

..The Planet..

S. STEPHENSON. — Proprietor.

RURAL FREE MAIL DELIVERY.

Eight years ago, says Leslie's Weekly, the Post-office Department reported to Congress that rural free delivery would cost \$20,000,000 annually, with but a very small percentage of return. Owing to the very zealous work of a few enthusiasts in Congress, \$10,000 was made available for a trial of the experiment in 1894, but Postmaster-General Bissell declined to make use of the money. A year later his successor, Postmaster-General Wilson, was provided with \$20,000 and asked to make a trial of the system. Gen. Wilson's opinion was the same as his predecessor's had been, and he added that the fund had been available too late in the year for a good trial in any event. In 1896, \$50,000 was placed at his disposal, and forty-four routes in different parts of the country were tried.

There were all sorts of discouragements, yet, in spite of them, there were sufficient good results to encourage the congressional friends of the measure to persist. Since then the work has gone on, and has been received with more and more favor. The next appropriation was for \$150,000, then for \$450,000, and for the last fiscal year the high-water mark of \$1,750,000 was reached. Friends of the measure tried to secure \$5,000,000 for the next fiscal year, but \$3,000,000 was appropriated.

ALTOGETHER TOO CONSIDERATE.

At the present time, when the Boers are adopting Anarchical methods of warfare, the following letter extract from a responsible source in Ceylon may be of interest. The South African side of the picture shows the Boers laying dynamite on a railway over which Gen. Kitchener was to pass; the reverse, or Ceylon side, shows the "imprisoned" Boer generals being sumptuously entertained at Government House, and a special hospital ship fitted out at great expense in order that some fifty burghers, convalescent from measles, may be taken for a week's trip round the spicy island:—

"I do not know how the general home public feels about the gaudiest special arrangement at Government House in Ceylon to do honor to Boer generals, but as an official whose position necessitates my going to official headquarters, I share strongly the view of many of my colleagues that it is an unwarrantable thing for us to be forced to meet in constant social intercourse and to be expected to show honor to the enemies of our country, who have been nominally outlawed to Ceylon, as persons dangerous to the empire. In our official capacity we are bound to accept invitations to Government House, where we are expected to treat these Boer prisoners as distinguished and honored guests. They are taken on special trips to all the points of interest on the island, and made to feel important 'personages.' In fact, they are having a splendid time all round. They are allowed to board the incoming transports, full of Boer prisoners, from South Africa, talk with and welcome their brother burghers, tell them the latest news, and receive an ovation of cheers from their ex-fellow-fighters. 'Ceylon is fairly disgusted. We thought the climax was reached when grand pianos were furnished to the Boer camp. The latest luxury, however, is the costly fitting out of a hospital ship to take 50 sturdy Boers convalescent from measles, for a week's trip around Ceylon. Such a thing has never been done for our own sick soldiers. The wives and delicate children of our fighting Tommies are kept year in and year out in Colombo. Soldiers are sent occasionally to Newara Elia for up-country changes; but no married quarters are provided in the hills so that Tommie's wife and family remain for some three consecutive years in Colombo with no change of air unless they choose to take and pay for it on their own account. I am told that this little tour will cost upwards of \$1,000. I do not vouch for this, as, so far, I have had no official information; but I think this is a modest estimate. We are hoping some questions will be asked in the House of Commons on this special feting of Boer ringleaders."

BREAK LEGISLATION.

A bill has been introduced into the Pennsylvania State Legislature which places a tax upon bachelors and provides, in the first section, that "any male citizen of the commonwealth who is 21 years old and desires the office of husband, may procure a license as prescribed by existing laws, provided he is under 40 years old, but if the applicant is over 40 years he shall, before securing the license, pay into the office of the clerk of the court \$100 as a license fee, which this bill imposes on all bachelors over 40 years old."

The bill provides that all the fees shall be turned into the state treasury for the purpose of maintaining three homes for women over 40 years old, "who have not had a suitable opportunity or offer of marriage, and have no means sufficient to keep themselves in clothes and spending money."

The bill further provides that "any bachelor over 40 years old who shall go to another state and procure a wife and shall return to this state, shall pay into the state treasury the sum of \$100, otherwise the marriage contract shall be declared null and void, or any such bachelor coming

Dyspepsia

Is difficult digestion, due to a weakened condition of the stomach and its inability to properly churn the food; or to unhealthy condition of the gastric juice, too much or too little acid, too much or too little pepsin.

Hood's Sarsaparilla relieves all the distressing symptoms of dyspepsia because it promotes the muscular action of the stomach and intestines, aids nature in the manufacture of her own digestive secretions, which are far better than any artificial pepsin, unlocks the bowels, stimulates the kidneys and tones up their mucous membranes.

So prompt is its effect in many cases that it seems to have almost a magic touch.

Begin to take it NOW.

