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Semi-Weekly Telegraph
ST. JOHN, N. B., AUGUST 15, 1908

FIREPROOF SCHOOLS, AND OTHERS
A fireproof school building is better than the other kind, and if the new Winter street annex is really to be proof against fire, the investment will be sound. But a bigger fact to be kept in mind is that the other school buildings not only are not fireproof but that several of them stand condemned as death-traps by the inspectors. August is slipping rapidly away. The school vacation will soon be over. Are the children to enter these death traps? Are they to be repaired and altered before the autumn term begins? If not, who is going to shoulder the responsibility for the risk to which the children will be subjected?

Parents will want answers to these questions. It is notorious that the schools were condemned twice, once several years ago and again several months ago. Since the danger was made known, time enough has elapsed in which to rebuild every school in the city. When the inspectors' reports were printed, the matter was generally regarded as one of uncommon gravity. If the inspectors were right in what they said, not one of the condemned schools should be reopened until all the specified alterations have been made. The city can afford to make the existing schools safe better than it can afford to subject the children to danger for a single day. Citizens will be glad to know what the Council and the school board are going to do about it, or have done about it, before the schools are re-opened.

GALVESTON AND ST. JOHN

Three St. John aldermen, who are known to hold differing opinions on the subject and to be most unlikely to reach any common ground, are now supposed to be considering or examining the question: What form of city government would be best for St. John? One of these gentlemen favors government by commission. Another wants a board of control, which is a Common Council and a cabinet. The third desires the continuance of the plan which the taxpayers are now privileged to enjoy, believing the Council plan to be perfect and the members of the Council to be representative, public spirited, self-sacrificing, progressive, economical aldermen and good sports. As the happy and contented taxpayers have re-elected most members of the present board whenever they have carried office, there is much to support the view of the gentleman last quoted. Anyhow, the taxpayers are too apathetic to go out on election day and disagree with him very earnestly.

Meantime, while the committee on city government will not do anything, or get the Council to do anything, some interest attaches to the commission plan. The local aldermen were so afraid of it that they refused to give the electors a chance to vote for or against the principle of the scheme. Galveston, Texas, has carried government by commission beyond the experimental stage. Interviewed by a Washington newspaper the other day, Mr. W. F. Beers, a prominent business man of Galveston, reported enthusiastically upon the results achieved. "Without wishing to boast," he said, "we have in Galveston done more to educate the public in the realization of honest and efficient municipal government than any other community in America."

Continuing, he said, "We have done this by originating the commission system of running our city. This commission consists of a nominal mayor and four associates elected at large, the five constituting a board which carries on the public affairs for the public good, all being high-class men, who take their offices with their small pay—\$3,000 per annum for the mayor and \$1,000 for each of the others—simply as a matter of civic pride."

"We have tried this policy for five years, and the results have simply been wonderful. Under the old regime Galveston was a boss-ridden town, the prey of grafters and professional politicians. No adequate money could ever be had for needed improvements, and yet the city ran behind from \$100,000 to \$200,000 a year."

"Our condition seemed hopeless and the best people despaired of ever getting on a decent basis. Then came the awful flood of 1900, and in its wake reform. Today we haven't a vestige of politics in the city government, which is managed just as cleverly and methodically as one of your great department stores operates its business. I believe some of our commissioners are Republicans. Nobody cares whether they are Republicans or Democrats."

"Our waterworks and sewer systems both bring in revenue instead of bringing us in debt as of yore. Our school teachers and police get their salaries in cash instead of scrip, as they once did. We

have put down miles of splendidly paved streets. Every dollar of public money is expended with scrupulous honesty."
"The proof that our system is the best yet devised for municipal government is in its extensive imitation. A half dozen of the biggest Texas towns have copied it with excellent results. Dubuque, Ia., is trying it and is delighted after a very short experience. Several Illinois towns are about to take it up, and the ancient city of Boston is seriously considering it."

AS A SOLDIER SEES IT.

