's statement is patent to every one. The Liberal leaders have failed utterly to keep their promise of "Senate reform."

A Buffalo capitalist is solicitous for the welfare of the Willam Canal. Or can it be that the Trent Valley or Georgian Bay Canals are spectres that challenge Buffalo trade.

The bye-election in St. John, N. B., is to be brought on at once. London, has been without representation since last November, but there is no word of a bye-election here.

Sir Charles Tupper, full of years, is nevertheless filled with energy. The Nineteenth Century contains a vigorous article from his pen on "The Problem of Empire."

The Western Ontario town without a cannery factory will be the exception shortly. The Canadian garden spot has a wide field for its unequalled products.

If these alleged theatrical combinations were aimed at improving the theatrical productions the public might sit up and take notice.

Just when Toronto is facing a threatened shortage of milk one of the brewers burns down.

The Ottawa spendthrifts voted a cool \$126,000,000 at the session just closed. Comment is needless.

Or was it that Mary Manning discovered she must needs pass close to Hamilton, Ont.

This promises to be a busy day in the capital of the great French Republic. April was cool to the last.

Music and Drama

Combined Evening Recital

Mr. Jordan has arranged a splendid recital for next Saturday evening, in which he will be assisted by Mr. George Fox, violinist, who has just returned from a most successful tour of the southern states. This will be the last appearance of Mr. Fox here this season and as he never fails to draw large audiences wherever he appears, the recital will probably be taxed to the utmost Saturday evening. Miss Grace E. Baldwin, a very promising soprano of Detroit, will also contribute to this interesting recital. Mr. Jordan will introduce some novelties for the organ as well as repeating some of the more popular selections heard before.

Attractive Bill at Bennett's.

Manager Alois has undoubtedly booked the strongest singing bill of the season in Max Witt's Singing Colonnades. There are four of them and each one is possessed of a voice of rare quality. It is seldom that young ladies of their stamp are seen on the stage. Any one of them might successfully venture alone on the concert boards and have splendid success. They are good looking and have charming expression and winsome mannerisms.

But it is, of course, their singing that pleases first of all. Were they to sing throughout the whole programme, their songs would make the audience go into ecstasies. They sing such songs as "Mavourneen" and "Kilnaree" but then as they were never sung before. It has often been said that women are not successful singers because they are not as they were never sung before. They win the highest approval which can be bestowed by the audience, and are the features of this week's good bill, which materially helps to pack the house nightly.

Woodward's seals are an amazing collection of the world's great seals, and are endowed with an intelligence that ranks it with some of the most acute of trained animals. It has been seen in the act of the point of its nose and does seemingly impossible things from the start of the performance to the end.

The Taylor continue to please the audience with their wonderful line of trick shooting. It is not trick shooting but it is as good as a hoax, but because of the marvelous skill displayed. There are a number of other acts on the bill at Bennett's, which will reflect credit on Manager Alois, and as the season draws to a close it seems but right to remind the hundreds of patrons of the theatre of the good things to be seen in the weeks in which the performances. It is not likely that many will let the fleeting opportunity pass them by.

Savage on Automobile Tour
A letter from Harry W. Savage brings the information that in company with Madison Corey he is about to begin in a motor car a tour of Northern England and Scotland, and probably Norway and Sweden. He expects to devote an entire month to this lucrative tour.

In Paris Mr. Savage lingered long enough to get designs for costumes, but decided that he was in the wrong country for that purpose.

"The Parisian idea of costumes for musical plays," he writes, "does not extend beyond tightness."

In Honor of Sam S. Shubert.
Chmielewski, of the Grand Theatre, the artist who decorated the Manhattan Opera House, has just completed two paintings of the late Sam S. Shubert which are almost lifelike enough to be uncanny.

One of these pictures has been sent to Kansas City, where it will be hung in the Sam S. Shubert Memorial Theatre. The other will be hung in the lobby of Daly's Theatre.

The same artist recently finished a portrait in oil of the chorus of the Grand Theatre, which the impresario has presented to his son William.

A Show Worth Applauding.
It is not often that an audience will stay in the theatre and applaud the finale of a performance, but in "The Royal Chef," which comes to the Grand next Saturday, matinee and night, the feature of the last act is one to keep them in their seats until the last curtain, and which always receives an outburst of applause, which we do not wish to miss.

The reason for the show is the rain of confetti which descends all over the stage at the very end of the show. Over 5,000 yards of varied colored confetti or common ribbon paper comes down from the flies, enveloping chorus and girls of the chorus. The confetti is each supplied with several rolls of this confetti, and they throw it out into the audience. The effect is a very pretty one.

