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The Toronto World.

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DELIVERED IN CITY AND SUBURBS
18 KING ST. EAST, TORONTO

THIRD YEAR. THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 7, 1882 PRICE ONE CENT

STOCK LOANS DEFENDED

ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE PROFITS THEREON ARE BIG.

The Half-Yearly Statement of the Federal and the Mail and Globe's Comments—Is the Practice to be Encouraged?

The half-yearly statement of the Federal bank was published yesterday, and the Globe and Mail took occasion to pronounce favorably on it. Here is what they said:

From the Globe of Yesterday.

The half-yearly statement of the Federal bank will no doubt cause surprise on the part of "bears" by its magnificent showing. A great deal has been written lately against this institution, but the shareholders have to be congratulated upon the large net profit of 19.15 per cent, and as the "rest" is nearly 50 per cent of the paid-up capital, an increased dividend may be confidently expected in the spring.

From the Mail of yesterday.

The statement of the Federal now in the hands of the shareholders, as all along predicted by the Mail, will not only prove highly gratifying to them, but present a showing never yet equalled in the banking annals of this country. After writing off all bad and doubtful debts, deducting charges for interest and management, and without including the amount received for accrued dividend upon the new issue of stock up to date of payment, the net profits for the half-year amount to $185,998.13, which is equivalent to 19.15 per cent per annum on the average capital for the past six months That the well-earned profits have been judiciously applied will be seen by the large amount carried to the rest account, which is now $1,300,000 on a paid-up capital of $2,691,610, or in other words, within $45,805 of fifty per cent Although the exact figures were not known on the street, the statement was a subject of general discussion, and anywhere between 17 and 20 per cent, was named as the probable net earnings. Bulls and bears of course viewed the matter in a different light, and while the former congratulated themselves and each other, the latter endeavored to make the very prosperity of the bank the subject of fresh attacks. However, it is said figures cannot lie, and no amount of newspaper talk either for or against the prospects of the bank will have any effect on the genuine investor, and as to speculators, those are the best off who are least involved. Mr. Strathy has proved that he is looking after the best interests of the shareholders, who alone are concerned, and they in turn will fully appreciate the excellent account he has rendered of his stewardship for the last half-year.

The above opinions were not expressed on the editorial pages but in the financial columns of these papers.

As The World undertook along with other journals to protest against certain bank irregularities, and as these journals are evidently pointed at in the quotations from the Globe and Mail, it is proper that we should make some answer.

What The World attacked was not a bank but a practice, namely lending money on bank stocks, though the Federal and the Dominion being the chief sinners were necessarily introduced into the discussion.

With the exception of the Globe and Mail the entire press of Canada and many influential journals in the States sustained the position of The World. It was pointed out that the practice was illegal, that it was demoralizing, that it was dangerous to the bank and to the public, that it jeopardised and lessened the security which the billholders and depositors were entitled to, and that it was a practice that had not been sanctioned by usage in either New York or London, both hot-beds of speculation. No direct answer was made to these charges. The plan is to live them down, and the Globe and Mail are assisting the officers and directors of the offending banks to brazen it out. That is what the paragraphs above quoted mean, and that is why they are published. Once the matter is allowed to drop, and big profits are shown it is hoped that the thing will blow over, the practice receive a quasi sanction, and the minister of finance introduce no legislation on the subject.

But this statement of the Federal, if it proves anything, proves the correctness of our contention. Grant that the profits were large; they were large because an illegitimate practice was being indulged in. Grant that the rest account has been greatly augmented; it may have been done by skillful manipulating of the new issue of stock.

A sorry day will have been reached in this Canada of ours if a practice is to be encouraged because it is a money making one. And yet this is what the Globe, the Mail and Mr. Strathy are trying to do.

If the practice is not to be checked and if other banks see that it is not, then they will take to it too, and every bank in the country will become more or less of a stock jobbing institution. Managers and presidents anxious to rival the "brilliant records" of Mr. Strathy and Mr. Nordheimer will not be slow to follow in their tracks and adopt their methods.

But the day of reckoning will come sooner or later and with it will come disaster. The stockholders may delight in large profits, but they will yet deplore the day that they encouraged stock gambling.

A word as to these alleged 19 per cent profits. A well-known bank in the city once claimed 19 per cent profits; the following year it reduced its dividend. What seemed good and looked fine on paper did not realize well. We remember well another statement that among its assets marked $270,000 as "not included in the foregoing." The manager when interrogated said it meant "various things;" a few months that same bank reduced its capital one-half. And so when a bank puts in its statement one item of $11,162,801.98 as "loans and bills discounted current" a little further information would be desirable before the 19 per cent tale is accepted. The weak point of the statement in question is that it is utterly worthless, owing to its brevity, as an indication of the bank's real position.

