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We have made reductions of the most sweeping character in order to clear out all our summer dress materials. You will find it the acme of economy to buy the material for your holiday dress at this great clearance sale.

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The balance of our 40 inch
Job Lawns
10 and 12c. per yard.

Civic Management.

Letter From Mr. Gosling.

Editor Evening Telegram.

Dear Sir.—When the city of St. John's is under discussion it appears to me that we are very apt to forget that, although it is one of the oldest settlements in the Western Hemisphere, it has only been a city for 25 years. It is not yet 100 years since it became lawful to build a habitation here. No building or erection of any sort was allowed to be fixed to the soil. As an instance of the attitude of the Admiralty towards the city, a petition to the Admiralty for permission to build a pig sty, undertaking to place it on rollers so that it could not be called a fixture. After Responsible Government was granted, and until 1888, St. John's was under the governance of the Board of Works, being in the same category as other settlements in the country. The needs of St. John's were consequently modified by reason of jealousy and competition for favours from the outboroughs. While St. John's probably got the lion's share of the "givings out," undoubtedly the city did not get all that was required. It cannot be denied also that it was a habit of the wealthier classes not to look upon St. John's as a permanent habitation; and I remember that there was a great deal of opposition to the granting of a charter to St. John's in 1888. Property owners were afraid that they were going to be unduly taxed. To make the city a desirable place to live in, and thus to cause a demand for real estate, and appreciation of property values, did not seem to occur to them as a natural consequence of responsible government for the city. It is a remarkable thing also that until last year, when the Bowring

donated \$50,000 to the city, no bequest had ever been made by a citizen for the improvement or adornment of the city, or for the welfare of its inhabitants.

Seeing that St. John's was built, not only without plan or forethought, but in the face of opposition, and seeing the attitude of its principal citizens, one cannot be surprised to find it a very backward city.

Several changes have been made in the constitution of the Municipal Council, which is the governing body of the city, nor is there time to do more than touch upon some of the essential features, as they appear to me, of the Municipal Act.

The city is governed by a Mayor and six Councillors, elected "at large" by the ratepayers. Their powers are greatly circumscribed by the fact that they are unable to levy taxes, or to borrow money, without the consent of the Legislature of the colony, nor are they allowed to incur any indebtedness over and above the amount of the revenue estimated at the beginning of each year. It will thus be seen at the outset, that no matter how well intentioned and progressive the Municipal Council may be, they are unable to move hand or foot, beyond the limits which are prescribed for them.

The remuneration of the Municipal Council is limited to \$1,500 per annum, of which the Mayor gets \$600 and the balance is divided between the six Councillors. We are therefore paying the men to whom we entrust the management of the city, the paltry sum of \$150 per annum! As might be expected we are getting exactly what we pay for. It has been said that Municipal Government is far more administrative than legisla-

tive, and unfortunately we have no leisured class here upon whom we can call to perform the duty of governing the city as a labor of love; also it may be said that every man in the city who is worth employing has plenty to do, and no matter how well disposed has no time for altruistic work. Efficiency, which plans and performs, continuously and tirelessly, is worthy of its kind. Let us suppose for an instant that St. John's was a large public joint stock company in which we were all shareholders, would we offer \$150 a year to the men we elected to manage it, and expect it to be properly conducted?

I do not mean to cast any reflection upon the present or former Municipal Councils, as I am of opinion that if the Councillors were paid such an amount as would enable them to devote themselves to the work of the city, they would perform their duties faithfully. We are also to be congratulated on one point in connection with our city government; we have not had to contend, as have had so many cities in the U. S. and Canada, with corruption and dishonesty.

To put it tersely, therefore, the Municipal Council has no power of itself to make improvements, no money to pay for them, cannot levy taxes, and the Councillors are paid fifty cents a day. How can we expect a clean, healthy, well-governed city? I have stated the Council's stipend in terms of daily pay, because it seems to me that it is daily work that we want. We want men who will be on the job all the time, not to meet for a few hours a week, to discuss trivial matters of detail, and twist another with endeavoring to catch votes.