Major Eiden-Powell, who urges the British government to grant \$500,000 for airship research and construction, is a soldier of high reputation and an aviator as well. He employs language now which, had it been used twenty years ago, would have caused him to be regarded as crack-brained. Today, in the light of recent experiments, he is seen to be dealing with truth that is stranger than fiction. "The one fact to be impressed upon our legislators," he says, "is this: The use of a practical airship in time of war has ceased to be the fantastic creation of an inventor's brain. In the next great European war it will become an accomplished fact, and the power which the speediest and best equipped fleet of aerial cruisers will possess and immense advantage over any country which has lagged behind in the conquest of the air. What this great revolution means is this, so far as we are concerned, although the fact is insufficiently realized: In time of war we should no longer be an island, and our mighty fleet would cease to be our first line of defence. A dozen great Dreadnoughts would be helpless when faced with the task of repelling a swift fleet of foreign airships sailing high above the earth. In the near future, too, machine guns of light construction may be mounted upon these aerial ships of war, in addition to the explosives which may be carried to drop death and destruction upon an enemy. Even apart from offensive operations, and used exclusively for reconnoitering purposes, a fleet of airships would be of inestimable value to the country possessing them."

PROPER COMPTITION

Canada, being yet young industrially, has still a chance of compelling the public utilities corporations to keep out of politics; for though they are in politics from St. John to Vancouver they are not so well entrenched as they are in the United States. In civic, provincial and Federal politics these public service companies seek advantages hostile to the public welfare. Their managers say they must protect the stockholders, and to do that by legitimate means is laudable enough; but it is much more important to protect the public, since these corporations are servants of the public which gives them their franchises. Too often the men who control them act as if the public were dependent upon the corporations. The shoe is on the other foot, and it must not be shifted.

Capital and vested interests are as secure in Massachusetts probably as anywhere else in the world. Of all the States that one is, perhaps, the steadiest and best balanced in point of public administration. Hence its attitude toward public service corporations is of unusual interest. Since 1884 its gas and electric light business has been controlled by a commission. The constitution of this commission is necessary for the incorporation of a gas or electric-light company, for its issue of shares or bonds; all such companies must submit detailed accounts, with particulars of their charges, for publication in the yearly report of the board. When a company gives satisfactory service, levies charges which yield no more than a fair and usual business profit, the commission discourages competition. But if a company begins to abuse its privileges, at once the commission calls up that thorough repressor of extortion, the business rival.

A recent case decided by the board is of great interest as an example of its methods. In the town of Haverhill, Mr. Hayes, a manufacturer of wooden boxes, had in his edging, shavings and sawdust a cheap fuel with which he raised much more steam than he needed for his own machinery. He thereupon applied his surplus steam to generating electricity for sale to his neighbors. With a view to enlarging his field, he asked the commission to let him cross two important streets. This permission was denied. In the course of its decision, the commission said:

"The Legislature did not intend to leave the business of manufacturing and selling electric-light to be carried on in the same municipality by as many companies or persons as may be minded to put wires in the streets and try their luck. On the other hand, the fact that the law has left the question of admitting two or more companies in the same territory to the discretion of the board, and does not expressly prohibit it, clearly indicates that the Legislature believed that conditions enlarging his field, he asked the commission to let him cross two important streets. This permission was denied. In the course of its decision, the commission said:

"If the existing company is not properly conserving the public interest and convenience, a condition arises which may not only justify but require the board to admit a competitor. In fact, the right of a gas or electric-light company to continue to exist depends upon the performance of its public duties. The main object of the Legislature in establishing such a corporation and granting to it the privilege of using the public streets in a peculiar manner is primarily the accommodation of the public, and only incidentally the benefit of the corporation itself."

most invariably arise, and that in their adjustment the public interests have, and can have, but slight consideration."
In one sentence in which it says that a franchise is granted primarily for the accommodation of the public, and only incidentally for the profit of the corporation itself, the commissioners sum up the whole case of the people and the public service companies. When these companies go into politics they do so in order to prevent the public from asserting their rights. In the United States this line of endeavor has been a fruitful source of corruption, and Canada is by no means free from the evil. Here, as there, it will grow by what it feeds on unless we take advantage of our neighbors' wretched experience and take action before the abuse gets much bigger. There is today no question more closely affecting the life, welfare and prosperity of the public than this one.