Dearth of Comedians.

While the recently increased vaudeville competition is making life pleasant for the manager and is giving the public better shows, the producer of burlesque is scratching his head and wondering where he is going to get his comedians and sister teams. "We have been having a good deal of trouble for some time," said one burlesque manager the other day. The comedians have been slowly and surely getting to be more and more scarce every day, raising their salaries and wanting this thing and that in a way that in the old days a burlesque manager didn't dare refuse. Just as it is, now along comes this vaudeville thing and makes it worse. We are having all kinds of difficulty getting the kind of people we want, and so far I can see no remedy in sight."

The Press Says

A Way to Get Them.
Detroit Free Press.

Women teachers in New York are bound to have men's salaries. Why don't they marry them, then?

Being Discouraged.
Hamilton Spectator.

An Ottawa lady has been fined \$52 or six months in jail for the crime of accumulating a junket. Graft, apparently, goes in the Montreal daily papers, extolling ed, are being discouraged.

Cheap Brooks in Cleveland.
Brooklyn Eagle.

Tom Johnson at last has his wish. Under his 3-cent fare regime, the Cleveland Electric Railway has just opened. If all Clevelandites could afford automobiles, the Johnson policy would be far more popular.

Judges, Lawyers and Witnesses
Toronto Telegram.

The complaint in Ontario is not that judges fail to interfere on behalf of the witness, but that they do interfere on behalf of the lawyer. Canada needs lawyers who will refuse to be snubbed and intimidated by judges, just as it needs Canada needs judges who will protect witnesses from being bullied or browbeaten by lawyers.

A Modern Juggernaut
Chatham News.

Those who are concerned in the perpetuation of the pernicious kindergarten system for youngsters who, in many cases, are not more than babies in age, and who decline, apparently, to consider the harm done by such mental forcing—which may gratify the mothers of many of the unfortunate children—should take an occasional glance over the evidence the German educationalists are piling up as to the harm which kindergartens do to the minds as yet unformed and requiring rest and outdoor play, rather than indoor drill, games, excitement and eye strain.

A GIFT of \$1,000

would please your wife, wouldn't it? It would please you too, to be able to give it—but perhaps you can't.

But you can make an investment which will give your wife—in case of your death—a Reserve Dividend Policy which is absolutely safe and as good as gold. It will guarantee her comfort at a time when she will most need it.

This is a new plan. It is one which every man in Canada should know about. Write to us and we will send you full information regarding it.

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Railroad News

"Some railroad men are more careful after having gone through one accident than ever before," said a railroad man yesterday, discussing a recent accident in which a passenger train crashed into a carriage, killing all four occupants of the latter. Yet, for the sake of a cent a mile, it is often necessary to discharge men who have caused such accidents, on steam roads at least. In some cases the blame cannot be placed on any one man, but when it can be laid at the door of an individual, that man is usually discharged. I presume managers are a great deal more careful of action necessary. Because of the necessity for discipline, some good men are let go—men who if retained would be a safeguard to the service. This is one of the hardest things that railroad managers must contend against.

"Keep one good man a long time and he will be a good record, even though the accident he has caused is on the dismissal list, and other men will be let go, believing they happen to cause loss of property, if not loss of life."

It is surprising, when one knows what an engineer must do to hold his job, to find old, gray haired men in the service, who will see a great many gray hairs, however, if you take a look at the men who run the fast passenger train engines."

It was reported yesterday that the Pennsylvania Railroad was soon to place in order the steel rails needed for the coming year. The requirements of the engineering and constructing departments show that approximately 150,000 tons of new rails will be required. This is quite a large order, as it means, in 100-pound rails, between 1,500 and 2,000 miles. At present prices, about \$28 per ton, the bill for the rails will be about \$4,200,000.

Texas is up against it again. Owners of 300,000 acres on Southwestern pastures are being forced to move their cattle to Indian Territory and Oklahoma pastures. Prolonged drought in Texas has ruined the feed and the cattle must be moved or starve. Cattle nation pastures are jumping in value as a consequence. A big pasture leased a month ago at 43 cents an acre was bought the other day by a stockholder for 75 cents, the highest rate ever paid for grass. Some estimate the movements from Texas to the territories at 300,000 head, and every road handling the business is congested with traffic.

This means that 100,000 to 125,000 more cattle will be driven into the West than last year, an increase of 2,000 to 3,000 cars. Packers are feeling good in Chicago and have given instructions for the erection of their bargain counters.