Aldermanic Echoes.

On Tuesday night a deputation of electors, headed by Mr Wm Benson, waited on Ald Bell at his residence and requested him to again stand for St Stephens. The worthy alderman thanked the deputation and said he would be happy to represent them again in the city council.

CANADA FOR CANADIANS.

From La Patrie, Montreal.

In the election campaign of 1878 the protectionists wishing to sum up their platform to express their idea cried, Canada for Canadians!

This rallying cry, which to many seemed to cover egotistical projects and a policy little in harmony with the ideas of fraternity of the century, seems to-day much more opportune in another direction.

It is proposed to secure Canada for the Canadians in awarding to a man of our country the highest office at the disposal of the imperial government.

The New York World says that at the expiration of the term of the marquis of Lorne the colonial office will pass the reins of the Canadian government to Sir John Macdonald.

We have not to discuss actually the choice of the functionary. We simply pause at a project which seems to us too good to be realized. With a Canadian governor and the commercial independence that we certainly shall presently enjoy, what will remain of the colonial dependence? Almost nothing. That dependence will be purely nominal, and some day or other it will vanish by reason of its insignificance.

It may be said that it is important to confide the government to men far removed from our politics, who having avoided our struggles, would be able to keep themselves clear of party influences, and exercise in an impartial manner their own judgment in the affairs of state.

These reasons have weight. But we believe that the dangers indicated are more imaginary than real. If we should hold out to our statesmen the prospect of filling the office of governor they would sufficiently appreciate the privilege not to abuse it. The fear of seeing the mother country withdrawing it, and returning to the old system would place the incumbent on his guard. Furthermore, our Canadian governors would strive to prove themselves worthy of the position, competent to bring credit to it by the foresight and the dignity of their conduct. They would endeavor to show themselves true successors of Lord Elgin, Lord Dufferin and of the Marquis of Lorne, the most popular of our governors since the date of the union of the two provinces.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

Important Changes Proposed in the Arts Examination—Other Items.

A senate meeting has been called for Friday night. The business to be brought up is:—

(1) The vice-chancellor's resolution concerning the demonstratorship of physics and fellowships.

(2) Second reading of the statute respecting the degrees of M D and M A.

(3) Report from the observatory committee.

(4) The vice-chancellor's resolutions concerning the management of the funds of the university.

(5) Consideration of Prof. Loudon and Mr. King's resolutions regarding medals and examinations in arts. As these are of great importance, the text of them is appended:

I, That instead of the present system of examinations in the faculty of arts in the university and affiliated colleges there be substituted five examinations, viz.: for junior matriculation, first year, second year, third year and B A. Of these the university shall conduct the first, second and last, the remaining examinations being conducted at the same time by the affiliated colleges.

Honor candidates shall be arranged alphabetically in three classes, the minima for these being 75, 62 and 50 per cent respectively.

There shall be no scholarships, medals or prizes awarded except at the examinations for junior matriculation and first year.

II. That in view of the present financial condition and increased requirements of the university, it is not desirable that the grants heretofore made out of the income fund for scholarships should be continued, and that from and after the——day of——all such grants should cease, and the moneys expended therefor be appropriated for purposes more beneficial.

That it is not desirable that the university medals should be abolished, but that the charge therefor should still be a charge upon the income fund.

HANDS OFF.

Seventy-five Female Shoe Operatives Quit Their Work.

About seventy-five girls employed in the shoe factory of J D King left their work at 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon and refused to return. The cause of the trouble was the employment of two Russian Jews on the button-hole machines in the girls' department. It is said the new-comers went to work at two cents a dozen less than the girls. The part of the factory occupied by the latter was deserted all afternoon yesterday. The girls went to their homes. They say they will not work with the "invaders," as one of them called them. It was not known up to last night what the outcome of the strike would be.

DISSATISFIED SUBSCRIBERS.

A Protest Against the Ballot Mode of Selecting the Seats.

Mr. John Hague handed to The World a copy of a protest he entered yesterday morning against setting aside some provisions in the Philharmonic society's circular without any excuse or warrant. The letter will explain itself.

To J. B. Boustead, Vice-President Philharmonic Society.

SIR: On behalf of a large number of subscribers who are not present at the ballot and who will not be present on the faith of a statement made by the society's circular that "the secretary will select seats for such absent subscribers" as are not there when their names are called, I formally protest against that arrangement being set aside, as it is a gross, unwarrantable, outrageous breach of faith with such absent subscribers. I may add that at Birmingham the bulk of the subscribers do not attend the ballot under a similar arrangement.

