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The Canadian oil industry in Newfoundland has assumed important proportions. This statement is founded upon an interview with a representative capitalist of this city to-day, who is largely interested in the Western Oil Company. The founding of this company, with two millions of capital was announced some time ago in the 'Witness.' Its formation was the result of oil boring of Port au Port, Newfoundland, last year. During the winter Mr. F. W. Andrews, for the company, visited every important oil works in the United States. Mr. Andrews leaves for Port au Port next Sunday night with a complete boring plant for Petroleum. The four wells which were sunk last year will be operated again and large sums will be spent in exploiting these oil territories, whose product Mr. Andrews believes to be superior to any yet discovered on this continent. Comparisons of oils have been made by the principal of the company, who is leaving for the east to-night. There are, he said, many areas of untouched oil wealth which this company owns and will develop.

A New York despatch of May 4th says: Lightning struck Sadie Tunic, 13 years old, as she was standing in Canal street last evening, just as the rain began to fall. The bolt hit the steel rod of her umbrella, tearing it from her grasp. The girl was terribly burned and her lower limbs were paralyzed. Her recovery is doubtful. Some of those who saw the lightning come down said that it was in the shape of a ball of fire. Policeman James J. O'Brien, who was beside the girl, was nearly blinded by the bolt. He described it as a ball of flame. It made a noise when it burst like a small cannon, he said. The lightning flash shot past Policeman O'Brien's face to the top of the child's umbrella, breaking the handle into splinters, ripping the cover, bending the steel rod and hurling it into the street. The girl was thrown violently on her back, and lay moaning in agony until picked up and taken to a hospital.

News Summary.

Gen. Luigi Pelloux, premier and minister of the interior in the Italian cabinet which resigned on Wednesday, has been charged by King Humbert with the reconstruction of the ministry.

Hon. Mr. Tarte, who has been unwell during the whole session, is more seriously ill than ever. The trouble is with his liver and it is said that a surgical operation will have to be performed.

There were twenty-three business failures in the Dominion last week, against twenty-five in the corresponding week of 1898.

Rudyard Kipling has consented to accept the degree of LL. D. from McGill. In expressing his pleasure at the honor conferred upon him, Mr. Kipling regrets that he will be unable to personally attend, but the authorities of McGill are quite positive that he can be induced to reconsider his determination.

According to a Louisville, Ky., despatch Geo. Dinning, colored, has been awarded \$50,000 damages by a jury of white men in the United States court. The defendants are farmers of Logan and Simpson counties. The award is the full amount sued for. Dinning killed Jodie Conn, who, with the defendants against whom judgment was rendered, visited his home in January, 1897, to drive him therefrom.

A despatch from Dresden says: The minister of education, Herr Von Seydewitz, has stirred up a hornet's nest in the feminine world by the issuance of a decree whereby all girls and young women attending the public schools and colleges in Saxony must abandon the practice of wearing corsets and stays. The wearing of corsets by girls of tender age and the habit of tight lacing have become so prevalent, particularly in Dresden, that the state foresees in the corset a grave menace to the well-being of posterity. Although girls and their mothers protest against the measure, and even threaten to boycott the schools, the officials stand firm.

Fredericton Herald: R. A. Estey received word Friday morning that his big lumber drive was all out in the main Tobique river, and was making excellent progress. Mr. Estey's driving crew have been at work just seven days, and the drive handled by them is not a small one by any means. Those who are able to speak with authority on lumbering matters say that every stick of lumber on the St. John and tributaries will be got out in safety this season. A letter received from John Kilburn last evening stated that his lumber drives were coming along well and that he expected to be home on or about the 24th inst.

Sir Sanford Fleming publishes an address to the British people, in which he deprecates the action of the British government in withdrawing from the arrangement under which Great Britain was to bear five-eighths of the cost of the Pacific cable. Sir Sanford hopes that the decision reached by the imperial government is not final. Sir Sanford says the proposed course would be regarded as a recession from the previous understanding, an attempt to retard commerce and the expansion of the empire in the interest of rich monopolists, a fatal blow to the scheme of state-owned British cables, and a retrograde step in the movement for imperial unity.

The Earl of Rosebery, addressing the London Liberal Club Friday evening and dilating upon the "present universality of imperialism in the British possessions," said he thought the government was pursuing curious methods of fostering imperialism when it placed a tax upon Australian wines and offered "only a miserable contribution, tided up with irksome conditions, to the great Canadian and Australian proposal for an imperial cable." Later in the evening Lord Rosebery said: "I hope nothing has occurred to-night which can be taken as an indication that I have any intention of returning to the active arena, which deliberately and for good reasons I forsook in 1896."

According to a statement reported to have been made in London last week to a correspondent of the Associated Press by the secretary of the Wireless Telegraphy Co., the first attempt to transmit Atlantic messages by the Marconi system will be made during the contests for the America's cup. Stations will be established at Sandy Hook and elsewhere along the coast laid out for the great yacht race, from which the entire contests will be visible. Messages recording the passage of the races will be transmitted from these stations to a point on the Irish coast in the neighborhood of Waterville. The secretary of the Wireless Telegraphy Co. added that Sir Thomas Lipton and the authorities of the United States and Great Britain had been notified of the project and had expressed themselves as being intensely interested.



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