

ALBERNI.

Ex-Mayor Manson of Nanaimo is not likely to attain to the dignity of writing ex-M. P. P. for Nanaimo after his honored name. Not that Mr. Manson is not in all respects a most worthy gentleman. He is highly spoken of as regards both character and ability. But Alberni is not a Conservative constituency, and if it were Conservative its adherence to Conservative principles would have been severely tried by the acts of the British Columbia government which calls itself Conservative, a government which ex-Mayor Manson would support if elected.

A few weeks ago it was hinted that the Liberal party in British Columbia was likely to permit the seat of Mr. McInnes to go to a government supporter by default. The newspaper that drew the bow at a venture had little hope that its random shot would reach the mark. It knew well that the Liberals would not permit a candidate in the field—one of the prominent and active citizens of Nanaimo, Mr. Hugh Aitken, of the Herald, was the choice of the convention held at Alberni Wednesday. Consequently the fight will be between two residents of the most strenuous political centre in the province, and it will be worthy of the political reputation of the base from which it will be carried on.

The forces which will be arrayed against Mr. Aitken will be strong and determined. The government of Mr. McBride years with exceeding earnestness, and he will be the champion of the cause of Socialism that hangs so heavily around its neck. The Premier and his colleagues feel that they are offending beyond the point of forgiveness against Conservative sentiment in preferring office to the sacrifice of the real interests of the province as the one condition upon which office can be retained. Consequently the forlorn hope of casting off the bonds so deftly wound by the Socialist leader will impel the Premier to labor with desperation for the defeat of Mr. Aitken. But the Liberal candidate is a resourceful and tireless energy. He is a clever speaker and an all-round campaigner, trained in the school from that Ralph Smith, M. P., graduated. That in itself is a guarantee of something out of the ordinary in campaign work.

A CHRONIC COMPLAINT.

The Intercolonial Railway of Canada is the despair of Canadian politicians. The deficits of the government line are as regular as the seasons. When the Conservatives were in power the Liberals in opposition were quite sure that under business management the road could be made to pay. For eighteen years the conflict of opinion raged, and for eighteen years the excuses were made that the condition of the districts served and the point of view of the people who patronized the line precluded the possibility of the road being made to pay the expenses of operation.

Now the conditions are reversed. The Liberals have their hands upon the throttle, but sufficient financial steam cannot be generated to keep the rolling stock moving upon its own wheels. It appears the people of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island have been reared with false conceptions of the purposes of the railway. They think it was made to serve their ends, and if in serving their ends the interests of the country as a whole cannot be advanced, the interests of the country as a whole must be sacrificed. A standard was set during the eighteen years of Conservative management that cannot be upset now without oversteering many cherished ideals and opinions.

The point of view is that the Intercolonial as a link in the chain which united the Eastern provinces within the confines of Confederation is not primarily a business institution designed to serve business ends, but a convenience for the business houses which have goods to transport and for the public who desire transportation for themselves. The Intercolonial is also a means of livelihood for a small portion of the too numerous class who love to place their superabundant but none too active energies at the service of their country.

The Liberal government in its Minister of Railways and Canals believed that it was possible to change the point of view of the men of the East and educate them up to an approximation of the truth regarding the Intercolonial. It will be remembered that in the days when Hon. John Haggart, as Conservative Minister of Railways, directed the affairs of the Intercolonial, despair seized upon the souls of the practical-minded members of the party. They regarded the case of the Intercolonial as hopeless, and they started an agitation in favor of transferring the whole works, rolling stock and roadbed, over to the C. P. R. as a free gift. The Liberals then had the habit of opposition, and they opposed this drastic suggestion. They thought they could do better with the line. They pointed out that it had not had a fair chance—that its appointments were out of date—that it began at a seaward end and ended in a field—that it was merely a tramway acting in a limited sense as a feeder of the C. P. R.—and so on. Now the road runs into the great city of Montreal. It has been equipped as to its rolling stock with the most modern engines and coaches. And yet we hear the chronic tale of deficits. Twice in its career under the administration of Mr. Blair the line showed surpluses. What is the matter with it? That is what the people of Canada would like to know. It is absurd for Conservatives to claim that if they were in power they could do better. They tried for eighteen years, and they could not determine the cause of the trouble.