JOHN HAGUE, Treasurer.

P. S.—In order to avoid the possibility of my profiting in any way by such breach of faith as substituting another management for the society's circular, I have destroyed any voucher and shall not exercise my subscriber's privilege. J. H.

THE CONFISCATED BOOKS.

The Toronto Secular Society Unanimously Resolute Thereon

At the meeting of the Toronto Secular society at Albert hall on Sunday night last, the following resolution was passed, and a copy ordered to be forwarded to Sir John A Macdonald:—

Resolved, That the late seizure of the theological works of Thomas Paine at the Toronto custom house is an unwarranted interference with the civil and religious liberty of the people of Canada, and we hereby respectfully call upon the Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald, premier of the dominion of Canada, to cause to issue an order to the collector of customs at the port of Toronto, in accordance with the public declaration of the premier at Selby on a late occasion, and wherein the Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald described the works of Thomas Paine as "classic" and entirely free of the charge of immorality or as unfit for the public reading of Canadians. And further, that we individually and collectively hold the government of the dominion responsible for such seizure.

OBITUARY.

Death of Louis Blanc, the French Politician.—Death of Anthony Trollope.

CANNES, Dec. 6.—Louis Blanc died today.

Jean Joseph Louis Blanc was born in Madrid in October, 1813. He was educated for the diplomatic service, but owing to reverses in his father's fortune he became a tutor to a private family in Arras, and subsequently removed to Paris in 1834, where he became editor of the Bon Sens. He left it in 1838 and established La Revue du Progres, to promote the combination of democratic associations and to further the cause of political reform. He was one of the ablest writers of the socialistic school, and maintained that industry ought to be conducted not for individual profit but for the benefit of the community, each person contributing, according to his capabilities, and receiving from it according to his wants, under the supervision of the government. His history of the French revolution largely contributed to bringing about the revolution of 1848. He was accused of being implicated in the insurrectionary movement of May and June, and in August his prosecution was authorized by the constituent assembly of which he had been elected a member. He escaped to England, where he remained a voluntary exile until the fate of Napoleon III. He then returned to France and published his works written in exile.

LONDON, Dec 6—Anthony Trollope is dead.

The deceased writer was one of a family of authors, his mother having been perhaps the most voluminous English authoress of her time, and his brother Thomas Adolphus published a large number of books on Italy and Italian manners. Anthony was born in 1815. From 1834 to 1867 he was connected with the British postal service, and was frequently sent abroad to establish postal connections. He published a large number of novels, frequently prosy, but always true to human nature, within the narrow circle from which he selected his characters. He had neither the melodramatic power of Dickens, the keen and not unkindly satire of Thackary, the metaphysical analysis of George Eliot, the realistic power of describing scenery possessed by Charles Kingsley, the intricate plot-weaving power and originality of Lord Lytton and Wilkie Collins, nor the large range and powerful grasp of Charles Reade, but his writings possess the merits of apparent truthfulness. He is more the faithful chronicler of every day English life, especially in ecclesiastical circles, than the romancer. His novels had no plot; and in this they resemble English life, with its plenty of character and few incidents.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 6.—Cassie Troy, a well known actress of New York, died here last evening. Death is said to have been superinduced by the use of poisonous cosmetics.

Dr R H Russell of Quebec, late president of the college of physicians and surgeon of the province of Quebec, died here at 1 o'clock yesterday morning, aged 63 years. His brother, Dr J P Russell, of this city, arrived in Quebec a few hours before the death.

CABLE NEWS.

Munir Pacha has been re-appointed minister of finance.

Heavy snow fell yesterday in several parts of England.

The British ship Fiona has been lost at sea with all hands.

The steamer Peruvian from Montreal, which ran ashore in the Mersey, has been floated.

Bertani, the leader of the radical party, took the oath of allegiance to the king of Italy yesterday.

There were 89 agrarian outrages in Ireland during November. This contrasts favorably with previous lists.

It is reported that three poles have received notice of expulsion from Paris for connection with a revolutionary society.

Losses by the Rhenish Floods.

BERLIN, Dec. 6—The king of Bavaria has given 40,000 marks to assist the people destitute by the floods. The loss by floods in the Rhenish districts amount to a million marks, and the damage to the town of Duesburg alone is a million marks. Sixty houses near Mayence are ruined and swept away.

Trouble in the Transvaal.

