

ministers are responsible for this breach of precedent an explanation must be given.

ELECTRICAL.

Party lines are never more completely obliterated and members are never more thoroughly individual than during a discussion as to the advisability of taking a holiday. Each man consults his own desires as to taking a trip home and wears his notions on his sleeve. The British Columbians insistently oppose all holidays, on the ground that they cannot possibly cross the continent no matter how long a recess is taken. Maritime province members favor long holidays as a rule, but bitterly oppose short ones. Those living near the capital are quite indifferent on the holiday question, because they spend every Saturday and Sunday at home, as it is, and thus it goes. It does appear to an Ontario mind that some of the religious holidays observed by Parliament, are conceived in an excess of courtesy to the usages of the Roman Catholic Church; but if, on the other hand, it were proposed to hold public dinner on Sunday evenings to save time, Ontario would revolt most violently, while Quebec would wonder what the trouble was all about. The only way out before us is the broad one of mutual concession, and courteous deference to each other's opinions. It is really no sacrifice of principle to be polite, and we can afford to pay a good price in holidays and the like for a peaceful, united and prosperous country.

Mr. Blake raised, the other day, a most important point in questioning the right of with-conferment General to reserve certain The scheme is favorable fixed for the public

The best insurance pointed out that the
 policy holder's standing is that to
 be passed through all the
 the two Houses are
 law, the Royal
 be given on the
 given to any
 of

John Charlton is not best known as a humorist but he told a story the other evening, that, I think, for a Presbyterian deacon, was pretty good. He told of a farmer that was led, by the high taxation on the goods he most wanted to commit suicide. Take the rest of the story in Mr. Charlton's sedate circumlocution:

We have the rest of the transaction, only through the spirit medium, and I do not know whether it was true or not, but it is represented that he went to Hailes, and his Satanic Majesty met him and took him kindly and cordially in. He put him into a chamber where there were a great many Conservative politicians and Conservative editors, who died in their arms, but the farmer did not feel at home there. Then he moved him into a place where there were a number of doctors and lawyers, but there he did not feel at home either. Then the Devil came around and asked him what he said and said to him; "What are you?" and the other replied: "I'm a farmer." "Where are you from," said the Devil. "I am from Canada," he replied, and "who did you vote for?" "I voted for Sir John A. Macdonald and the National Policy," was what he said; and the Devil said: "why did you do that?" "Well," said the farmer, "I did that under the impression that it was going to raise the price of produce." "Oh," said the Devil, "then come along, I have a place for you;" and he took him to another large room, a thousand feet long, three hundred feet wide, and one hundred feet high, with a line stretched across it and a great number of people hung up, and the farmer said: "What does this mean?" "Well," said the Devil, "these are Canadian farmers who voted for Sir John A. Macdonald and the National Policy, under the impression that it would raise the price of grain, and as they are too green to burn I have hung them up to dry."

During the debate on the budget, a good many of the effects of the proposed ~~tax~~ changes came into clearer relief. It was shown that in numerous cases the taxes on the foods of the people have been raised. For instance, flour will cost twenty-five cents a barrel more than formerly, and, though this may benefit the millers in the country, it will seriously affect the poor in our country who now live on the ragged edge of starvation. Then the duties on pork and beef have been increased, and this will be severely felt in the poorer portions of the cities. It is a pity that there exists no party in Canada prepared to stand or fall on the platform that the necessities of the people shall not be taxed. Taxed flour, taxed beef, taxed coal, taxed sugar, taxed pork, making up a surplus of two millions would cause a riot in England.

A R C

'The Sabbath Chime.

"Spirit, leave thy house of clay,
Ling'ring dust, resign thy breath;
Spirit, cast thy chains away,
Dust, be thou dissolved in death!"—
Thus the mighty Savior speaks,
While the faithful Christian dies.
Thus the bonds of life he breaks,
And the ransomed captive flies.

"Prisoner, long detained below,
Prisoner now with freedom blest,
Welcome from a world of woe:
Welcome to a land of rest;"—
The choir of angels sing,
They bear the soul on high,
The harp of angels ring
To praise the God of the sky.

... of one trust,
... of the other
...
... calls

Old Strasbourg Cathedral now Lighted by Electricity—Advantages of the Electric Motor—Electricity in Fiction.

A method of transmitting sketches by telegraph has been devised. The fugitive from justice will now find his path strewn with obstacles, for his portrait can be sent to any number of points along his line of travel.

The first German Catholic church to be lighted electrically is the grand old cathedral at Strasbourg. Arc lights have been used outside with fine effect, and it is stated that many of the noble lines of the architecture are accentuated by night as they never have been by day. It was feared that the electric light would spoil the dim, religious effect of the interior, but the light of the incandescent lamps which are disposed around the piers and columns is described as soft and harmonious.

Instances occur daily which illustrate one particular advantage of the electric motor, viz., the ease with which repairs can be made in case of accident. An incident which occurred last week at Lynn, Mass., may be mentioned. There was an accident to the Thomson-Houston motor which operates the printing presses in the Bee office, and a message was sent at once to the Thomson-Houston factory. In response a young man was sent, who hired a team, took out the injured armature, drove back to the factory, secured another armature, which he took to the Bee office, and in exactly forty minutes from the time of the accident the machinery started up again. This included a delay in the street caused by the harness breaking and having to be repaired.