Hon. H. R. Emmerson claims that the past year has been an exceptionally trying one for the Intercolonial. The winter was a hard one. The cost of keeping the line clear of snow was enormous. This, as we know from the annual reports of the Canadian Pacific and the Grand Trunk, also applies to the cases of the privately operated lines of Canada and reduced their profits for the year enormously. It is also true, as claimed by the Minister, that the scale of wages paid Intercolonial employees was below the schedules in force on other roads. That was a grievance a Liberal government was in duty bound to take cognizance of and remedy. But after all excuses have been noted, it is obvious that there is something inherently wrong with the working of the government road, and that a remedy for the evil must be found. Mr. Emmerson says he hopes for better things in the future. The business activity which has been characteristic of the East for the past half dozen years exhibits no signs of diminution. The present Minister has not had a fair chance to prove his capacity with respect to the management of the Intercolonial. He may have a more cheering statement to make to Parliament next year. If the deficits continue, then it will be opportune to ask for a commission to inquire into the secrets of the chronic deficits on the Intercolonial railway.

A more terrible menace than the Japanese now confronts the Russians. It was well understood that the country was as ripe for revolution as the people of such a country could be. But with the army and the navy in the hands of the governing classes it was difficult to see what the ignorant masses could hope for by rising except sudden death or dreadful mutilation at the hands of the soldiery. No one ever suspected that there was a possibility of the navy or the army rebelling and joining forces with the revolutionists. A final wanton act upon the part of the agents of the despotism appears to have set the match to the tinder in the navy, and it is difficult to say what the ultimate result may be. Whatever it may be, it is quite clear that there are bloody times ahead of the afflicted people of Russia. They will be suppressed, we believe, but the classes as well as the masses will suffer the consequence of misgovernment and oppression. The lesson history teaches is that men who have been kept in subjection by the methods employed upon the Monks of Russia, and upon higher classes than the Monks, exact terrible penalties when they turn upon the oppressors and wrong-doers.

GIFTS FROM LAURIER.

It is gratifying to the Times to note that nearly all the prominent newspapers of the province of British Columbia are vying with each other in paying compliments to our esteemed and revered Lieut.-Governor, Sir Henri Joly. Our contemporaries speak as though they had just discovered the virtues and the accomplishments of Sir Henri. When the news came from Ottawa that the grand old seigneur from Quebec had been appointed to the Lieut.-Governorship of British Columbia the Times predicted that in his official capacity by reason of his long experience in state affairs and his inherently sound judgment and broad understanding, and in his social capacity by reason of qualities for which he had long been renowned, Sir Henri would establish standards in the west which would be difficult of attainment by those who should succeed him. Some of our contemporaries, which were then in a critical mood, expressed their doubts respecting the wisdom of the choice of the government. And they were by no means considerate of the feelings of the gentleman they are now overwhelming with their congratulations.

The Lieut.-Governor has, it seems, finally won their obdurate and official hearts by the grace with which he has filled the chair of state and by the gentleness and courtesy of his demeanor to all with whom he has been brought in contact. This conversion, we need scarcely say, is very gratifying to us and quite a compliment to the government which made the selection. We have not the slightest doubt that when the actions in general of the Laurier administration become matters for the historian to deal with, when the expediency of political exigencies has ceased to exercise influence upon the utterances of the publications of the day, there will be no attempt to deny an obvious fact: that the general course of the Laurier administration has been productive of good not only to British Columbia but to all Canada. The proof of this is to be found in the hopefulness of the people of this country on this eve of the anniversary of confederation and in the general prosperity which commenced with the advent of the present government and has attended upon our movements ever since that bright day in the political history of the Dominion.

The Australian government has been defeated. That is news, of course. But the really live topic in Australia at present is the possible result of the cricket matches which will be played in England during the summer.

MR. CARMICHAEL'S CASE.