Suffered Everything.—"I was troubled with dyspepsia, suffered everything but death, could not eat without terrible distress. Since taking Hood's Sarsaparilla I eat heartily and I am well." Mrs. EDWARDS MERRITT, Danbury, Conn.

Eat Three Times a Day.—"Hood's Sarsaparilla has cured me of dyspepsia and I never felt better. Can eat three good meals every day." FRED FOSTER, 437 South Penna St., Indianapolis, Ind.

HOOD'S Sarsaparilla

Is sold by all druggists. Prepared only by C. I. HOOD & CO., Lowell, Mass.

from another state who was married after the age of 40 years shall come under the same laws as a resident." The state must be divided into three districts. It is provided in the last section that the act is irrevocable and can never be repealed without the consent of a majority of the old women who have been regularly admitted to the home.

Then, again, in Minnesota a bill has been introduced regulating marriages. Under the proposed law no marriage license will be granted except upon the certificate of a physician in good standing, as to the mental and physical fitness of the contracting parties. The direct object of the bill is to prevent the transmission of epilepsy, insanity, and mental weakness in general; but indirectly it extends much further than this. It is very doubtful whether the bill, if it becomes law, will prove effective. Love will laugh at its provisions, and find a way to avoid them.

Vote for the by-law!

Fill up the vacant houses by encouraging new industries!

One new industry will encourage another. Secure the Dowley factory and more will follow.

It will only cost the ratepayers 13 cents on each \$1,000 of assessment to secure the Dowley factory.

It is not proposed by this by-law to give away the city's money. Every dollar loaned will be repaid.

The School Board made no mistake in appointing Robert Park inspector. He has shown that he knows his duties and has the courage to perform them. The city schools will certainly not suffer under his control.

A peculiarity of our Governmental system is that though a premier, may confer portfolios he cannot compel the holders to resign them without resigning himself. Possibly, after the Cook exposure, that is the reason Sir Wilfrid Laurier still retains Sir Richard Cartwright in his cabinet.

NOT HEREDITARY

In the main, consumption is not hereditary; it is infectious. People are too afraid of heredity; better not think of the subject at all. Infection occurs continually.

Low vital force is hereditary; which gives consumption its chance. And infection plants it.

Between the two, the crop is a big one: about one-sixth of the human race, so far as is known.

We suppose it needn't be 5 per cent, if people would take fair care and Scott's emulsion of cod-liver oil.

The care saves life in all ways; the emulsion is especially aimed at the lungs, beside its general food-effect.

We'll send you a little to try, if you like. SCOTT & BOWNE, Toronto, Canada.

Minard's Liniment — Lumberman's Friend.

The Banner-News has found a bad brick in the King St. pavement and expends a large amount of space in trying to prove that that justifies its uncalled-for attacks on the late city engineer. One bad brick does not make a bad pavement and, while wishing the Banner-News long life, we venture to predict that the present King street pavement will be in good order when our hyphenated neighbor is only just a reminiscence.

MISSIONARIES BAD EATING.

Yale Record.

A cannibal was seated on a green Pacific isle. With the temperature at ninety-nine degrees: His dress was rather scanty, in a truly savage style. Just a pair of Boston garters round his knees.

But he didn't seem quite happy, for now and then a groan escaped—which tore his savage breast in two. And he chanted in a melancholy, meditative tone:

"The ditty that I now repeat to you: 'I've eaten hostile tribesmen without a single question, I've feasted on the yellow, black and brown!'

But I never have encountered such a fit of indigestion As accompanied the minister from town."

"I have tried the Uambago, boiled and roasted, baked and fried: I have chewed the woolly Oolah stuffed with yam; But for all the after symptoms from the dishes I have tried, I wouldn't give a Bamballoodam."

"But I caught this missionary calmly strolling on the main: Cooked and served him dressed exactly comme il faut. But a feeling deep within me makes it disagreeably plain That the missionary surely is de trop."

"I have eaten hostile tribesmen with the greatest of urbanity, I have feasted on the yellow, black and brown: But to eat a missionary was the acme of insanity, You can't keep a good man down."

DR. TALMAGE'S HERESY.

Knoxville, Tenn., April 3.—Rev. T. Dewitt Talmage said:—"My own firm belief is that the Presbyterian creed will not be revised by a committee. When the time is ripe a man of heart and brain will step forward and read the simple article of what we now believe. It will fire the hearts of men like flames and will be adopted instantly. We have a number of men who are as fully competent to promulgate a creed as was John Calvin."

BANNISHED FOR MUTINY.

Cape Coast Castle, Gold Coast Colony, April 3.—The leader of the men belonging to the West African regiment who recently mutinied because they were not returned to Sierra Leone at the time they understood they were to be sent home, has been court-martialed and publicly shot. The rest of the mutineers have been shipped to the island of Sherbro, 40 miles from Sierra Leone.

