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 BANK OF MONTREAL BUILDING, ST. JOHN'S.

### What the Maritime Merchant Says About Codfish.

The Maritime Merchant of Sept. 15, commenting on the fish situation says, things are never so bad, but that they might be worse. The price of dried codfish is not as high as Lunenburg would like to see it. The article estimates that the Lunenburg Banking fleet will total 190,000 qtls. for the voyage, or an increase of 40,000 qtls. over last year, so that with a decreased price from that paid last year the fishermen could be considered to have done very well. Commenting on the Markets the Maritime Merchant says, "The most hopeful sign is not that prices are higher, but that the world as a whole is eating more fish. Spain is eating more and so are Portugal and Italy. The only market in which no improvement is noticeable, and in which we fear none can be expected for some time is Northern Brazil. In normal times Northern Brazil would buy more dried codfish from Newfoundland than the average

total catch of the Lunenburg fleet. Now things are very quiet down there; the price of Brazil rubber is away below the cost of production; sugar too, is unprofitable, and these, with tobacco are three of the great staples of the country. The tobacco trade is bad because Southeast Brazil, which is the large market for tobacco, is affected by the low price of coffee in Europe. The German workmen to-day need 800 Paulo coffee, but he hasn't the money to buy it, and so the man who grows the coffee cannot buy tobacco from the Northern Brazilian, who would like to sell him, so that he in turn could buy codfish in Newfoundland and Canada." Speaking of Newfoundland the article says: "What little news is from there is encouraging as far as the catch of dried fish is concerned, but with the cost of living in that colony where it is to-day, one cannot but feel sorry for the fishermen. Fancy his having to pay \$15.50 a barrel for flour, while only getting about \$5.00 a quintal for his fish. However, there is no use in rethinking, and the only thing for the Newfoundland fishermen these days is to stick it out and try to be cheerful. It is when you hear what the net re-

### The Russian Famine.

Bolshevism has reduced Russia to utter helplessness in the face of a disaster for which it is mainly responsible. The failure of the harvest is due to the drought; the famine to the criminal self-sufficiency of the Communists. It is an object lesson which will not be lost on sane people—fortunately in a heavy majority—in every other country. According to Kallin, President of the Central Soviet Executive, the famine area covers 400,000 square miles, and estimates of the numbers affected vary from 10,000,000 to 35,000,000. The latter figure is given by the British representative in Moscow. "Under the Imperial regime," says Kallin, "the failure of the harvest was no great disaster. In view of large 'reserve' stocks." Was ever incompetence more completely exposed out of its own mouth than by this confession? An appeal for relief has gone forth from Moscow, and Europe and America are ready to organize whatever measures humanity may dictate. But the world is not prepared to hand over supplies to the Soviet authorities for the benefit of the Red Army and the bolstering up of a Government which will set the first opportunity of sending the benefactor. On the other hand Lenin and his friends see danger to themselves in allowing Capitalist philanthropy to be the good Samaritan to their victims. They would prefer to make the starvation general by robbing the districts where food is obtainable in order to throw a crust to those where none exists. At the best, relief measures will be hampered by the dislocation of Russia's transport system under Bolshevism, and the extreme view is that by the time Bolshevism

### Railroad Man Says Wife Needed Help to Get Out of Bed

Nova Scotia Man Says Wife's Restoration to Health is Simply Marvelous.  
 "Of all the people who have told about Tanlac none have more reason to be grateful than my wife and myself," said Robert Hubby, Waverly, N.S., employed by the Canadian National Railroad.  
 "For three years my wife hadn't been able to even so much as walk about the house, and was absolutely unable to get out of bed without help. Her condition was due to stomach trouble, and just as soon as Tanlac touched her stomach and improved her digestion all her troubles began to disappear."  
 "She has only taken three bottles of Tanlac and she gets up without help now, walks about the house and struts about the neighborhood. I have been taking Tanlac, too, as I was all run down as a result of influenza, and it has given me a splendid appetite, built me up so that I feel fine all the time. My wife and I are so enthusiastic about Tanlac that we decided I ought to make a statement to the public about our experience."  
 Tanlac is sold by leading druggists everywhere.