To the Editor:—Mr. Herbert Carmichael, a very estimable citizen, very properly protests against the unreasonable conduct of the city authorities in suing him for riding on the sidewalk at a spot in the highway impassable for vehicular traffic, and made so by the neglect and carelessness of the city authorities themselves. But what would Mr. Carmichael say to paying heavy taxes for the privilege of riding and living upon a piece of property within pistol shot of the end of the tram line in the tourist quarter, par excellence, of Victoria, namely, Oak Bay, and not even the ambulance of a road to the said property? The residents out Equilium way have, indeed, a road; we dwellers by Oak Bay, at the point to which I have referred, have no road at all. In the rainy season the whole area behind Oak Bay park is an inland sea. All we need there are steam launches or gondolas, and we could get along in winter without a road. Again and again the residents of the neighborhood have protested to the provincial government for the area is just outside city limits; again and again the government has promised to afford the means of tourists who pass to and fro over that neighborhood the desired roadway, and again and again these easily-made promises have been broken. We residents of Oak Bay immediately contiguous to or behind Oak Bay park have no road, and we are obliged to pay property taxes hereabouts as scandalously heavy. The condition of affairs is a disgrace, not only to the provincial government, but also to the city of Victoria, which pretends to take some kind of remote interest in the welfare of the visiting stranger. That no road should have been put through from Oak Bay, past Dr. O. M. Jones' estate, to Shoal Bay from the end of the Oak Bay car line is a marvel to persons accustomed to modern ways of doing things. No wonder the tourists smile incredulously when, stepping off the car at that point, they seek the nearest way to Shoal Bay, and remembering the high-pitched palaver about Victoria's superb roads "in and around the city," they strike a cow trail through a tangled bush, wild as the heart of a forest primeval, trying to find their way to Shoal Bay beach. Something should be done to remedy this glaring defect in Victoria's accommodation for the tourists; if not for the despised and negligible settlers. Mr. Carmichael ought to be thankful to have a road however bad; we here have none, unless it be that which is paved with provincial government promises and leadeth easily to Averna.

DR. EATON CONGRATULATED.

Upon Receiving Degree D. C. L. From Acadia University. A short time ago Frank H. Eaton, M. A., superintendent of the University of Acadia College, the degree of D. C. L. in recognition of his able efforts in the field of education. In this connection the following from the Daily News of Toronto, N. S., will be read with interest: "The Education Review in congratulating F. H. Eaton, M. A., superintendent of schools for Victoria, B. C., on receiving the degree of D. C. L. from Acadia College, says: 'Dr. Eaton is fittingly remembered for his former excellent services to the Nova Scotia Normal school, and he is regarded as one of the strongest and most capable men in educational circles in the West.'"

EL NIDO DE ROBLETS.

To the Editor:—Your invitation to "some municipal mischief maker to stir things up a bit" seems almost too tempting to resist, especially as the opportunity and necessity for some stirring up seem quite abundant just at present.

Our Mayor of late has come out very strong on legal opinions. He presented one at the last meeting of the council which was quite a long and stirring speech, and for a time at least, if not for good.

He also wants the school board to join with him in securing a legal opinion as to the merits of the case in dispute between that body and the council. While he is so busy with the business of securing legal opinions it might be worth while for him to consult some good lawyer, or the Supreme court, on the following matter: What authority has the city council for its votes of \$4,400 to the Tourist Association? If the money is being paid out on the simple vote of the aldermen, without a shadow of law to justify the same, is it doing, could not the Mayor and aldermen be sued for the amount and made to return it into the city treasury?

What authority has the Mayor and aldermen for paying ten or twelve hundred dollars for a site for the Old Men's Home, when the by-law authorizing its purchase limited the amount for the site to half that sum, or less? Did some one very close to the Mayor and aldermen take a commission on the sale of that property to the city? If so, who was it, and how much was the rate-off?

3rd. Was there a commission made on the sale of the two lots at Spring Ridge from which the 10,000 yards of gravel is now being taken? Was the sale to be contingent upon the contract being entered into by the Mayor and aldermen to take milk in the cocoon in connection with that whole discreditable transaction?