THE WIND AT THE DOOR.

Often to my door Comes a twilight visitor, When the autumn summer day From our thresholds takes his way, And the journeying shadows stride Over the grassy meadow side Down the clove among the trees With the ghostly wandering breeze And the pale light in the West He comes up the dark ravine like flame, and leaves a sign— Where no traveler is seen. Yet his coming makes a stir In the house of Ash and Fir, "Master isn't he out there?" "Will you hurry on the road?" "Nay, I like your rookery well, But with you I may not dwell," Birches whisper at their shill, As he passes up the hill. "Stranger, underneath our boughs There is ample room to house," "Fritsils, I have pondered quest Whose bird by the chimney goes— And the fluttering open knows Who shall be the first to choose—" "Honor, Lord, thy silver tree! And the chamber said for thee." "Nay, I must be by myself, For to-night I seek my own. Breath of the red lust is he And a wayfarer like me. Here a moment and then lost On a trail confused and crossed, And I greatly would surprise Recognition in his eyes; Touch his hand and talk with him When the forest light is dim, Tying counsel with the lord Of the unutterable word. Hark, did you hear someone try The west window furtively And then move among the leaves In the shadow of the eaves? The red curtain at the door Rustled; there's my visitor Who comes searching for his kin, Enter, brother, I'm within. —Miss Carman, in Scribner's.

A New Army Ration.

German military correspondents speak very highly of a new ration which has been tried during the recent maneuvers of the Austrian troops in Galicia, says The Paris Messenger. Owing to the nature of the country and the extensive area covered during the exercises, it became necessary to provide the troops with some portable food, which could be prepared in a very short time or even eaten without preparation. Various forms of nutriment were tried, but the one which gained most favor was a so-called "chocolate ration." This was invented by a doctor, and consists of ordinary chocolate with an admixture of albumen and certain salts, which, when mixed with milk or water and eaten as it is, is the nourishing value of the preparation is very great, 100 grammes affording nearly half a kilogramme, or five times the amount of beef. Moreover, the chocolate keeps remarkably well, and is affected neither by heat nor by long storage in damp and badly-ventilated magazines.

Minard's Liniment Cures Distemper.

The Northway Co., Limited

The Busy Cash Store

The Northway Co., Limited

Have YOU Left Your order for That Easter Hat?

Ladies' Tailored Suits and Jackets At About Half Price Manufacturers' Samples

Here's a bargain that should interest every lady requiring a new Spring Suit for Easter. These garments are all this summer's styles, made from the most fashionable fabrics in black and leading spring shades. There are 35 in the lot, and not one of them but what is worth almost double what we are asking for them:—

Fine All-Wool Black Cheviot Suits, smart fitting Eton coat, lined throughout with rich satin or fine black Taffeta silk, handsomely finished, latest style skirt, reg. \$20 to \$22.50, special.....

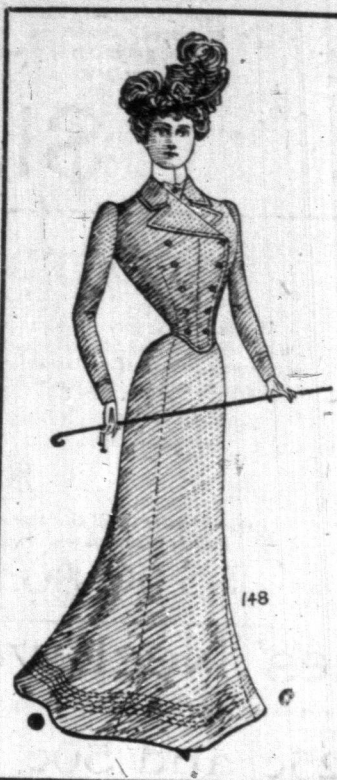
\$12.50

Gray Cheviot Suits, close fitting coat, lined with taffeta silk, roll collar, faced with cream satin and rich all-over insertion, flare skirt, best taffeta finish lining, reg. \$18, special at.....

\$10 00

Homespun Suits in gray and green mixtures, fine pure wool quality, jacket made with fly front and coat collar, flare skirt, well finished, reg. \$10 and \$12.50, special.....

\$7 90



Ladies' Tailored Suits, good firm Cheviots, in navy, fawn and gray shades, smart styles, extra well finished, reg. \$8.50 to \$10, special.....

\$5.90

Tailored Suits in gray and green habit cloths, silk lined coats, reg. \$8.50, special at.....

\$4.35

Ladies' Spring Jackets, smart stylish garments in fawn, box and covert cloth, reg. \$6.00, at.....

\$3 50

reg. \$6 at.....

\$4.50

reg. \$8 and \$9 at.....

\$6.50

Ladies' Spring Coats, superfine broadcloth in light fawn shades, latest spring style, inlaid satin applique lapels, handsomely finished, rich satin linings, reg. \$12.50, special.....