It must be admitted nevertheless that we have many good men on the Municipal Council and that the town is vastly improved from what it was 30 years ago. But still, the city is dirty, the streets are bad, vibrating between mud and dust, there are numbers of occupied houses in St. John's which are unfit for human habitation, (the Health Officer, I understand, condemned 50 last year, but I think they are several of them still occupied), others, in which water and sewerage could be put are still without the necessities, many of the streets have neither water mains nor sewerage pipes, the disposal of the garbage to the destruction of our pretty country lanes is disgraceful, an unauthorized, unregulated fishing village, has been permitted to grow up in the city limits, and as a result of it all—our heavy death rate and shameful infant mortality. This forms a serious indictment, but will be considered moderate, I think. Besides, it will be noted that I have only mentioned the evils crying for reform, and have said nothing of what might be done on the constructive side to make our city beautiful and pleasant to live in. How far the Municipal Council, under the present system, is able to cope with the situation, I am not prepared to say. No doubt, by proper supervision and organization, some saving could be made in the expenditure, but I am of opinion that the sum would be comparatively unimportant.

It is perfectly clear to me that if we want a clean, healthy, well appointed city, we must be prepared to pay for it. The property value of St. John's is not far short of \$30,000,000, the assessed value being, I am told, about \$25,000,000. While the total Municipal revenue is about \$200,000

per annum, the taxes paid by the people, in the shape of water and sewerage rates and coal duties, amount to only \$120,000 per annum, or say 40 cents per \$100. Elsewhere the city taxes average from one to two per cent. The comparison is, however, not exact, because we are under no expense for either police or schools, which are generally included in municipal expenditure elsewhere, but allowing for these differences, our taxation is very light compared to other cities.

If it is granted that we are prepared to pay for the necessary civic improvements, we must next arrange for efficient administrators. For reasons given above, I think it utterly hopeless to expect efficiency under our present system, and in another letter I propose to describe a system of municipal government which has been adopted by hundreds of cities in the U. S. and Canada with very satisfactory results, and to discuss its applicability to our own needs.

Yours truly,
W. G. GOSLING.

PRESCRIPTION "A"

CURES INDIGESTION & DYSPEPSIA IN ALL ITS FORMS.

It is quite a daily occurrence to hear persons say: "Oh, what a feeling of distress I have after meals, fullness of the stomach, heaviness and headache, I feel too tired to do anything. I have no heart to exert myself, and at times I care for nothing."

I often have a pain in the pit of my stomach, no appetite, my heart beats rapidly on the slightest exertion. I feel just as tired when rising in the morning as when retiring to bed. My sleep is often disturbed, and I often awake with a sense of suffocation and a difficulty of again going to sleep. I have to be careful of what I eat, and my life seems a veritable burden.

Now, it seems a shame and a pity for persons to be suffering like that when it is in their power to get cured by taking a bottle of Prescription "A". A sure cure for persons afflicted with stomach troubles. It can be obtained at

DR. F. STAFFORD & SON,
Foot of Theatre Hill,
STAFFORD'S PHARMACY,
Duckworth Street.

Trial size, 25c.; postage, 5c. extra.
Large size, 50c.; postage, 10c. extra.
Prescription "A" is also for sale in every outport. June 2, 11

More Coffins Than Cradles.

"More coffins were being needed than cradles, more hearses than baby-carriages in France," said Father Bernard Vaughan, speaking on his investigations into the birth-rate in France, America, and England at Portsmouth recently. In seventeen departments in France, he said, the death roll was in excess of the birth-rate. For every Frenchman born there were three Germans. The fascinating nation was driving to the cemetery with Germany not as chief mourner. In the United States much the same shrinkage would be recorded but for the incoming foreigner. In England the outlook was dismal enough—a fall in a generation from 35 per 1,000 to 21 and 22 per 1,000. Doctors were being called in for one birth only in a family.

Father Vaughan spoke of the noble example set by the people by the King and Queen in all things, especially in matters domestic and social.

MINARD'S LINIMENT USED BY PHYSICIANS.

Thermometer

By H. L. RANN.



A thermometer is an ingenious device with a long, thin face which lets people know when it is time to take 'em off. It is used to record the feelings of the weather and also to record how many times a weak man has jumped from his winter suit to last summer's linen pants.

The weather was never used as a subject of conversation before the thermometer was brought out and sold to people who were not satisfied that it was hot enough to buy ice. The only way people could tell warm weather from cold was when some neighbor contracted a limp sunstroke while hoeing potatoes with his earlars on. Before the thermometer was discovered men could wear the same suit winter and summer and their wives never thought of asking for a \$32 lawn dress when the rent was due, but nowadays the thermometer can't get above 100 in the shade without plunging husbands into debt at the lingerie department. On this account, a great many foresighted husbands refuse to have a thermometer around the house.

The thermometer is always hung out doors, where it can catch a lot of heat that is no good to anybody else and cause everybody who looks at it to perspire with great vivacity. A man will walk up to a thermometer in a white flannel suit and a straw hat and be as dry as the 6th chapter of I. Chronicles, and after looking steadily in the face of a hill-climbing thermometer for five minutes will start for a shower bath on the dead run. Some men never separate themselves from a corduroy vest and stiff-bosomed shirt until the thermometer goes as high as it can without running over and spilling its contents on the front porch.

