

## The Planet.

Business Office ..... 53  
Editorial Room ..... 102  
S. STEPHENSON - Proprietor.

## MAJORITY 36,392.

The official figures of the recent provincial election indicate that Mr. Whitney and his friends received a popular majority of 36,392, says the Mail and Empire. Regularly speaking, the Conservative majority in 1902 was seven thousand. But a revision of the figures makes the exact statement 6,612. In that election the majority did not win. The then Government, although in the minority of 6,612, still held on. The electors determined in January last to have no such mistake again. They therefore made assurance doubly sure by giving a good strong majority to the candidates of Mr. Whitney. The figures for January last are these: Conservative vote.....239,853  
Liberal vote.....203,461

Conservative majority.....36,392  
It is interesting the Mail and Empire continues, to compare the vote of 1903 with that of 1902. In 1902 the total vote polled, including the scattered vote for third candidates, was 439,545. In 1905 the total vote was 445,093. There were thus 5,548 more votes cast in 1905 than in 1902. The Liberal candidates polled 218,758 votes in 1902, and 203,461 in 1905. The Conservatives polled 220,370 votes in 1902, and 239,853 votes in 1905. The Conservatives thus polled 19,480 more in 1905 than in 1902. The loss of 10,297 by the Liberals and the gain of 19,480 by the Conservatives, and the old Conservative majority of 6,612 unite to give the Conservative popular majority of 36,392.

## EXPLAINED.

Pittsburg Dispatch.  
The secret is out. Dr. Osler was speaking at a banquet when he alluded to the incapacity of men over forty, and it was during the early morning hours. Discharged.

## THE YOUNG WRITER'S PLIGHT.

Chicago Herald-Record.  
There are four times as many words in the English language as in the French, but young writers always feel that it is necessary to work in a French phrase here and there in order to make their meaning clear.

## HAVING FUN WITH OSLER.

Montreal Star.  
Senator Scott, leading the Senate on his eightieth birthday, thinks that young chap Osler a trifle hasty. The bald-headed row will be solid against Dr. Osler's idea that all men should be chloroformed at sixty. When Dr. Osler points out that the best years are between 25 and 40, we perceive that Ontario's 32-year-in-the-saddle government was cut off in the very midst of its usefulness. Montreal Herald.  
Dr. Osler did not say to chloroform the women at 60 because he knew no woman would admit that she was that old.  
Dr. Osler says men over 60 should be chloroformed. But why not make them play hockey? It would be more sudden.

The Hon. A. G. Blair is over 60. He has read Dr. Osler's statement, and for the life of him he can't see where the joke comes in.

## TO BREAK UP ONTARIO.

Agitation in Lake Superior Districts for Annexation to Manitoba.

Winnipeg, March 1.—A correspondent of The Free Press, writing from Fort Arthur, says that an agitation has begun there for the secession of the districts of Thunder Bay and Rainy River from the Province of Ontario, and their annexation to Manitoba. Some of the most influential Conservatives and Liberals, he goes on to say, are in favor of the scheme, and the latter especially since the defeat of their party in Ontario have come to see the advantages of such a course.

Takes No Stock in It.  
Toronto, March 1.—The disposition at the Parliament Buildings is to treat the story from Winnipeg regarding the alleged agitation for the secession of the Thunder Bay and Rainy River Districts of Ontario, and their annexation to Manitoba, in the nature of a joke. Premier Whitney had not read the despatch, and, therefore, expressed no opinion.

Hon. Mr. Matheson smilingly declared: "I don't think Manitoba will get the districts. There is nothing in the story."

Hon. Mr. Hanna also treated the matter jestingly. "There might have been some reason for the agitation before the 28th of January (the date of the Provincial elections)," he said, "but there is none now."

Mr. Southworth, Director of Colonization, said if there were any such agitation it originated in Manitoba. His large correspondence with people of the district had never contained any intimation of such a desire.

Rashness is the faithful but unhappy parent of misfortune.

Some men give the chili to a sentiment before it is half uttered.

## SHE GAINED Fifteen Pounds

A young woman in New York wrote us that she had lost twenty-five pounds in four months and her lungs were seriously affected. She had to give up her position as a stenographer. Someone told her to try Scott's Emulsion. She took three bottles and gained fifteen pounds. Her general health was so improved that she resumed her work. Such cases are not the exception, but the rule. We have known persons to gain an average of a pound a day by taking an ounce of

## Scott's Emulsion

It seems hardly possible, yet we have received thousands of letters telling of almost similar results. It's not so strange when one is familiar with Scott's Emulsion. It sets the digestion right and furnishes rich nourishment that is easily absorbed by the system. Good food does good when it can be digested. Scott's Emulsion is a food itself, but it helps other food do good and so the gains in flesh are made quickly and easily.

Scott & Bowne, 122 Wellington St., West  
TORONTO, ONT.