THE WORLD'S HIGHWAY

Despatches printed this morning tell of three steamers which left Japan for the Pacific coast of North America with freights destined for London. One of the three headed for San Francisco, one for Seattle, and one for Vancouver. The latter freight was in New York two days earlier than that which passed over the American route. Thus in practice is demonstrated the advantage of the route across Canada, the short cut from East to West, the world's highway through traffic. Had the freight which was transhipped at Vancouver passed through a Canadian Atlantic port and been carried, say from St. John to London by a fast steamer, the advantage of Canada's position in respect to the quick carriage of freight would have been found still greater. In this connection Montreal's gradual acquisition of regard as peculiarly its own is noteworthy. The Toronto World tells something about the struggle of our neighbors to fight against our water route and to cause shippers to forget that a straight line is the shortest distance between two points. Freight tends to go the cheap way ultimately, and in this way the short way is the cheap and quick way. Says the World:

"As Canada's transportation facilities for grain from the interior to the seaboard are becoming more thoroughly developed, our carriers are cutting in upon American competition. The American steamship lines are remonstrating with the railways and declaring that they cannot compete with the Canadian route if railway rates are not reduced. Eight lines running to Boston, twenty-four entering New York, ten in Philadelphia, and twelve that ply to Baltimore have published a protest, notable for its plain speaking. The appeal to the railways is to adjust the 'at the East' rate from Buffalo to New York and Boston, which is two cents higher than from Georgian Bay points to Montreal, in addition to which elevator costs are included at Montreal and excluded at New York. The natural result of this is, as the steamship companies state, 'a deplorable one, for which you (the railways) are responsible, and is killing the steamship business from the four ports named.' Montreal has been fully supplied. Steamers, they say, have been withdrawn from the American ports, while the regular lines and numerous tramps are gobbling their business at Montreal. The situation is one to call for the best efforts of the much-vaunted prosperity boomers. More than that, it challenges the attention of every American commercial organization. If this sort of thing continues the decay of New York as a port is declared to be really at hand. Moreover, it is a manifestly losing business in the long run for the railroads to cripple their ocean allies, even though they see in it a future advantage when the volume of harvest lake traffic increases. This, says the Journal of Commerce, 'is the result of the trunk-line combination for the suppression of competition,' and it pertinently asks:—

"Is this trunk line association, with its agreements, to exercise a dominating influence over domestic and foreign trade and sacrifice large interests to serve its own selfish ends, yielding room to argument, nor appeal nor authority? Do its members expect to do this and escape hostility from the public?"

THIS IN CANADA

Canada in the main is a land of peace, plenty and enlightenment, and it has no excuse for the sordid industrialism which harnesses children in the factories. Many Canadians will be surprised and shocked by the evidence that child labor is permitted in this country. It is well that the facts should be made known everywhere, in order that the evil may be checked. Publicity is the sovereign cure for it. Here, then, is an extract from a report of the evidence taken at the Montreal Cotton Company's mill in Valleyfield, Que., by Mr. Mackenzie King, who under a commission is investigating the conditions prevailing in the Canadian textile trade:

Aurice Leduc, a girl sixteen years of age, started to work in the mill when she was twelve years old. The working hours were from 6.10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with an hour for dinner. Having a half holiday on Saturday made a sixty-hour week. Her certificate of age, presented to the management when she started work, declared that she was fourteen years old. She was a member of the union, and her dues were twenty cents a month.

Commissioner King remarked that it was strange how some people treated their children. They made them work when they should be at school, and then taught them to lie about their ages. He

wondered what kind of men and women they would be when they grew up. Such parents ought to be prosecuted, and the State ought to protect children from such parents.