It will, of course, only be necessary to hint to our Mayor that these things might settle, and he has not shown that he has done at once. For it is not very long ago that the law, with all its dignity and majesty, shall be adhered to, to the very letter. Has he not shown that in the Spring Ridge sewer matter, and in his dealings with the school board?

LEWIS.

THE RESERVOIR.

To the Editor:—In answer to "Citizen's" letter in your last night's issue, the British Columbia Electric Railway Company has not now, nor ever has it in the slightest intention in the filling or the excavating of the tank at the corner of Johnston street. The company is quite content to leave such matters to the good judgment of the fire wardens and the city council.

ALBERT T. GOWARD.

FIRST PATENT IN CHINA.

The Chinese government, according to German papers, has granted its first patent. It is for an electric lamp, the inventor of which is an inhabitant of Nanking, who calls his lamp the "bright moonlight," and asserts that it is far superior to foreign glow Shanghai and other Chinese cities.

LONDON'S FINEST MANSION.

Staford House, Home of the Duke of Sutherland.

The Duke of Sutherland's London home is certainly the most beautiful palace, not only in the British Isles, but in one of the most European capitals. Disraeli in one of his novels described it as "not unworthy of Vienna at its best." Empress Eugenie was asked to take with her an exact copy of it in Paris, and Queen Victoria, when she used to drive from Buckingham Palace to visit her great friend, Duchess Harriet of Sutherland, grandmother of the present Duke, was wont to greet her with the remark, "Dear, I'm coming from my house to visit you in your palace." It is a

noble pile, looking upon Green Park and upon Birkbeck Walk, and was built less than one hundred years ago for the Duke of York, second son of King George III., on money borrowed from the then Marquis of Stafford. The Duke died before his wonderful new house could be finished, and the Marquis of Stafford, who had meanwhile become the first Duke of Sutherland, took possession of the building and secured the land on which it stood. The crown, however, spent no end of money on its completion, under the direction of Sir Charles Barry, the designer of the houses of parliament. According to the terms of the lease, the building as it now stands, with the fixtures, though not with the other contents, will in a few years come into the possession of the ground landlord—that is to say, the crown—without any compensation to the Duke or his heirs, and there is no doubt that then the palace—for it is impossible to describe it by any other name—will be assigned to one of the members of the reigning family as a metropolitan residence. Like Trentham, it is crowded from garret to cellar with the most valuable pictures, and the famous Murillos in existence, a number of Van Dykes, Rubenses and Raphaels. Between the immense reception hall and the dining room stand a pair of marble pillars, which are never opened except for royalty or for a departing bride.

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Our London Letter.

London, June 9.—Royal visitors to our shores are doomed, it would seem, to see our climate at its worst. A few months back the King of Italy visited England, and during his stay in London the metropolis was enveloped in so thick a fog that he had to give up back with a vague and gloomy impression of our great city, and now the King of Spain has arrived, and although the month of June, there has been a continuous downpour of rain since the day he came. The decorations of flags and so forth with which London was made gay long lamp and dripping and present a most melancholy appearance. Extraordinary precautions have been taken by the police authorities here during the stay of the young King, and he is everywhere accompanied by a strong bodyguard of soldiers. This is of course, owing to the attempt on his life made in Paris. The young King himself seems to be among the least concerned about his safety, and, perhaps, has a boyish relish for the spice of danger that attends his visit.

Never before have the arrangements for a command performance at the Royal opera been so prolific a scale as those inaugurated to do honor to the young King of Spain. The scene inside the opera house was indeed a symphony of red. Rows outlined the tiers of boxes and were festooned round the Royal box above the draperies of yellow and white, and in the auditorium, which connect the Royal box with the Spanish colors typical in crimson rambler roses and French yellow daisies were entwined and always with the happiest effect. As is usual on such occasions, the Royal box occupied the centre of the grand tier, and those privileged to witness the gorgeous brilliancy of the scene I presented on the arrival of the Royal party will cherish it as a memory of a life time. The lights emphasized the fire of precious diamonds behind the screen of lovely orchids, and the uniform of the men added not a little to the brilliancy of the remarkable whole. King Alfonso wore the white uniform of a Field Marshal in the Spanish army, and King Edward honored his guest by wearing also Spanish uniform. In the box were Queen Alexandra, the Prince of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Princess Margaret and Patricia, Princess Christian, Princess Irene of Batavia, the Duchess of Saxe, and almost every member of our English Royal family. The society was naturally represented in the House, which was certainly one of the finest sights we can hope to present to any foreign guest.