DISTRICT DOINGS  
WALLACEBURG

March 2.—Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Crothers are visiting in Toronto.

A defective chimney on the south side of the firemen's run on Wednesday forenoon. No damage. The bachelors of the town gave an assembly at Stonehouse's Hall on Wednesday, which proved a social success. The St. Clair Orchestra furnished excellent music. The tickets are selling fast for the Band Minstrels on Friday, March 3. A street parade will be given in the evening.

Miss Mafie McDonald entertained a few friends at her home on Tuesday.

Thomas Hayes, of Sarnia, was in town on business last Wednesday. A bridge has been replanked and put in first-class condition. The work was completed by Wednesday noon.

Miss Virginia Raly visited in Chatham this week.

E. H. Morse returned home from Toronto this week, where he was on a business trip.

**\$100 REWARD \$100.**  
The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure for Catarrh, being a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in the curative powers of that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials.

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Sold by all Druggists, 75c.  
Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

## BLENHEIM

March 2.—J. W. Kennard has moved into Mrs. Todd's house on Lumley street.

Mr. Merritt, of Burke's Rapids, has taken the principality of the Public school.

The Messrs. Alford, of the Old street, have returned from a three months' trip to England.

There will be divine service held in Trinity church every Wednesday evening during Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday, March 8, at eight o'clock, and during Passion Week services will be held in the evening.

The list of the Clergy who will preach at these weekly services are as follows: Ash Wednesday, rector; March 15, Rev. B. A. Kinder, B. A.; Dresden, March 22, Rev. T. E. Higley, Chatham; March 29, Rev. R. McCosh, Chatham; April 5, Rev. T. Dobson, Tilbury; April 12, Rev. F. W. Brownlee, Ridestown.

It may do all right for a savage race, but no refined man will eat dog if he knows it.

Looking at it the other way, the sun is setting on some portion of the British empire every hour in the twenty-four.

Happy is the man who is imbued with things have not yet happened.

A big voice is too often mistaken for the gift of oratory.

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not cake.

Windsor Salt

## THE MUSKRAT'S HOME.

A Wonderful Representation of Busy Animals' Energy and Foresight—Greatest Enemies Are Human.

It is closely bordering on meanness to molest a muskrat's house in winter. The irregular heaps of frozen roots and aquatic vegetation represent so much busy energy in the moonlight nights of summer, and such careful preparation for the coming season of imprisonment. There are some who cut and pick and dig into these comfortable habitations, and set traps in the water to catch and drown the little colonists who come to repair the threatening damage. Some even creep silently to the sunny side, where the white frost shows the thawing warmth of life within. To drive a long spear through the cottoned wall into the little ice-lined home. Then there is the splashing of the startled inmates into the water, and perhaps the straggling of an impaled victim, who, before his calamity is dug out to his death if liberation is ever justified or if official authority is ever warranted in obtaining beyond the electric lights and granolithic pavements, it is in dealing with the muskrats. The muskrats in their homes, says The Toronto Globe. But the muskrats do not mind an occasional visit from their friends, even when the thermometer drops to zero; for their friends are always careful to close the door with dampened lumps of frozen vegetation and cover all with a thick coating of snow, that the wall may solidly congeal again and prevent the freezing of the open water that covers the floor. If the chinks are left open the floor of water will freeze, and when the muskrat comes along his muddy conduit with his lunch in his mouth, and ready to rise above the surface, in his house, he bumps his nose against the ice and is forced to pursue a suffocating search for a house with the trap-door unobstructed. They are communitistic in regard to houses, and a strenuous life under the ice, when many of the more complacent animals are sleeping away the winter, is sufficient to breed a helpful, neighborly spirit.

A muskrat can do almost anything under water except eat. When the ice is thin and clear he is often seen swimming comfortably under it, carrying a mouthful of green, succulent vegetation that trails gracefully on either side. Some say that when exhausted he breathes out a large bubble of air, waits for it to absorb oxygen from the water, and breathes it in again, going on his way refreshed. But he is generally in a hurry to reach the nearest house and enjoy the meal he has earned. As the ice thickens, his freedom in the shallow water becomes more restricted, and he seeks relief by burrowing and tunnelling in the mud or silt. When the ice reaches his house he freezes to the bottom. He is not in the least inconvenienced; for a labyrinth of tunnels enables him to visit all his neighbors and the waxy pastures where his food is growing. In this connection he has gained a wide reputation as a weather prophet, and scarcely a fall passes without some serious-faced messenger of evil announcing that the muskrats are building in, ten feet of water. At such a deathly hint is safe to conclude that nature has assisted with a convenient mound, tree-trunk, or other foundation.