### World's Most Wondrous Canal.

ROMANTIC STORY OF THE WEDDING OF OCEANS.  
 When the Panama Canal was opened about seven years ago, there seemed little likelihood that it would ever be inadequate for the world's commerce, but experts are agreed now that it will have to be widened or supplemented by another canal.  
 The weight of opinion is in favour of cutting another waterway, not at Panama, but along the Nicaraguan route—from Greytown, in the Atlantic, to San Juan del Sur, in the Pacific, via Lake Nicaragua. The total length of the new canal would be one hundred and eighty-three miles. Begun in 1882, and opened in 1914, the Panama Canal consists of about twelve miles of sea level and thirty-one miles of locks and canals. In the sea-level sections the width is 500ft., and in the other portions it ranges at bottom from 300ft. to 1,000ft.  
 To cut through from ocean to ocean necessitated the removal of 22,133,000 cubic yards of soil, and the continuous working of one hundred and one steam navies, each of which could lift ten tons of material at a time.  
 Huge locks had to be constructed. In all, there are twelve, arranged in pairs, with forty-six gates, containing 60,000 tons of steel. The concrete used in the locks totalled 4,500,000 cubic yards.  
 One of the most difficult parts of the work was the Culebra Cut, a great gash, about twelve miles in length, through the Culebra hills. When the cutting was made at the ordinary slope, there were such enormous landslides that the French engineers abandoned the job in despair.  
 The Americans, on taking it up, cut a deeper and wider channel, but the slides continued, and fleets of enormous dredgers, each capable of removing 10,000 tons of material a day, could not keep pace with them. Indeed, when the shovels removed more soft than had slipped down, matters were no better, because material began to rise from the bottom of the cutting just as it were being pushed up by hydraulic power.  
 In the end the difficulty was overcome, but only temporarily. Since the canal has been opened the cut has filled up frequently, the soil on one occasion rising to a height of sixteen feet above the waterlevel.  
 The greatest single work in the canal is the Gatun Dam, which is an enormous barrier one and a half miles in length, half a mile wide at the bottom, and one hundred feet wide at the top, with gates in the middle capable of discharging the overflow at the rate of 187,573 cubic feet per second. This structure contains 32,000,000 cubic yards of material.  
 Cost \$100,000,000.  
 The human side of making the Panama Canal is a romance in itself. At one time forty thousand persons were engaged upon it—enough, if lined up and touching hands, to form a living link between the Atlantic and the Pacific—and among the workers was distributed a large proportion of the cost of construction, which amounted to about \$100,000,000.  
 One can realize that the new canal will be a stupendous undertaking, and one which will call for brilliant engineering skill as well as an enormous expenditure of time and money.  
 But that it will be a commercial success cannot be doubted. "The distance from the ends of the Nicaraguan Canal to San Francisco and New York will be five hundred miles shorter than from the ends of the Panama Canal, and in connection with the facilitation of transport it is good business to spend millions for the sake of saving minutes.  
 Brick's Tasteless can be purchased at T. McMurdo & Co.'s, Water Street. Price \$1.20 bid. Postage 25c. extra.—sept 15, 21.

### The Little Cottage Organ

In a corner of the attic, I found the other day  
 The little cottage organ that mother used to play.  
 It stood amid the shadows, closed and silent—yet to me  
 It brought a precious vision, still held dear to memory.  
 I could see the quaint old parlor, and the loved ones gathered there—  
 Hear my father's reverent accents, in the chapter, and the prayer,  
 Then the organ, softly blending, with the hush of twilight dim—  
 When mother led the singing of some sweet, familiar hymn.  
 "Rock of Ages," wondrous promise.  
 Hark! the notes triumphant, ring—  
 "Aids with Me," "Calvary"—or  
 "Beulah Land," we'd sing.  
 We learned both words and music, in the best of ways, I know—  
 For mother's voice we followed, in those hours—long, long ago.  
 I am sure you can remember—how we children loved so well  
 To touch the ivory key-board, finger every stop and swell.  
 We'd say "Use this or that one," though perhaps it might be wrong—  
 By using flute or tremolo, we often spoiled the song.  
 But mother would be patient, she'd just let us try again—  
 Until at last we knew the air, and found the notes in the refrain.  
 I think she taught us how to live, attuned to God's own key—  
 With tender care, she helped us find—  
 Love's perfect harmony.  
 The years have passed, and now we have a wonderful machine  
 We listen to great artists—who may please a king or queen.  
 But you cannot buy a record, like the music, heard to-day;  
 When I dreamed of home, and mother—and the songs she used to play.  
 Inspirations Born in Sleep.  
 It is one of the mysteries of sleep that under its magic influence men are sometimes inspired to do things which are impossible in their wakened moments.  
 Robert Louis Stevenson, the famous novelist, did not conceal the fact that much of his inspiration came to him during his hours of slumber. "The Driveway," he said, "do half my work during sleep. I have always been a great dreamer, and many of my dreams have been horrible nightmares. In others I have wandered all over the earth, have explored strange countries and cities, and read more wonderful books than could be found in any library."  
 Unearthly Music.  
 Of Coleridge and "Kubla Khan" the following strange story is told. The poet had fallen asleep in his chair after reading the following lines in Purchas's "Pilgrimage": "Here the Khan Kubla commanded a palace to be built and a stately garden thereunto; and thus ten miles of fertile ground were enclosed with a wall."  
 "In my sleep," he said, "I dreamed two hundred lines of beautiful poetry. The images rose up before me, without any sensation or consciousness on my part. When I awoke the lines were vivid in my memory, and I began to write them."  
 As ill-luck would have it, however, a friend called to see him before he had completed his task; and when, an hour later, he sat down to continue his work his memory was a blank. His wonderful dream poem was thus lost to the world.  
 Dr. Anna Kingsford, a well known writer of a generation ago, declared that almost every line she published had come to her during sleep. Of one of her books she wrote: "These chronicles are not the result of any conscious effort of imagination. They are records of dreams occurring at intervals during the last few days."  
 Curiously enough, these dreams never came to her in her own home, but always during her travels on the Continent.  
 It was to dreams that the world owes Dante's immortal "Divine Comedy"; Voltaire's "Henriade," which "occurred to me in spite of myself, and in which I had no part"; and part at least of Campbell's "Lochiel's Warning."  
 But the most remarkable of these stories of dream-inspiration is that of Tartini's world-famous "Devil's Sonata."  
 "One night I dreamt that I met the Devil," said the composer. "I handed my violin to him and asked him to play a solo on it. He took the instrument and began to play music of such wonderful, unearthly beauty that I was entranced. When the music ceased, I awoke, jumped out of bed, and reproduced it as accurately as I could."  
 Mysteries of Sleep.  
 But such stories might be multiplied almost indefinitely—from that of the Bristol mechanic who dreamt that it was raining shot, and thus discovered the secret of making pellets by pouring molten lead from a height, to the late Mr. S. R. Crockett, who once received payment for a story which he had not only written but posted in his sleep.  
 Not the least wonderful of these stories is that told a few weeks ago of a Swiss maid-of-all-work who, while awake, does not know a note of music, but in her sleep comes downstairs, sits at the piano, and plays the most difficult works of composers whose names she has never heard.

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