On the retirement of Mr. Gully from the Speaker's chair, it was almost a foregone conclusion that his successor would be Mr. J. W. Lowther, and that such is the case in a matter for sincere congratulation. Mr. Lowther was appointed without any opposition, and with the unanimous consent of all parties. As chairman of ways and means and deputy Speaker for the last ten years he has given ample proof of his capacity to discharge the duties which attach to the position of Speaker of the House of Commons. Mr. Lowther, after a short speech of thanks for his acceptance by the House, was conducted by the mover and

THE CZAR'S SPEECH.

Some Russian Papers Have Incorrectly Interpreted the Emperor's Words. St. Petersburg, June 23.—The official interpretation of the Emperor's speech to the delegation of the Zemstvoists and Mayors at Peterhof on June 18th is given in the following terms: "The Emperor, in the interior to all the newspapers."

The words pronounced by the Emperor during the reception of the members of the Zemstvo and municipalities have been interpreted in various ways. A portion of the periodical papers and several newspapers have gone so far as to deduce therefrom the arbitrary conclusion that the Emperor's speech implied an extension of the Imperial prerogative to the Minister of the Interior in the sense of the convention of representatives of the people on the basis of the existing constitutions of the countries of the Russian Empire, whereas it was clearly shown by the Emperor's speech, and the condition of such a convention were to be based on a number of things regarding to Russian autocratic principle, and his speech was not intended to indicate the least indication of the possibility of modifying the fundamental laws of the Empire, consequently the central administration of affairs, by order of the Minister of the Interior, informs all publications appearing without censorship that the Emperor's words can be published only in the form in which they were reported by the Official Messenger, without additions or omissions. In order to prevent distortion of the significance of the imperial words, it is found necessary to prohibit publication in the press of any kind of reports or interpretations which do not accord with the direct and clear meaning of the Emperor's utterances.

THE VICEROY OF INDIA.

The Rumors Regarding the Resignation of Lord Curzon Have Not Been Confirmed. Simla, India, June 26.—It is freely rumored that Viceroy Lord Curzon has either tendered his resignation or shortly will do so, in consequence of the decision of the home government whereby Lord Kitchener, commander-in-chief of the forces in India, has been given complete control of the army in India.

Two special meetings of the India council have been held since the publication in London of the blue book referring to Lord Kitchener's plans, the approval of which is considered to be a severe blow to Lord Curzon, as he and practically the whole council unanimously advised against the decision ultimately adopted. The keenest excitement prevails in official circles here. The Times of India declares that India cannot afford to lose "either of the great men, Lord Curzon or Lord Kitchener, who dominate her affairs." While it is considered quite possible that Lord Curzon may not take his resignation, in consequence of the course taken by the home government directly at variance with his views, it is not believed that it will be long before the viceroy will insist on resigning his post at least until after the Prince and Princess of Wales have completed their tour of India, extending from November to March.

A question was asked in the House of Commons this afternoon elicited from Indian Secretary Broderick the statement that the government had received no information to the effect that Curzon had any desire or intention to resign. Mrs. M. H. Barker and Mrs. Lowell and daughter, of Tacoma, Wash., are in the city. They are guests at the Dominion.