The muskrat makes provision for the coming winter without being either sordid or offensively industrious. He builds houses, but it is in a leisurely way, as if the work were its own reward. And when one is finished he does not stay to assert his proprietorship, but goes elsewhere and builds again. He does not store up food, thus showing a wise appreciation of the necessity of trusting some things to Providence. When his visitors are digging through the masses of frozen vegetation many claim shells are turned out, showing where he rested at his work to enjoy a dainty luxury. They bring back, in fancy, the warm moonlit nights, when he worked and feasted by turns on his half-dug-out house, or swam steadily across the open, marshy lagoons, with widening trails of glittering ripples quivering away into the impenetrable shadows on every ground. Now the interior of his house is a low, ice-lined dome, with a floor of open water leading down into ramified burrows. In a house recently visited in Ashbridge's Bay the water was crowded with the remains of a supper, and the stains on the icy walls gave a picturesque proof that the occupants had indulged in a fish diet. The muskrat has an accommodating nature, and will degenerate into the civilized life of a sewer rat, so long as he adheres to the trying ideal of living his own life and minding his own business he should have at least an absolute immunity from eviction while the ice is on the marsh.

**Singing of Telegraph Wires.**  
Dr. A. S. Thompson, Alvinston, writes: A short time ago I noticed a reference to the singing of telegraph wires, and surmised as to its cause. About nine years ago I made a series of observations in Toronto on the subject and noted the following facts: First, the sound was independent of wind; second, the humming of wires running east and west invariably preceded a fall of temperature, often ten or more; third, the humming of wires running north and south advised a rise in temperature; almost always several hours in advance of the thermometer; fourth, wires running north and south and wires running east and west never hummed together, not even when the same wires running along an east and west street turned down a north and south side; and that portion of them hummed that indicated a rise or fall in temperature, as explained above. If one part hummed the other part was silent. The deduction I came to was that the humming was due to electric currents in the air.—Toronto Globe.

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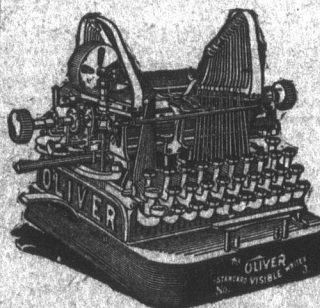
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To pay off mortgages. To buy property. To pay when desired. Very lowest rate.

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## PERE MARQUETTE R.R.

BUFFALO DIVISION

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Leave Chatham Express Express  
Blenheim and West 6:45 a.m. 5:30 p.m.  
East 8:25 a.m. 6:35 p.m.

Arrive at Chatham  
From 9:55 a.m. 7:50 p.m.  
St. Thomas 8:25 a.m. 6:58 p.m.  
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115-7:03 p.m. 116-2:25 a.m.  
6-8:38 p.m. 7-1:32 a.m.  
9-1:18 a.m. 10-2:49 p.m.

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Corrected July 3rd, 1904.

GOING EAST GOING WEST

2:55 a.m. Express 1:03 a.m.  
8:55 a.m. 1:11 a.m.  
3:32 p.m. 8:42 p.m.  
7 a.m. daily, except Sunday

## GRAND TRUNK WEST.

2:23 a.m. for Windsor, Detroit and intermediate stations except Sunday

12:42 p.m. for Windsor and Detroit

2:30 p.m. for Windsor and intermediate stations

2:15 p.m. for Windsor and Detroit

9:08 p.m. for Detroit, Chicago and western International Limited 9:08 p.m. daily

EAST.

2:37 a.m. for London, Hamilton, Toronto, Buffalo, and New York

1:45 p.m. for Glencoe and St. Thomas

2:17 p.m. for London, Toronto, Montreal, Buffalo and New York

5:08 p.m. for London, Hamilton, Toronto, Montreal and Buffalo

8:50 p.m. for London and intermediate stations

Daily except Sunday; \*Daily.

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Ore., Seattle, Wash., Vancouver, Victoria, B. C.,

San Francisco, Cal., \$40.75

Proportionately low rates to other points. Tickets on sale from March 1st to May 15, 1905.

## SPECIAL SETTLERS' TRAINS TO NORTH-WEST

Special train with Colonist Sleeper will leave TORONTO at 9 p.m. every

TUESDAY during MARCH and APRIL for Manitoba and North-West. Passengers travelling without

Live Stock should take the Pacific Express leaving Toronto at 1:40 p.m.

For tickets and full information call on

W. E. RISPIN, City Ticket Agent, 115 King Street, Chatham, or to

J. C. PRITCHARD, Depot Ticket Agent.

## CANADIAN PACIFIC

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Will Leave Toronto Every Tuesday During March and April at 9:00 P. M. for

Manitoba and the North-West

and run via Grand Trunk, North Bay and Canadian Pacific. A Colonist Sleeper will be attached to each train. Passengers travelling without live stock should take the train leaving Toronto 1:45 p.m. Train leaving Toronto at 9:00 p.m. is for passengers travelling with stock.

Full particulars and copy of Settlers' Guide and "Western Canada," from W. H. HARPER, Canadian Pacific Agent, Chatham, or C. B. FOSTER, D.P.A., Toronto.

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