DURBAN, Dec. 6—Intelligence from the Transvaal says that the Caffres have been driven into Chief Mapoch's caves. One cave was destroyed with dynamite, and it is supposed that fifty natives were killed. The commandant and a Boer are also killed.

The Dijmphna Arctic Expedition.

LONDON, Dec 6—Larrsen, who accompanied the Jeannette expedition, has been engaged to go to Wargatz island, to search for the Danish exploring vessel Dijmphna. He starts from Copenhagen soon.

A Serious Loss.

LONDON, Dec 6—Stanford Court in Worcestershire, the seat of Sir Francis Winnington, was burned with all the valuable plate, pictures and manuscripts.

Alhambra Theatre Burned.

LONDON, Dec. 6—After the performance to-night fire broke out in the Alhambra theatre, completely gutting it and the adjoining building.

Egyptian Debt Commission.

PARIS, Dec. 6—It is said that there is no doubt that France will refuse England's offer concerning the Egyptian debt commission.

FIRES

NEW YORK, Dec. 6—Wm. Lang's furniture manufactory was damaged by fire to the extent of $30,000.

ST. PAUL, Dec. 6—Lockhart's block, occupied principally by Nichols & Dean, wholesale hardware, burned to-day; loss $90,000.

Raiding Chicago Gambling Houses.

CHICAGO, Dec 6—The police last night raided five gambling houses, including that of McDonald, a prominent figure in local politics, who has been looked to by the other gambling house keepers for protection against raids. A large number of inmates were arrested.

Criminal Malpractice.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec 6—Sarah McLaughlin died on Sunday from the effects of criminal malpractice. James Henderson, professional baseball player, has been arrested charged with complicity in the affair.

THE TRANSIT TELESCOPED

VENUS CURIOUSLY VIEWED FROM ALL PARTS OF THE GLOBE.

The Observations Not Satisfactory in Toronto—Nor in Canada Generally—Favorable Weather at Many Stations and Accurate Observations Taken.

At Toronto no observations could be taken of any of the four contacts in the transit of Venus. At the observatory only one or two passing glimpses were got of the transit, and these of the shortest duration. The sun was completely enveloped at the time of the contacts of the planet, and Mr Carpmael was unable to ascertain any data as to the time of ingress and egress. The observations here consequently will count nil. At many of the other points the weather was more favorable and satisfactory observations were taken. But there were many stations which shared the disappointment of Toronto. At Greenwich, for instance, the transit was totally invisible during the whole six hours. At Cork the transit was plainly visible, and at New York accurate observations were taken. The subject is of so great importance that scientists were determined to get accurate data on the occasion of this transit, and neither labor nor expense was spared in sending parties to all points of the globe so that if the weather proved unfavorable in one quarter it would not in another. Matters were so arranged that it could not by any conceivable means prove an absolute failure, and although no time could be taken here it is a source of satisfaction to know that accurate figures have been taken at other stations. The observations all over Canada seem to have been unsatisfactory.

OBSERVATIONS IN TORONTO.

For twenty-four hours previous to the designated time the weather prospects looked anything but favorable. Tuesday afternoon it rained, drizzled and snowed, and at night not a light was visible in the heavens. Falling snow and dense clouds hushered in Wednesday morning, and from the outset there appeared to be little probabilities of the clouds breaking so that the first and second contacts could be observed. The forecast unfortunately proved true. At the hour when it was known Venus would make her first contact Mr. Carpmael and his assistants were on a sharp lookout, but the clouds were too heavy to admit of anything being seen at all. The disappointment was of course very great, and when 9 o'clock had came all hope of taking the time of the first external and first internal contacts was gone and the observers looked as glum as the overhanging clouds. Between 10 and 11 the clouds began to break and it seemed as if the sky might be sufficiently clear for taking observations of the egressing contacts. The same bad luck however continued during the whole day, and our local observers had not the satisfaction of taking a single note that will be of any service whatever. A few passing glimpses of the planet in transit were had by Mr. Carpmael, but of course they served no purpose. At one time the small spot could be seen in the sun for two minutes and at other times glimpses of a few seconds duration were got. The parties at the observatory were the only ones in the city who beheld the phenomenon. The following is the

OFFICIAL REPORT OF MR. CARPMAEL

of the observations taken in Canada: At Woodstock and Toronto no observations of any value were obtained owing to clouds. The time of the internal contact at egress was obtained by Prof. Bain at Cobourg, but the atmosphere was so unsteady that the observation was not very satisfactory. At Kingston Prof. Williamson, and at Ottawa Mr. Blake, D.L.S., observed two internal and last external contacts. At the first external contact the view was obstructed by clouds at both places. At Montreal, Quebec and Fredericton no observations were obtained. At Belleville Mr. Shearman observed two contacts at egress very imperfectly. No word yet from other

OBSERVATIONS IN MONTREAL.