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FREDERIC HARRISON ON "CARDS"

HIS "PET AVERSION"

The author of the accompanying article is one of the most distinguished of contemporary English writers. His best known works are probably "The House of Bricks," published in 1888, and his "Cromwell," published two years later. Last year Mr. Harrison ventured into the field of fiction with a historical novel, "Theophano," dealing with the period of the early eastern empire. Perhaps Mr. Harrison is known best of all as the leading English exponent of Positivism and of the philosophy of Comte. In public affairs Mr. Harrison is apt to take a somewhat extreme attitude. When the House of Lords, for instance, threw out the home rule bill in 1885, he seriously advocated the abolition of five hundred sweeps, so that the measure could be put through the Lords. He delights in hyperbole and in punning, and his present article is characteristic of his somewhat savage humor.

Thought I detect the sight of cards, I am well aware that the habit of card-playing does not offend and injure the innocent bystander as the habit of smoking tobacco does. I do not call it a vice, unless it ends in reckless gambling, which it often does. But it is an anti-social, debilitating form of folly, which encourages mean kinds of excitement, "dumb sommes," said that deprecate scoundrel, Tully, to a young man who declined to play with him, "quelle triste velleuse vous vous préparez." The old age of Tully and of all such hazy sinners could not be anything but triste. Cards may have enabled him to forget his evil ways, but opinion would have done better. "Life would be tolerable," said a great and good man. "If it were not for its amusements." He was no doubt thinking mainly of cards, which bored him. Cards bore me, the sight of them, the sight of men and women playing cards bore me. The long, gasping silence bore me. The clatter when they count the points, the snarl, the sneer, the sneers, the chuckles, the "why did you lead that spade?"—"I knew you had the ace!" Can any jabbler be more wearisome, more inane, more stupid, more ignorant, more dull to take pleasure in talk, too ignorant to read, too lazy to dance, deaf to music, blind to art, unable to keep awake, break time to cards, as persons in Italy make night hideous with incessant moan.

The noodles who brag that smoking is manly, like shop boys over their first penny smoke, tell us that cards are sociable and promote friendly intercourse. It is just the contrary. Cards are a strange society, and are the death of any graceful amusement, be it talk, music, play-acting, dancing, or charades. They will say I am an old curmudgeon, and so on. Not at all. I am a particularly sociable fellow, who can make myself at home in any company, be it a London crush, or a Pall Mall club, a big

country house or a village inn, a garden party or a farmer's "ordinary." Homo sum, etc., etc. At college I played whist, "Boston," and my names were Briggs, and Van John, like anybody else, though I always found it poor fun. My father, and his brothers and sisters were first-class whist-players. These strange old couple who sat half the night playing "double-dummy" together, and quarrelling over it like butchers' dogs. They were both very clever, and very rich, but society at their call. But they were so soaked in cards that they could not read, even a newspaper; they had nothing to say to one another or to anyone else; they had no interest in anything on earth, except the "odd trick" and "my last trump." When they shall hear the "Last Trump, what sort of figure will they cut. The old man, who was a Quaker, firmly believed that Satan had invented cards. I firmly believe there are people, who if they were "afforded" their choice of going to heaven to sing hymns, or going to hell where cards are allowed, would follow the game, even if they had to play dummy with the little devils.

Of course, my tirade against cards is called out by the fact that I am a Bridge. A family game of whist or Vingt-et-Un is silly, but I cannot call it vice, hardly a nuisance, if it is not incessant and too irritating. But "Bridge" has become a "public nuisance." It is a poisoning society, desolating homes, and corrupting women. Drawing-rooms, where a graceful woman gave you five o'clock tea, have become gloomy gambling hells. House parties have become intolerable to those who are not bitten with the fashionable tarantula. Women of cultivation who have lived in the best society will not accept invitations to dinner till they know they are not to be asked to sit down to Bridge. Many a man or woman leaves a country house with the sense that they have been bored and plundered. Horrid tales reach us of the straits to which girls have been put when some old harridan has got them to sit down to a game. What happened to Elizabeth at the country places she visited is by no means fiction, but revolting fact. I have heard a real mother of a name of the old lady to her mother: "My dear, let me warn you, never you let your daughter go to a smart country house." "Bridge" has become a vice as rampant as ever was loot in the days of Lord Hervey and Bubb Dodington.