Alphine Leduc was a year younger than her sister. She started to work in the mill the same fall that her sister commenced in the summer. She would be barely twelve years old, but was big for her age. Other girls of her own age, she said, started to work when she did. She earned eighty-two cents a day, and has no vacation except the usual legal holidays or fests. She was aware that the statement made in her certificate by her parents was not according to facts.

Mr. King asked Mr. Ewing, president of the Montreal Cotton Company, if these statements surprised him. Mr. Ewing said they certainly did, and he would have all similar or doubtful cases investigated. The heads of the company had no idea that such things as had been shown to exist here and in Montreal were allowed. The company's superintendent had, evidently, complied with the letter of the law by requiring certificates from young applicants and submitted everything to the supervision of the factory inspector, but it appeared that something more than this was necessary, and he thought an example should be made of parents who were guilty of such misrepresentation.

Delima Viau was sixteen years old last March, and said she started to work three years ago last April. Before this late reduction in wages and hours she could earn from seven to eight dollars a week. At that time she was minding two spinning frames. With the reduction in wages, one of the frames was taken from her, and now with one frame she could only earn about fifty cents a day.

And selfish parents are to blame in this matter rather than the employer, according to the Ottawa Free Press. "If," says that journal, "Mr. King's enquiry accomplishes nothing but the adoption of some method by which children can be protected from their inhuman parents, it will have achieved a purpose fully justifying its establishment."

"When the evils of child labor were made known an indignant electorate demanded the passage of an act restricting the employer—it was provided that no child should be employed in any factory without the certificate of his parents that he was fourteen years of age."

"That the youngsters would need protection from their own fathers and mothers was not contemplated. It has now been established that the greed of the employer has been transferred to the parent, and that numbers of little ones are forced by false certificates to sweat away their young lives in the mills."

"There is no evidence of complicity on the part of the employer. Indeed, in the case of French-Canadian children particularly, who mature at a comparatively early age, one can readily understand how fraud is undiscovered. The fact remains, however, that the evil must be stopped at once—some remedy, no matter how drastic, must be discovered."

"They are having the same troubles in the New England mills, but recently we are told steps have been taken to make the law more effective."

THE ELECTIONS

The strenuous campaign in Saskatchewan is attracting unusual attention because of the general belief that it will soon be followed by the Federal elections. Meantime, the country is reminded that this year the House of Commons contained 214 members it will have 221 after the coming general election because of additions due to the rapid increase of population in the new provinces. The distribution of the 221 members serves to keep before the people of the Maritime Provinces the fact that their representation is decreasing as the West grows.

This is the new representation:

Ontario	86
Quebec	85
Nova Scotia	18
Prince Edward Island	12
Manitoba	10
Saskatchewan	10
Alberta	10
British Columbia	7
Yukon	1

In a comparatively short time each of the four western provinces will have a larger representation than New Brunswick. They get most of the immigrants, and the harvest excursions carry away together too many of the young men from this part of the country. It is something that they remain in Canada, but it would be better to keep them in the Maritime Provinces. The politicians have not even the assurance that many of the 5,200 harvesters now on their way westward will return in time for the elections.

THE RUSSIAN TERROR

To Tolstoy's terrific indictment of the Czar and the reactionaries who govern in his name Prince Kropotkin now adds corroborative evidence. In a letter to the London Times the prince, whose name carries weight throughout the civilized world, gives a gruesome account of the terrible measures of repression taken by the Russian government in order to crush the reform movement. The information he supplies is taken from a remarkable statement concerning the illegal action of military and civil authorities in the Baltic Provinces, signed by thirty-one members of the present Duma and laid before that body in May last. The statement covers forty-three quarter pages and enumerates in detail "the really incredible acts of murder and torture" committed there by the punitive expeditions from December, 1905, to March of last year. According to these members of the Duma in the Lettish part only of the Baltic Provinces for the period from December, 1905, to June, 1906, and the data are far from complete, no less than 1,170 farmers, peasants and

hired laborers were shot, hanged and killed without any trial or inquest, and more than 300 farms were burned with at least \$1,000,000. It is added that the number flogged and otherwise tortured cannot be estimated, but is several times greater than the number killed. Very harrowing accounts are given of the nature of the tortures inflicted on both men and women, often wholly innocent of any action hostile to the government. In cases where the public prosecutors had the courage to take criminal proceedings against the torturers and convictions obtained it is said that the Czar pardoned all of them.