A cloudy morning has not, perhaps, ever before caused more keen and general disappointment than that of to-day did in Montreal. The only hope was that other places had been more fortunate in obtaining observations of the planet Venus at the moment of ingress. About 10 o'clock, however, the sun broke through the clouds, and then thousands of eyes looking through all sorts of glasses, from a piece of smoked glass to the great telescopes of the observatories, with various degrees of intelligence or the lack of it, were immediately directed toward it. The tiny black marble crossing the glorious golden disc a good deal lower down than had generally been pre-represented, was easily discerned and eagerly watched The wonder of seeing the planet appear on the sun's edge at the very time that had been calculated was eagerly commented on. The last contacts were not seen, a snow flurry having come on.

OBSERVATIONS AT OTTAWA.

A good deal of interest was manifested in the transit of Venus in astronomical circles to-day, and many observations were taken. At Nepean Point battery, Mr. Blake and Mr. Weber of the Toronto observatory, were detailed to time two phases of the transit, the internal at ingress, and the internal at egress. The weather was cloudy up to 8.30 o'clock, local time, when the sun burst through the clouds and shone with his wonted brilliancy, raising the hopes of those who were lamenting the condition of things. Old Sol, however, did not expose himself for any length of time, and before many minutes had passed was again hidden from view behind a skulking cloud. The critical moment was now near at hand for the external contact, and still there was no sun to be seen. Precisely at 8.35 by the chronometer timed with the Toronto observatory, and which was loaned for the occasion by the Greenwich observatory, the silver lining gradually developed, and the sun's disc was exposed through a thin cloud for a sufficient length of time to observe the heavy contact. For nearly twenty minutes the clouds again obstructed the view, and it was feared the time of internal contact could not be taken. The astronomers were anything but pleased, but nothing daunted, Mr. Blake kept his eye on the instrument in the hope of getting a glimpse through the clouds that were gradually growing bright. His efforts were rewarded with 15 seconds of light at about 8.55, allowing him to take the time of contact. No "black drop" or satellite was observable, the surface of the planet appearing globular and spotless. Mr. Blake took observations of the two internal and last external contacts.

WOODSTOCK.—The transit of Venus was visible through light but continuous clouds here to-day. On account of the cloudiness no observations of any benefit could be made at our observatory.

OBSERVATIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

LONDON—In consequence of the unfavorable weather the transit of Venus was totally invisible from Greenwich observatory.

CORK—The transit of Venus was plainly visible here.

OBSERVATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES.

POUHKEEPSIE—At Vassar college this morning, on account of the clouds the first contact of Venus with the sun was not seen. At 28 minutes 51 seconds after 9 Venus was seen on the disc, and photographs taken before 11, and at noon definition good.

ROCHESTER—Dense clouds covered the sky all day, and no one save Prof. Robinson of the university got a glimpse of the transit.

BOSTON—Notwithstanding the clouds, Harvard observatory made satisfactory observations of the first and second contact of the transit of Venus.

NEW YORK—The transit of Venus today was successfully observed from many observatories and stations here.

ST AUGUSTINE, Fla—The weather was clear to-day. Observations of the transit by French astronomers was a complete success.

PHELPS, N. Y.—Prof. Brooks of the Red House observatory, obtained a good observation of the transit at the ingress, securing the internal contact. Clouds obscured the external contacts both at ingress and egress. Clouds also prevented a photograph of the transit. Brooks discovered several faint patches of light on Venus, which he believed were caused by the refraction of the planet's atmosphere.

SAN JOSE, Cal—At Lick observatory today forty-eight photographs of the sun and planet were secured.

PRINCETON, N J—The observation of the transit of Venus at the college observatory was very successful. One hundred and eighty-eight photographs were taken.

ALBANY, N Y—R H Tucker, jr, the astronomer in charge of the Dudley observatory, successfully observed the first and second contacts of the transit of Venus at the Coast Survey station on the Helderberg mountains, fifteen miles from the city. The observation of the internal contact was quite satisfactory, no black drop being seen. The third and fourth contacts were not seen, as the sun was hidden.

NEW HAVEN, Conn.—At the Yale observatory over 150 plates, showing the whole sun with Venus on its disc were secured.

BOSTON — Over 800 measures of the diameter of Venus were obtained at the Harvard observatory. The spectroscope revealed no perceptible absorption by the atmosphere of Venus.