A canvass of the railway equipment companies of Chicago elicits information that the railroads have not canceled any great number of their orders for new cars and locomotives. It is estimated that the aggregate of business placed during the last several months will amount to about \$60,000,000. A considerable part of this equipment has been delivered to the purchasers, but nearly all of the companies still have orders enough on hand to run them full handed for some time.

The one great drawback is that of delay in receiving iron and steel. In many cases the car builders are from thirty to ninety days behind in the receipt of these essential materials. Apart from this, however, the equipment companies have no reason for worry at the outlook.

The first single phase electric train ever run in America is now being operated on the New York, New Haven & Hartford, between Haverhill and New Rochelle, where tests are being made of that company's new overhead electric system, equipped with the Westinghouse motors. The initial tests, it is stated, showed that trains operated by the system will be capable of a maximum speed of 100 miles an hour with safety. Electric trains have been run for several days and the motormen easily kept pace with the fast-going Knickerbocker Express to Boston, over the stretch of road on which the experiments are being made. The tests are to be continued.

A Pertinent Question.
Senator Rayner, of Maryland, is in favor of adequate salaries for school teachers, and at a reception he told a story about a teachers' meeting in a district where the salaries were extremely low. "A rich, portly banker opened the meeting with an address," he said. "The banker concluded his remarks with an enthusiastic gesture and the words:

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THE WEATHER PROBS:
Fine and Milder.

The Satisfactory Store

The Removal of Our Linen, Fancy Goods, Wash Goods, and Flannel Depts. Building Operations)

Back to the old main store, will necessitate the crowding of departments. But to render the labor of transferring light, we quote below **CLEARING PRICES** for quick selling.

5 pieces Bleached Damask Table Linen, 62 inches wide; pure linen; in patterns of fleur de lis, tulip and lily. 60c value. To clear at per yard 48c

Hemstitched Union Huck Towels, with damask borders; size 22x42. Regular 50c. To clear at, each 39c

Hemmed Union Huck Towels; size 17x34; red borders. Special, per dozen \$1.15

Same quality, 19x38, in white or red borders. Our regular 15c towel. To clear, at per pair 25c

Heavy All-Linen Roller Towels; ready for use; made from 2½ yards of crash; fast red borders. To clear, at, each 21c

Be sure and see our values in White Cottons and Sheetings.

450 yards Brown Twill Toweling, with colored border; 15 inches wide; just the thing for mechanics' use. Regular 7½c. To clear at, per yard 5c

Specials in Swiss Pillow Shams and Toilet Cover Sets.

New Swiss Embroidered Shams; size 32x32; hemstitched; good design. To clear at, per pair 79c

Or one pair of these Shams, a Dresser and Stand Scarf to match; complete set \$1.54

Another very effective style of sham with scalloped borders, at, per pair 94c

Or with Dresser and Stand Scarfs to match; complete set \$1.76

English Pillow Cotton; two widths; 44 and 46-in.; circular. To clear at, yard. 18c

Heavy English Sheets, 2½x3 yards, and 2½x3 yards; with one, two, or three rows of hemstitching at top. To clear at, per pair \$2.19

Wash Goods Department Clearing Prices

REGULAR 12½c and 15c—White Striped Muslins, stripe and checked Gingham, Madras, Prints, etc. To clear at YARD 8½c

REGULAR 20c and 30c—White Vestings, spot and striped Muslins, striped Gingham, black Grenadines and Muslins, colored Madras, etc. To clear at, YARD 15c

An opportunity to save money for Children's Wear, Ladies' Waists, etc.

Clearing Prices From The Flannel Department

REGULAR 12½c—Plaid and Fancy Flannelettes, suitable for pyjamas—children's night robes—etc. To clear at YARD 8½c

REGULAR 30c—German and English Wrapperette and Eiderdown. To clear at, YARD 19c

Letters to The Editor

HIGH PRESSURE SYSTEM.

Editor Free Press: Some more discussion about city water supply. As I advocated some time ago the artesian well and pumping direct into the city mains as the easiest way of obtaining a perfectly healthy drinking water, I am sure that the authorities are unable to obtain any other kind of water. After we have been filtered water for some time we will be treated to half-price display advertisements, the same as are running in the Montreal daily papers, extolling the virtues of water for drinking purposes from some special spring and bottled with all due care to cleanliness. One great trouble here is the uncertainty of the insurance rate as it affects the mercantile area only. There is only one solution to have a permanent reduction in the key rate. That is, this city must sooner or later install a separate high pressure system for first protection purposes, and if you will, for manufacturing purposes. Pittsburgh has done it. Montreal will shortly follow, and so will all the big cities. This is the right time for London to put in such a system; we should be prepared for any emergency.