The tendency of authors to use electricity to assist in the working out of their plots has of late been very marked. So no startling effects are secured in a new romance by following the possibilities of electricity and showing that the relatively inconceivable is by no means the absolutely impossible. The hero is an experimenter in electric pathology, who restores his patients who have lost their vital force by his own peculiar electric appliances. Another character thinks he is a storage battery. He recharges himself by touching persons brimming with vital force and the victims of this deprivation are left to die, unless they are found by the beneficent hero. In another story, the publication of which may be shortly looked for, the author utilizes the idea that the invisible dust floating in the air fixes itself, in conjunction with the exhalations of the breath, on the surface of objects exposed to it, and that this film receives an imprint of passing incidents which may afterward be developed in the same way as the photographer's negative. A murder has been committed in a room in which there is a large mirror. The room is immediately shut up, and no trace of the murder is discovered. Years after, an electrician with a taste for photography comes by chance to the house, and hearing the story of the murder resolves to put his theories to the test. The mirror is taken down and treated as a negative, and by the instantaneous flash of an electric light of immense power a picture is developed on its surface which reveals the whole history of the murder.

The complaints in regard to the Paris telephone system have induced the Minister of Post and Telegraphs to decide upon the erection of a large telephone exchange in the centre of Paris with accommodation for 30,000 subscribers.

It has been said that the Japanese possess more imitative ability than originality, but it must be admitted that they exercise wonderful discretion in the choice of many of the points which they strive to imitate. The Government of Japan is about to establish a meteorological observatory in the Lin-Chin Islands, a position of considerable importance, more especially with regard to observations in the course of the typhoons which are encountered in the China seas. Systematic observation in these regions may be deemed valuable to shipping, particularly in conjunction with a complete system of telegraphic communication. That the Japanese thoroughly grasp the situation is shown by the fact that the Government is considering the connecting of the Lin-Chin group with Japan by means of a submarine

Some European railway companies have adapted a system of portable electric lighting

plants on their lines. The object is to have a light at hand for application at any given point for important purposes, such as the illumination of the scene of an accident, the disembarking of troops, &c.

A system of stringing wires in cities, called the Aerial Conduit method, has just been made public by Mr. A. A. Knudson, a well-known electrician. The conduit, which is but 64 by 8 inches, and will contain as many as 500 telephone or telegraph wires and twenty or more electric light wires, is supported on hollow wrought-iron pillars, from 18 to 20 feet high, placed 60 feet apart, on the sidewalks on a line with the gas lamps.

One of the signs of the times in electrical developments is an order which has just been received in this country from a mining company in the Transvaal for dynamos, motors, and other electrical apparatus for the transmission of 75-horse power. Some time ago a well-known motor company of this city received an order from the same company for a plant for the transmission to their mines of power from a waterfall three miles away, and the present order is simply the result of a conviction on the part of the mining owners that electricity is the most convenient and economical agent for transmitting power over long distances. The efficiency of the whole electric system will be about 70 per cent. When finished this will be one of the largest transmission plants in the world.

FUNNIGRAMS.

A spoiled child—The one that played
with a lighted lamp.

How do you like your beau, Jennie?"
"He's a fellow after my own heart."

"We say mouse, and we say mice. Now, why isn't the plural of spouse spice?"

Why are rats better than tomatoes? Because tomatoes make only catsup, while rats make a cat supper.

The man who threatens to commit suicide when he is in low spirits is a safe enough venture for a life insurance company.

When a man is fortunate in business he attributes the fact to his ability. When he is unfortunate he bewails his bad luck.

City Girl (pointing to the starry sky)—
"That cluster of stars is the dipper." Coun-
try Cousin—"Is that so? Which cluster is
the pail?"

Lake—"What did I tell you? The bustle has gone and now the corset has got to go!"
Squeers—"You mistake. The corset has got to stay!"

"I seem very popular with your father's dog," said Herbert to Mabel. "Indeed?" "Yes; the last time I tried to take my leave he did his best to detain me."

Proprietor (firmly)—"Your account, Mr. Weeks, has now been running for six months." Weeks (blandly)—"Well, suppose we let it rest for a year or two!"

Popinjay (passing store)—"Good gracions! What is the matter with that man leaning over the counter in there?" Blobson—"Got a counterfeit, I guess."

A little boy who had to rock the cradle for his baby sister astonished his mother thus: "Mamma, if the Lord has any more babies to give away don't you take 'em."

Jack (leaving the lodge with Jem) "Does your wife wait up for you when you are out late, Jem?" Jem (with a melancholy shake of the head)—"She does, Jack, she does, I'm sorry to say."

She (just gone into housekeeping)—"How did you like the shirt I ironed for you, Alfred? Didn't I do it beautifully?" Ho—"You do nothing by halves, my dear. You did it up brown, of course."

Millionaire's Daughter (entering photograph gallery and posing gracefully)—"Will you take me, sir, just as I am?" Photographer (who can hardly make both ends meet)—"I'll be glad to—without one plea."

The Rev. Mr. Slim—"You must remember, my young friend," that the soul is the body's guest." Young Friend (looking him over)—"Well, it must sometimes make very impolite reflections on the accommodations."

He (at breakfast)—"I shall never ask you again what you do with your pin money, my dear" She—"Why not, Henry?" He—"I have found out." I stepped on about six hundred of the darned things when I got home last night."