PHILADELPHIA—During the observation of the transit to-day a ring of light, due to the atmosphere of Venus, was frequently visible by flashes of light around the portion of the planet which was off the sun. Some minutes before the second and after the third contact a bright horn shot out from the sun part way around the planet.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex—The transit was successfully observed here by Prof. Hall's party.

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla—The French astronomers have made a complete observation of the transit.

ALL MEN ARE LIARS.

But Judge Wylie Thinks Newspaper Men Are Worse Than the Average.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6—The new grand jury was organized to-day. Instructing them as to their duties, Judge Wylie said he was not aware that any particular form of crime was prevalent in the community, except libels and slanders. Newspapers constantly containing scandalous libels on public men and private character. That species of offence created more unhappiness and misery in society, and did more injustice than any other form of crime. He suspected that writers for the periodical newspapers had among them more than the usual proportion of liars. They were paid for lying. The more sensational the lie was and the more calculated it was to blast the peace of families and the spicier it was, the more the paper would sell, and newspaper men would laugh in derision at anybody who undertook to talk to them about anything of that kind. If the grand jury saw anything of that sort and took notice of it the court would take care of it.

A Horrible Death.

ELMIRA, N Y, Dec 6—One of the most painful features of the collision that took place yesterday on the Lehigh Valley railway at Rummerfield, was the horrible death of N. Faulke, of Waverley, the engine driver. He got entangled in the smashed up cars, and the debris caught fire. He stood in the midst of the burning mass in plain view of the spectators, but could not move, as his right leg was caught in the iron and timbers as if in a vice. All his efforts to release himself from the fire roaring around him were vain. He could only stand there and look death in the face. It came slowly, surely, and cruelly. The crowd did what they could to reach and save him, but the heat was too intense. The man was gradually roasted before his friends and companions, who were unable to give any succor.

Miss Von Behren's Funeral.

NEW YORK, Dec 6—The funeral of Anna Von Behren, the actress who was killed by Frank Frayne during the performance of "Si Slocum" at Cincinnati, took place at 1 p m yesterday from the Bedford avenue baptist church, Brooklyn. On Monday the body of the unfortunate girl, which had been nicely embalmed at Cincinnati, was placed in the parlor of the residence of her parents, who were overcome with grief at her terrible death. They have not a word of blame for Frayne and treat him like a son. The members of the combination called at the house on Monday and attended the funeral yesterday.

Fatal Steamboat Boiler Explosion.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 6.—The boiler of the propeller Morning Star exploded this morning at Bellair Plantation. There were twenty-one persons on board. The fireman and seven colored roustabouts were drowned and three others and one child were killed. The engineer, the boilermaker, a colored woman, a passenger, and two employees were badly if not fatally scalded. A steamer went to the rescue and brought the wounded to this city.

Suicide From a Steamer.

TROY, Ky., Dec. 6—While the steamer Saratoga was passing Spuyten Duyvel recently, a passenger jumped overboard and was drowned. From papers left on the boat it was thought the suicide was Louis Bernard, Lansingburg. This morning while Hercules Bernard of Canada, a brother of Louis, was in the office of the Times seeking information about the missing man, a letter was received by the editor announcing that Louis was safe at San Francisco.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Recommendations of the Medical Delegates—A Dominion Bureau Suggested.

OTTAWA, Dec. 6—At a meeting of the medical delegates to-day the following resolutions were carried: 1 That a uniform system of collecting and compiling health statistics be adopted for the whole dominion. 2 That the dominion government be requested to take measures to procure reliable health statistics from every city, town or municipality where local boards of health are now or may hereafter be established, with a view of determining the locality and nature of the diseases to which Canada is subject. 3 That a bureau of vital statistics be established at Ottawa in connection with one of the public departments.

PERSONAL.

Mr. Maevy, M.P. of Halifax, is in Ottawa.

Mr. N. F. Davin had an interview with Hon. Mr. Pope yesterday on the subject of assisting French Canadians to the Northwest. Mr. Pope said it was contrary to the policy of the government to assist emigration from one province to another.

A Steamer on Fire.

COLLINGWOOD, Dec. 6—Early this morning fire was discovered on board the steamer Oneida, lying at the Northern railway docks, which destroyed all the aft portion of the vessel to the hull, and part of the forward cabins. Workmen have been engaged for the last week in fixing the vessel and laying her up, but no clue can be ascertained as to the cause of the fire. The steamer was scuttled at the docks, and sank in thirteen feet of water. She was insured in some American company for $35,000.

More Trouble for Max Strakosch.