If the water commissioners or number three committee will only take a trip to Buffalo they will there see an ideal system of this kind, which will meet all requirements and at a very moderate cost. In Buffalo they have water pipes for fire only, of special make to stand high pressure, laid from the bay to certain districts of the city. When a fire takes place an alarm is sent to the bay, and the fire tug attaches to the main leading to the particular district where the fire is, and in a few minutes there is a pressure in the pipes of over 200 lbs., something like equal to four or five fire engines attached to each hydrant in use. This system has worked so well that instead of using the fire tug they have placed a hundred horse-power gas engine at each main. We could do the same here by laying a high pressure main from the river at Wellington street, any up to and in the business and mercantile area. What would be better than gas engines would be to use electric pumps, using Niagara energy. It would only take an instant to start the pumps going, and when a fire occurred the pipe leading to that particular district where the fire is would be the only pipe having pressure in it.

We will have to install a high pressure system sooner or later, and I think that now is the time to make a start.—H. A. STEVENSON.
London, April 23, 1907.

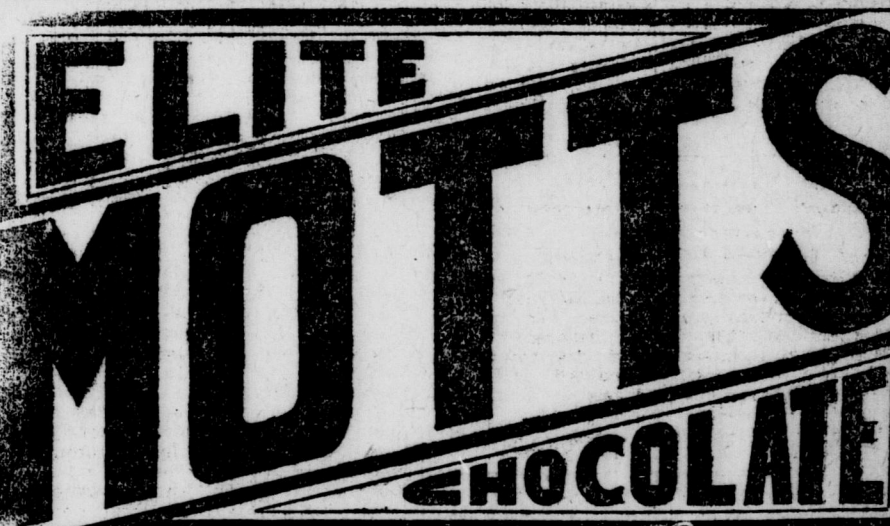
Proverbs for All Occasions.
"I lost heavily at the races yesterday." "A fool and his money are soon parted." "He repaid the sardonic person."

"Ah, but I won to-day." "A fool for luck."—Washington Star.

DR. A. W. CHASE'S CATARRH CURE... 25c.

is sent direct to the diseased parts by the Improved Blower. It is a pleasant, clear, safe, and sure remedy for Catarrh of the bladder, urethra, and prostate glands, and for all other diseases of the urinary system.

Free. All dealers, or Dr. A. W. Chase Medicine Co., Toronto and Buffalo.



A dessert spoonful in a glass of water every morning

is the popular dose of ABBEY'S SALT. This small quantity regulates the bowels—makes the liver active—strengthens the kidneys—steadies the nerves—improves the appetite—and brings sound, restful sleep.

Abbey's Effervescent Salt

is the ideal tonic laxative—pleasant, mild and effective.

At All Druggists. 25c. and 60c. a bottle.



CAPE HUNTING DOGS.

A specimen of the Cape hunting dog, *Lycan pictus*, has lately been added to the meagerie in the London Zoological Gardens. It is an animal which does not take kindly to captivity, and the individuals that from time to time have reached the collection have ever been short-lived. This species bears a strong resemblance to a hyena, not only in its markings, but in the general appearance. It is a tall dog, fairly slim in build and with long limbs. The broad and rather flat head ends in a short muzzle; the ears are very large. The ground color of the coat, which is rather scantily haired, is yellowish; the markings, which are disposed about the body and limbs in a very irregular manner, are short streaks and blotches of black, white and gray. The tail is of a fair length, somewhat thickly

haired, and ends in a whitish tuft. The muzzle is black and a black stripe runs down between the eyes. The Cape hunting dog has a wide range in Africa south and east of the Sahara desert. It is wonderfully swift-footed and hunts its prey in regular packs. Large antelopes are easily run down by these packs, and domestic sheep and cattle need strong protection against the depredations of the "hyena dog."—Rhodesia Herald.

What a mistake to use coarse Salt for cooking! Fine, pungent WINDSOR SALT adds such a daintiness to the food!