A great many men and women hate Bridge, as many do not like tobacco. They are dragged into both, against their tastes, because it is "the thing," what "they all do now." Some women pretend to like a cigarette, because they fondly trust it will recommend them to men. In the old days, such women affected a love of drink, as in our days they affect to be abstemious. A particularly sociable fellow, who can make myself at home in any company, be it a London crush, or a Pall Mall club, a big

were at length tempted, and some queer musical sounds came from the group and the three men began to shuffle rhythmically round and round in time to rather weird music played by the orchestra. The audience, however, made the mistake of trying to encourage them by applauding, but no sooner did these shy little creatures hear the loud clapping than they suddenly stood still and ran shyly back to their laps. Somehow, although it is an exceedingly interesting "show," one feels that it would have been kinder to leave these little people in the seclusion of their native forest than to bring them before the glare of footlights in a London theatre.

In view of the outcry against the increasing motor traffic and the hostile feelings with which it is regarded by the general public, there was a good deal of interest attaching to the enterprising exhibition, organized by Mr. S. F. Edge, who is well known in connection with the development of the motor car in this country, which was held at the Crystal Palace. The exhibition was held for the purpose of showing the degrees of control in motor cars and horse-drawn vehicles. There were five tests and in each case the motor car came off victorious. The tests were the rain-sodden gravel terrace along which the famous first work display is periodically held, and at a signal given at some unknown point of the respective "pulling up" properties of vehicles of both descriptions were started and in each test the mechanically driven car won by many yards. This points to the fact that the much maligned motor is far more amenable to control than was imagined, and that the horse-drawn vehicle cannot pull up in anything like the same time. One of the many arguments against the introduction of motor omnibus traffic to London was this very question. This exhibition proves that there are no grounds for this objection.

Taffeta is a very popular material for summer dresses—taffeta mousseline, taffeta muslin, taffeta lawn, and taffeta fabric, and it is, indeed, a dainty material. Many of the taffeta skirts have bodies of Brussels net with lace applique, and these are sometimes embroidered with ribbon the width of the skirt. Other dresses of taffeta are trimmed most elaborately with ruffled designs and quiltings of the fabric itself. There may be a vest of lace and a colored waistband of delicate cotton. These dresses are most becoming and self-trimming is unbroken. With afternoon dresses, long, hand-painted chiffon or crepe de chine scarves are worn, and with the right kind of gown have a very picturesque accompaniment to a summer gown they are not so warm, and heavy looking as the ostrich bob, which was worn correctly, must be twisted once round, with one end at the back and the other in front. The long scarves are twisted once round the neck and then the two ends are allowed to hang down or to float in the summer breeze, if the fancy takes them. These scarves are most becoming, and with lovely floral designs, but they can be had also in most of the delicate shades, and will be found very useful in introducing a touch of color to a white or black gown.

A most interesting addition has been made to the programme at the London Hippodrome now that the much talked of pyromaniac has been banished from the arena. The little people, who have been brought to England from their forest-home, Iru, in Central Africa, had earned a reputation for themselves long before they arrived, for all society had been told of the harmony here to prevent their being brought over. It was felt by the authorities to be unfair to take these strange little beings away from their native forest and expose them to the rigors of our variable climate, and also to the dangers arising from a change in food and mode of life. But they seem to have survived all these dangers. The "show" as it appears at the Hippodrome is very interesting. We see the little people sitting outside their tiny palm leaf huts. Three men, a boy and two women. In order to induce the little people to dance, they are given a small amount of tobacco, which they smoke in a pipe. They are very fat, and very fatigued about before their tiny creatures, making their diminutive stature all the more marked. The little figures were at first too shy to move, but, seeing him, they

FACTS ABOUT THE EYE.

The eye of a young child is as transparent as water; that of the youth a little less so; in the man of 30 the eye becomes less transparent, and in the man of 50 or 60 it is decidedly opaque. It is an error of the man of 70 or 80 it is dull and lustreless. This gradual development of opacity is due to the increase of fibrous tissue and deposit of waste matter in the eye.

NORWAY AND SWEDEN.

Commissioner Will Be Appointed to Consider the Situation.