MONTREAL, Dec. 6—Max Strakosch sent money on his arrival in New York to pay the hotel bills here and fares to New York for his troupe. On the wardrobe being placed on the train to-day, it was seized at the suit of the manager of the theatre Royal for $400 damages for breach of contract in not taking his opera troupe to Quebec.

Burglars in Mount Brydges.

WINDSOR, Dec. 6—Last night burglars entered Mr Pearce's store in Mount Brydge's and stole $750 out of the safe, which had inadvertently been left open. Search has failed so far to find the guilty parties.

Acres of Subterranean Fires.

TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 6—Subterranean fires in the acres of cinder beds deposited during several years by the New Jersey steel and iron company are again threatening the destruction of the works.

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING.

Venus ought to give a matinee to-morrow—C. Carpmael.

As The World predicted, it was a sic transit—The other observers.

The clouds went back on me, that is in front of me, and that is how you miss me—Venus.

Why Mars the cloud my sight of Venus bright?—Mosey Oates.

I polished up my glass and never got a sight of her—Judge Osler

Sic transit gloria Veneris—Dan Dwan.

I took my eighteenth degree last night—T. McIlroy Jr.

IN BANK CIRCLES.

Ze machine is littel but ze profits are verra big—Nordiuel Samheimer.

Nevertheless loaning on bank stocks is wrong—Public opinion.

But the gains are great—Mr. Strategy.

Yes, they are very large—The Globe and Mail.

When we get our machine up, Dominion will rise again—James Austin.

Yes, then I'll beat Strategy's record of 19 with his own patent—Mr. Beacon.

RHYMES OF A DAY.

By Our Own Corps de Ballad.

THE WEST.

I've been thinking much of late
Of going west;
My prospects might be great
In the west.
Of my clothes,
I suppose
I needn't wear my best
In the west.

At the corner of the street,
Lightly dressed,
As it happened I did meet
What I guessed
To be a furry man,
And the tan
Of his ancient leather vest
Which compressed his stalwart chest
Impressed
Me with the idea that the man
Was from the west;
And I asked him of the west,
And he told me take a rest,
Don't go west,
As he vainly searched all the time
For a dime
In the Indian-tanned recesses of his vest.

A SUPERIOR POEM.

Jewe had a little turtle,
Flesh it had like snow;
"What shall we do with it?" says Jewell,
"Cut its throat," says Clow.

Clow, he took that little turtle,
Then he took a knife—
Drew the blade across its gullet—
Sacrificed its life.

Now in soup that little turtle
Floateth to and fro;
If you wish to taste its richness
Jewell see, and Clow.

—*The Galley Boy.*

THE KIND OF PAPER WE ARE.

From the Laramie Boomerang.

There is an excuse for lack of spice and all that sort of thing in the newspaper world The men who write our dailies, as a rule, have to write about two miles per day, and they ought not to be kicked if it is not as interesting as "Uncle Tom's Cabin" or the "Leaves of Grass."

We have done some nine hundred miles of writing ourself during our short, sharp and decisive career, and we know what we are talking about. Those things we wrote at a time when we were spreading our graceful characters over ten acres of paper per day were not thrilling. They did not catch the puble eye, but were just naturally consigned to oblivion's bottomless maw.

The public, it seems to us, has created a false standard of merit for the newspaper. People take a big daily and pay $10 a year for it because it is the biggest paper in the world, and then don't read a quarter of it. They are doing a smart thing no doubt, but it is killing the feverish young men with throbbing brains who are doing the work. Would you consider that a large pair of shoes or a large wife should be sought for just because you can get more material for the same price? Not much, Mary Ann.

Excellence is what we seek, not bulk. Write better things and less of them, and you will do better, and the public will be pleased to see the change.

TEMPERANCE WORKERS.

THE THIRD WEEK DAY ANGLICAN MISSION MEETING.

St. Peter's Church the Scene of Operations—Some Practical Remarks by Clerical and Lay Gentlemen—To-Night's Meeting.