Thermometers are filled at the factory with an uneasy compound known as mercury, which never stays in one spot long enough for a man to change his clothes and feel safe. In some localities the mercury will drive a man down town in a fur coat and by noon have him gasping in front of an electric fan in a dismantled condition. The barometer is a blood relative of the thermometer which is used for the purpose of fighting the path to the cyclone cellar. By watching the barometer closely, a great many people have emerged from the cellar without breaking anything but some of the canned fruit.

The Servant Problem.

In view of the ever-increasing difficulty of obtaining and retaining satisfactory domestic servants it is highly important to adopt every means which will reduce the work of the house. It has been proved by the experience of many that the use of gas for cooking, heating and hot water supply, makes it possible to do with fewer servants, easier to keep, those you have, and a less serious matter to have none.—June 10, 1913.

Benefits of British Rule in Egypt.

Lord Kitchener is the official representative of British rule and influence in the land of Egypt, and his annual report of the economic progress of the country has just been published.

Dependence Upon Cotton.

"The prosperity of Egypt," says the Times, in summarizing this report, "depends upon cotton and the price of cotton. The production of Egyptian cotton had been doubled by 1894, but the country was no better off, because prices had fallen greatly. At the end of the last century prices bounded upward, the value of cotton exports doubled, and money poured into Egypt. It was largely wasted in the period of inflation which ended in the 'boom' of 1907, with its subsequent disasters. Only a continuance of abundant crops and good prices has enabled Egypt to emerge successfully from that time of trial. There are other precarious aspects of this dependence on cotton. Egypt is fighting the common boll-worm, which has been ravaging the crops, and she has now become aware of the presence of a pink boll-worm which threatens to be a menace. The cultivators are greater enemies to their crops than are these insects. Their wilful adulteration of their cotton has been damaging the high reputation of Egyptian cotton. Legislation is now checking these suicidal practices."

"Again, the variation in the flow of the Nile is an important factor. For several years the Nile has been comparatively low, but in accordance with precedent a series of exceptionally high Niles may now be expected, which means a danger of floods in Lower Egypt and possible widespread disaster. The danger was lessened when the raising of the Assuan dam was completed last December, but it is proposed to build a new dam on the White Nile forty miles above Khartoum, by which the supply can be still further regulated."

Protecting the Peasant.

"The fellah has to be still further protected against himself. Egypt is a multitude of small holdings, and the improvident peasantry were rapidly being expropriated from their land by swarms of rapacious money-lenders. The Agricultural Bank was

not quite realizing expectations, and the facilities it offered were not a sufficient check. Lord Kitchener turned to his Indian experience for a remedy. He had a share in passing the Punjab Land Alienation Act, and knew how invaluable that measure had proved. He has now been instrumental in passing in Egypt the Five Feddan Law, which exempts the holdings of small farmers from seizure for debt. His Cantonal Justice Law is a reform which will give an effect to local usage and provide the peasantry with swift access to justice from their own notables, without recourse to the elaborate procedure of larger courts. He is establishing rural savings banks upon methods which are encouraging thrift because they make it easy to save."

Developing Natural Resources.

"He has become a roadmaker, and Egypt will soon become covered with a network of good roads, and no longer be chiefly dependent upon her railways and her waterways for means of communication. Above all, he has perceived that Egypt's dependence upon cotton must be lessened, and to that end he is stimulating the development of the other resources of the country. Lord Kitchener's report on the progress of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan is equally encouraging. The Sudan is now very nearly self-supporting; in four years its external trade has increased from under two to over three millions sterling, and the great Gezira triangle between the White and Blue Niles should soon be producing large quantities of excellent cotton."

MINARD'S LINIMENT is the only Liniment asked for at my store and the only one we keep for sale. All the people use it.

HARLIN FULTON.

Pleasant Bay, C. B.

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—To-morrow (Thursday, 19th), will be observed throughout the world as the Day of Intercession for the Girls' Friendly Society. There will be Holy Communion in the Cathedral at 7 a.m., with an address by His Lordship the Bishop.

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are practically inseparable. It's a tea whose merit of Purity makes it permanent friends, whose list grows longer all the time.

It's QUALITY made, and maintains it as the favorite tea for home use.

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QUEEN'S ROAD.

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Fresh Tomatoes.

New Cabbage.

New Turnips, 8c. bunch.

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