Accusations of this kind, supported by dates, names and localities, and made by deputies, who have affixed their signatures to the statement, cannot be ignored, and will certainly powerfully affect public opinion all over the civilized world. Little has been allowed to transpire regarding the internal state of Russia since the original constitution was arbitrarily modified, though the occasional raisings of the curtain disclosed glimpses of conditions more cruel and severe than perhaps were ever known before. The publication of the statement by the thirty-one protesting members of the Duma is the first really responsible account that has been published, and the reality is worse than even an embittered imagination would have pictured. Prince Kropotkin's letter and Tolstoy's revelations indicate that Russia's period of storm and stress is not over, but that, indeed, the worst of the struggle is yet to come. To some extent the signs of trouble have been hidden from the outside world for the last few months, but there is now abundant evidence of forces slowly gathering strength for another explosion.

NOTE AND COMMENT

St. John does well to remember Fernie. He gives twice who give quickly. And it was ever a good investment to lend a hand to the stricken.

No doubt the West needs the 5,000 young men it is taking from the Maritime Provinces, but we must hope it is only borrowing them. The East needs its workers. It must learn how to keep them.

St. John exhibition preparations are going forward rapidly. The show this year should be one to remember. Local patronage will be greater than usual. The exhibitors will find it a profitable way to advertise.

The meeting of the King and the Kaiser will set many tongues to wagging. The elder sovereign may give the younger some advice that will assist in keeping the world's peace. If the War Lord were as stable a force as his royal uncle Europe could begin to disarm.

Speaking of Fernie, the Victoria Times says: "We have just had the most terrible of object lessons in regard to the criminality of starting bush fires, for any purpose, during the summer season of the year. It is a warning that cannot be repeated too often."

NEWSY PARAGRAPHS

OVER THE WIRES

Providence, R.I., Aug. 12.—J. Montague Sears, a member of an old Boston family, was killed and George Sanders, his chauffeur, severely hurt in an automobile accident today.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., Aug. 12.—At Kensington Station last night, Fred Leeman, aged 23, a farmer, unmarried, jumped from a train moving at full speed and was killed. He was taking passage on the harvest excursion train from his home to Kensington, thinking the train would stop which it did not do.

Chicago, Aug. 12.—More than fifty automobiles and taxicabs were destroyed today in a fire which consumed Goriengo's garage. The total loss is estimated at \$80,000.

Rome, Aug. 12.—Archbishop Parley of New York, was received in farewell alderman by the Pope today.

Montreal, Aug. 12.—R. Binning, manager of the Manchester Liners, Ltd., states that on account of the large increase in trade between Montreal and Quebec, his company has decided to put three new steamers on this route and run a weekly service, starting September 5.

Winnipeg, Man., Aug. 12.—Provincial Immigration Agent Burgess announces that at least 20,000 men are required in Manitoba alone for the harvest.

Ottawa, Aug. 12.—The military display at Quebec was completed by Lord Roberts. The militia department has received a message in which Lord Roberts says "God appears to me to be dealing adequately with the problems affecting her militia and with care and improved organization to be building up a very useful force."

Kings County Probate Court.

Hampton, Aug. 12.—In the probate court today, the citation issued, to pass accounts of the estate of the late Hannah H. Harding, was taken up and accounts passed. The value of the estate was \$2,000, mostly distributed as devised in the will; Ora P. King, executor.

On petition of Ebenezer Smith, letters of administration were issued to him on the estate of his wife, Mrs. Martha Smith, of Smithtown; estate sworn under \$800, all personal; G. O. Dickson, atty. proctor.

