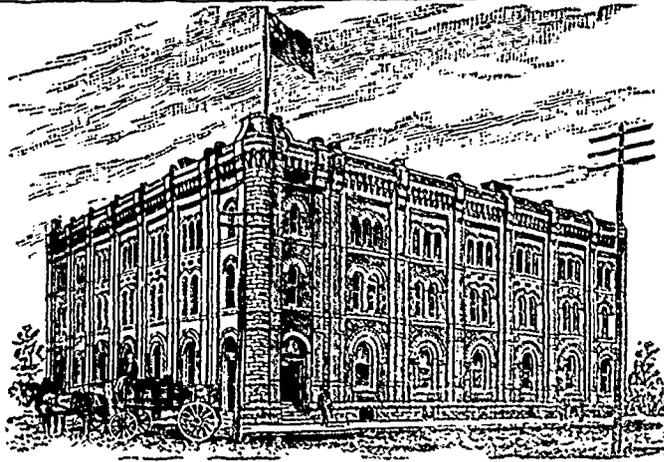


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THE huge Panama canal enterprise is apparently about assuming a new phase. It has been announced in New York that work on the big ditch will shortly be resumed under the direction of American engineers. A new company is being organized in France for this purpose, and negotiations are being carried on with the American Contracting and Dredging Company, with the object of inducing the latter company to undertake the work. The cost of completing the work is estimated at \$200,000,000. About twenty-two miles of the canal were completed by De Lesseps' company, and about the same distance remains to be finished, upon which some work has been done. It is thought the canal can be completed in four years, with the improved methods which the Americans could introduce in carrying on the work. In the neighborhood of \$300,000,000 have been already expended, and this vast sum, together with the valuable plant and franchise will be a total loss, unless the work is again taken up. Vast as the undertaking is, it is almost a certainty that there is enterprise enough in the commercial world to carry the project through to completion at no distant date.

INSTANCES are frequently reported by the provincial and territorial papers of the slaughter of bears. Here is a sample from the *Virden Advance*: "Wm. Hoskins, living a few miles north of Virden, shot a bear and two cubs on Monday in the bush on his farm. The old bear weighed between two and three hundred pounds." It is questionable if the destruction of these animals at this season of the year is wise. The fur of the bear is very valuable, and a choice skin is worth \$25 in this market. But bears killed now, or any time during the summer, are practically worthless. To kill off the bears at this time of year simply means the destruction of hundreds of dollars' worth of valuable property. The bear is not a vicious animal, and there is little excuse for killing them off at a season when their fur is worthless, on the ground that they are a danger to man. The diet of the bear is principally vegetable and instances of an unprovoked attack upon man by them are exceedingly rare.

Neither does it appear that they are in the habit of attacking domestic animals. The killing of these animals at a time when their fur is valueless, therefore seems a good deal in the nature of wanton destruction.

IN the West we are so accustomed to rapid development, that we are inclined to imagine that everything in the East moves very slowly. However, the "effete East" sometimes shows signs of life and energy quite in keeping with the speed of the West. The city of Toronto, Ontario, during the last few years, has advanced as few cities on this continent have done, and the place has shown a spirit of progress and enterprise equal to the most flourishing western cities. Though the progress of Toronto has not always been rapid, it has always shown a steady advancement, and during the last ten years the growth of the city has been quite remarkable. In the year 1879, Toronto claimed a population of 75,000. In 1889, the population of the city is placed at 180,000, or an increase of over 130 per cent. in ten years. And this has been accomplished without any "boom," and in the ordinary course of commercial development. The assessed value of property has increased from less than \$50,000,000 in 1879, to \$115,000,000 the present year, and the revenue of the city has grown from \$1,126,000 to \$2,196,000 in the same period, the latter sum on a lower rate of taxation than was paid ten years ago. This is a record of progress of which any community could well afford to glory in.

THE *Toronto Empire*, understood to be the official mouthpiece of the Dominion Government, recently devoted a column to the dual language system in Manitoba and the territories. The *Empire* admits that however necessary it may once have been for the official use of the two languages in Manitoba, that time has now passed away, and that as matters stand at present, it would be the sensible plan to have one language as the official medium of communication. The *Empire* objects to making the question of the abolition of the dual language system in Manitoba a Dominion one.

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It says: "This treating of the dual language question in Manitoba as a Dominion issue is absurd. It is a subject for the people of Manitoba, and for them alone, to deal with. The fact of erecting Manitoba into a province guaranteed its autonomy; and if the people of that province desire the abolition of the dual language system, of which the have recently given some indications, they can secure it. But the Dominion Parliament has no power whatever to interfere." In the territory of course it is different, as here the Dominion Parliament exercises greater control than in the case of the provinces. Still the *Empire* urges that the people of the territories must make representation upon the subject, through their legislature, if they want to be relieved from the system. The territories, the *Empire* argues, have been given a representative legislature through which they should make their wishes known, and with the existence of such a body, the Dominion would not be justified in taking the initiative. The most significant part of the *Empire's* article is the following: "We have given the people of the territories a representative legislature through which they can make known their wishes, and as soon as they direct attention to the question we are quite prepared to give them the relief asked for, but until they do so it is not for us to take action in the matter which primarily and almost wholly concerns them." This would seem to indicate, if the *Empire* is speaking officially, that all the people of the territories have to do is to ask for the removal of the dual language system and the thing is accomplished. The article even goes further, and encourages action to that end on the part of the westerners.

JOHN McLELLAN will re-open the Grand Central hotel at Minnedosa, Man.

FIRE at Pilot Mound, Man., destroyed P. Cran's butcher shop, J. T. Gordon's lumber offices, and the Tremont hotel, owned by Geo. Woods. Neither of the former were insured. The Tremont was insured for \$1,500, also an insurance on the furniture. The total loss will be in the neighborhood of \$1,500.