The third week-night meeting in connection with the Church of England temperance mission, was held in St Peter's church schoolhouse last night. The attendance was not as large as at the previous meetings. Venerable Archdeacon Boddy occupied the chair. He stated in his introductory remarks that people did not think enough about the evils of intemperance. The first speaker was Rev J Cayley, who remarked that intemperance was one of the greatest evils with which the church of England had to deal. He described several typical cases of intemperance to show the evils of the vice, and thought that if they could do away with liquor, they could also close two-thirds of their jails The remedy proposed for this evil is combination and organization. All the schemes of the church, such as missions, were conducted by organized bodies or committees. The Church of England has created an organization for this purpose. As a temperance organization it differs from other schemes in that it was not necessary for a person to sign a pledge of total abstinence. He did not believe in persons who are moderate drinkers pledging themselves to total abstinence. Total abstinence is necessary for persons who are drunkards, and it should be made compulsory in the case of children. He had heard that it was quite common with many in the city to supply wines at their children's parties. The partial abstinence platform was one on which all classes in the Church of England could agree. Mr. J. S. Caldicott did not agree with a partial abstinence system, as he was an out and out total abstinence man. He showed the fallacies of the three strongest arguments taken from the bible, advanced by those who worked against the movement. They were: (1) "That every creature is good, and to be received with thanksgiving," (2) Paul telling Timothy to take wine for his stomach's sake, (3) The fact that Christ made wine at the marriage feast. He, in turn, quoted passages to prove the necessity of abstinence. In the United States there are 70,000 persons who go to drunkards' graves every year.

Rev. O. Aslachson told a number of interesting anecdotes connected with his career as a temperance worker. He had once thought it would be unmanly to sign a total abstinence pledge, but his views were different now.

Mr. W. H. Howland, the last speaker, compared the movement to a rope, one half of which was held by the temperance people and the other by the liquor sellers. The partial abstainers held the middle of the rope. It was necessary that some should hold the extreme end of the rope to keep it taut, and this is where he had taken his stand. He said that there were very few families in Toronto who could stretch out their hands and touch a relative or friend who did not exemplify the evils of intemperance. There are 190 saloons in Toronto, where ten would be sufficient, which live by making drunkards. Speaking of it from a biblical point of view he said there were no saloons in Judea. He asked them to consider the fact that there were over 1,000,000 barrels of liquor representing $60,000,000, drunk in Canada every year. In conclusion he asked all to come and help, either on the total or partial abstinence platform.

The meeting to-night in St. John's school house will be addressed by Revs O Aslachson, J Langtry, J P Lewis and Mr Hoyles.

Police Court News.

At the police court yesterday Henrietta Douglass charged Samuel Adams with defrauding her of a quantity of goods, to which he pleaded guilty, and was sent to the Central prison for three months. The case of Duncan McLaughlin, charged with stealing a silk pocket-handkerchief, was adjourned until to-day. Thos. Asher alias Scott was charged on remand with assaulting and robbing Robert McLean, of Claude, Peel county, in the Queen's park last Saturday. He was found guilty and sentenced to four years in the penitentiary. Hon. Frank Smith, as president of the street railway company, was charged under a city by-law with having sprinkled salt on the track on Church street to dissolve the snow and ice thereon and thus destroying the sleighing. The hearing of the case was adjourned until the 12th inst. John Newton was charged on remand with embezzling a sum of money, the property of the Victoria file works. Wm. Reeves, charged with cruelty to animals, was permitted to go with a caution. Thos. Hackett was fined $3 and costs for disturbing the salvation army, and for the same offence Thos. McLean was remanded until next Tuesday.

Re-instating a Barrister.

Application was made yesterday morning by B B Osler, Q C, for an order nisi to reinstate J G Currie, ex-M P P for Welland, as a solicitor on the rolls of the law society of Upper Canada. An affidavit is required to show that he has not been practising his profession since the time he was struck off the rolls, and the motion stands for that purpose.

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

Wm Ramsey, of Paris, Tenn, shot and killed one Clark and then killed himself. Supposed cause, jealousy.

During the municipal election at Louisville, Ky, on Monday, John Wortz stabbed and killed Adolph Rice in a quarrel about the candidates.

The wife of Dr Springstein, a well known physician of Cleveland, has swindled a number of the shrewdest money lenders in the city and disappeared. She married Springstein only three weeks ago.

During the fire at Hackett's mantel works, Louisville, Ky. on Monday night, the horses attached to the hook and ladder truck became frightened and dashed through the large crowd. Henry Maumeer and Ryan Weisert were fatally injured.

THE WEATHER BULLETIN.

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE,
TORONTO, December 7, 1 a.m.

A snow storm has set in over Ontario; storm signals continue up at lake ports. Lakes: Fresh to heavy gales from southwest to northwest; cloudy; decidedly colder weather with snow. The approaching cold spell will probably freeze up most of the harbors in Ontario.

STEAMSHIP ARRIVALS.

Date.	Steamship.	Reported at.	From
Dec 6	Helvetia	Queenstown	———
Dec 6	Monarch	New York	London
Dec 6	Canada	New York	Havre
Dec 6	Bolivia	Morille	New York
Dec 6	Silesia	Hamburg	Cologne
Dec 6	Abyssinia	New York	Liverpool