"When I was your age," said the stern parent, "I was accumulating money of my own."
"Yes," answered the grateful youth, "but don't you think the public was easier then than it is now?"—Washington Star.

The Penalty of Fast Living

Is paid for by an irritable condition of body and mind, by exhausted and broken sleep. If you must live a killing pace, better keep a mind the sustaining powers of Ferrozene. It is a wonderful tonic and restorative. Ferrozene is a blood maker, a nerve strengthener, heart and brain tonic. It cures indigestion, induces sleep, restores the vitality and strength lost by excessive living. Ferrozene will do you inestimable good, try it. Price, 50c. per box, or six boxes for \$2.50, at druggists or Polson & Co., Kingston, Ont.

Eureka Fly Killer

The best known preparation for protecting horses and cattle from flies. Easily applied. Harmless to the animals. Some thing no farmer should be without. If your dealer cannot supply you write us.

W. H. Thorne & Co., Ltd.
Market Square, St. John, N. B.

ODDFELLOWS BEGIN TWO THOUSAND KNIGHTS WORK IN CHARLOTTETOWN TEMPLARS IN LINE

Maritime Grand Lodge Proceedings in Charlottetown.

CONTESTS LIVELY

Reports Show Very Satisfactory Year
—Rebekah Assembly Made Practically Free of the Grand Lodge—Decorations of Graves.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., Aug. 12.—(Special).—This morning the Maritime Grand Lodge I. O. O. F., held its opening session. The grand master, W. Steaton Rogers, submitted a comprehensive report stating that the past year has been a prosperous one. Nearly every lodge has shared in the general prosperity. Four subordinate and three Rebekah lodges were instituted. He spoke of the visitation of Cantons La Tour of St. John and Wabasco of Fort Fairfield, Maine. In dealing with the philanthropy, he said that three plans of great merit have been placed before the Grand Lodge, namely, the Odd Fellows Home and Orphanage, the endowment of private wards in hospitals, and the campaign against consumption.

During the year he made forty-one official visits. The San Francisco Relief Committee refunded to the Grand Lodge \$210, being twenty-five per cent. of the amount contributed by the lodge to the great disaster, the committee finding that the surplus account was not required. Applications were received for a new lodge at Barrington. He recommended that the Grand Lodge appoint a special committee to enquire into the losses caused by the suspension of members for non-payment of dues.

The grand secretary, James A. Laidlaw, reported 92 lodges with a total membership of 8,620, a net increase of 781. During the year \$11,632.50 was paid for relief in the subordinate lodges, 640 brothers and 51 widowed families sharing in the benefits. The amount of invested funds and cash was \$33,394, and the total assets of the lodge were \$193,892. Receipts for the year were \$4,477.16.

The following will be the principal questions to be discussed at the present meeting: The new constitution; Odd Fellows' home, endowment of wards in hospitals, the campaign against consumption. There are six hundred delegates in the city and about three hundred at Grand Lodge. A big parade to the cemetery was held this afternoon and the graves of deceased brethren decorated. Cantons La Tour, of St. John, and Wabasco, of Fort Fairfield, Maine, are attracting much attention by their gorgeous uniforms.

J. H. Dalholm, grand treasurer, reported cash on hand at commencement of the year was \$2,540.98, received during the year, \$6,887.70, total, \$9,428.70. Expenses were \$5,427.80, leaving a balance of \$3,999.90.

The question of a new constitution came up at today's meeting and was referred to a committee of twenty to report in a few days. N. C. Collett, deputy grand master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, and Colonel W. H. Ralph, a representative of the same body, were received with honours. Both addressed the grand lodge.

At Tuesday's meeting of the Grand Lodge, fourteen members took the Grand Encampment degree. The secret work was exemplified by P. G. R. William Kenny, Amherst.

Officers were elected as follows: Grand patriarch, Alexander S. Stalker, Pictou; grand high priest, F. C. Crockett, Hope; grand secretary, Melville McKean, Moncton; grand treasurer, Chas. A. Sampson, Fredericton; grand senior warden, James M. Rose, Moncton; grand junior warden, Philip Brydges, Charlottetown; grand representatives, Thomas M. Grant, Westville; H. L. Hart, Halifax; grand marshal, J. T. Munro, Stellarton; grand sentinel, R. L. Ollingham, Woodstock; deputy grand sentinel, William McBean, Inverness; C. B. The grand scribe's salary was increased to \$100.

In the Rebekah assembly 130 members, representing thirty lodges, were present. The officers elected are: President, Miss Maggie Peters, Bridgetown (N. S.); vice-president, Harriet A. Smith, St. John; warden, Mary Essory, Charlottetown; secretary, Mrs. Mary McKean, Moncton; treasurer, Mrs. Janie McGowan, Moncton.

Tomorrow the election of grand lodge officers will take place. The contests for office will be very spirited.

The Rebekah assembly was made practically free of the grand lodge this evening by resolution of the grand lodge. This afternoon the decoration of the odd-fellows graves took place. Thousands witnessed the grand full dress procession. A band concert was given in the evening at the Queen square. Wabasco canton will leave on Thursday for St. John.

Golden Rod.

What army bivouacs on yonder plain, its golden helmets nodding in the sun. While yet its morning rays have scarce begun. To find their brilliance o'er the earth again? Upon the hillside and along the lane. A fairy, hybridized, is upon. Where summer's early blossoming was done. Where Flora erst held undisputed reign. The willing earth responds to Mida wand. And glitters with the goldenrod's bright brand. Now, when encamped are her battalions. Uplifting in soft breeze their myriad stars. Their armored sentinels at outpost stand. To guard the legion with drawn scimitars. —Dexter Smith.

Avon Headache Powders.

When you have a headache, or when you are pale, head aches, don't doubt the trouble with drugs. Help out the system with Dr. Hamilton's Pils. Safe, mild and sure are Dr. Hamilton's Pils. Buy a 25c. box.

BRITAIN'S BIRTH RATE.

(Boston Transcript.)

"Stands Scotland where it did?" Not according to the vital statistics of the country for 1907 as summarized by the American consul at Dunfermline. For twenty years the birth rate has been steadily decreasing, but last year it was the lowest on record. The population of that portion of Great Britain, according to the census figures, is 4,776,083, the highest it has ever been, yet showing a diminishing ratio of increase. There is observable, also, a movement that is not peculiar to that country, but is common to the all the older civilizations. The people are deserting the country for the towns and cities. Although the total population increased by about 50,000 last year, there was a loss of nearly a thousand in the rural districts of the mainland and over six hundred in the colonies of the island. Evidently this tendency is on the increase and a reversal of former figures is a new development. Between 1891 and 1901, while the island districts lost to a trifling extent, the rural mainland gained nearly twenty thousand, but now even that portion of the country faces ebb tide in its population.

We are not sure this movement is a healthy sign. There was always something idyllic and lovely about the Scotchman for his habit, his rocks, his glens, his storm-girt islands and his barren glebe. He loved his country for its wildness, and whether he wore kilts or tweeds, he dedicated the artificialities of conventional life as they appeared in the cities. But he has apparently deserted his glens for the glamour of last, and the Scotchman of romance, of Scott and of Black, is on the road to practical disappearance. Soon he will be as strange a creature as the Eskimo, as long been to the rest of the world, and more the pity. His type possessed of a charm that cannot be replaced by a new environment toward which he is now tending.

The C. P. R. Strike.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

The strike has been called at a most critical time, critical not only for the interests of the railway company but of the whole country, operating the wage earners in all other branches of our industrial and commercial life. In calling the strike at the present time, the interests of the railway company but of the whole country, operating the wage earners in all other branches of our industrial and commercial life. In calling the strike at the present time, the interests of the railway company but of the whole country, operating the wage earners in all other branches of our industrial and commercial life. In calling the strike at the present time, the interests of the railway company but of the whole country, operating the wage earners in all other branches of our industrial and commercial life.