\$8.50

THE NORTHWAY Co., Limited

CASH ONLY and ONE PRICE

The Woolen Mills

Ordered Clothing Department

NOW is the opportune time to place your order for a SPRING SUIT. Do not leave it until the Rush—

Be The First

We are now in a better position to serve you in every way. You will have FIRST-CHOICE of our NEW SPRING GOODS of which we carry the LARGEST and BEST selected Stock of any in the City.

OUR CUTTER, Mr. Whistler, is a thorough mechanic and has none but first-class Men Coat-Makers under his direction. We guarantee to SAVE YOU money on Ordered Clothing and make them First-class and Up-to-date. We also carry a small stock of READY-MADE CLOTHING. We have the best \$1.50 and \$2.00 Ready-made Pants in Canada. Try US FOR A PAIR and at the same time LEAVE YOUR MEASURE FOR A SPRING SUIT.

The T. H. Taylor Co. Limited

Phone 1. Beaver Flour the Best.



BERTHA WALTZINGER.

Prima Donna of the Thos. Q. Seabrooke Comic Opera Co. To be seen in "The Rounders" at the Grand next Monday Evening.

"We were very much pleased with the design you sent. It was beautiful and appropriate." The Victoria Ave. Green Houses receive such words of commendation every day. Telephone No. 181.

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ON MORTGAGES At 4 1/2% and 5% Liberal Terms and privileges to borrowers Apply to LEWIS & RICHARDS,

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At Lowest Prices Stein's Wood Yard

BY ORDER OF CENTRAL SCHOOL.

Before After Wood's Phosphorine, The Great English Remedy. Sold and recommended by all druggists in Canada. Only reliable medicine discovered. Its use is guaranteed to cure all forms of Sexual Weakness, all effects of abuse or excess, Mental Worry, Excessive use of Tobacco, Opium or Stimulants. Mailed on receipt of price, one package \$1.00, six, \$5.00. One will please, six will cure. Pamphlets free to any address. The Wood Company, Windsor, Ont.

Wood's Phosphorine is sold in Chatham at the Central Drug Store, C. H. Gunn & Co.

S. THOMAS Business COLLEGE

The growth of this institution during the last two years has been wonderful. The attendance has been doubled on account of the thorough course of training which we give. One of our young men is now drawing a salary of \$1,500 a year; another \$900; others from \$400 to \$800. Within the last month two of our students have gone direct from the College to positions paying \$500 a year. WE QUALIFY OUR STUDENTS TO FILL THE BEST POSITIONS.

Young people are foolish to spend the best part of their lives learning Latin, French and the dead languages, when a few months spent in our Commercial or Shorthand Department will fit them to earn salaries like the above.

Spring term begins April 1st. Enter and complete a three months' course before mid-summer. Send for Catalogue.

H. T. GOUGH, Principal.

St. Thomas, Ont.

McConnell's PARK STREET

Only a few words about dishes. McConnell, Park street, will sell for cash, Saturday, March 16th. (This is for one day only.)

Saturday, April 6

Three dinner sets for \$6, regular price, \$7; three tea sets, regular \$3, for \$2.50; three chamber sets, \$1.75 each. I will only sell the above number of sets at the price named. China and glassware also will be sold at 10 per cent off regular price.

GROCERIES.

5 lbs. Prunes, 25c.
6 lbs. Figs, 25c.
A1 Pickles, 1 lb. a bottle.
6 bars Sweet Home Soap, 25c.
7 lbs. rolled wheat, 25c.
Sunset Brand Broiled Mackerel, 15c per can.
Matches, 10c. package for 8c.
4 lbs. Dried Apples, 25 cents.
Clothes pins, 1 cent per doz.
The above are bargains you should take advantage of.

John McConnell

Park Street East Phone 180
Minard's Liniment Cures Diphtheria, etc.

The Best

Have you seen the Catalogue of THE CANADA BUSINESS COLLEGE, CHATHAM, ONT.

If not, you are not familiar with the best Canada has to offer in the line of Business Education, Shorthand or Penmanship.

EASTER TERM. Commences Tuesday, April 9th, but pupils may begin at any time most convenient to themselves. INSTRUCTION AT YOUR HOME BY MAIL.

We are now prepared to give you a course of instruction at your home in either book-keeping, Shorthand or Penmanship, and have already handled a number of pupils successfully in this way. To those whose circumstances will not allow them to leave home to attend school, this affords an excellent opportunity of getting a thorough knowledge of these subjects, while you are still following your daily work. We can qualify you to fill a good position through these mediums. Write for terms of Mail Course. To those who can come to Chatham, but who cannot commence for some time, we would strongly recommend their taking up the Mail Course in the interval, and thus saving themselves considerable time and expense after coming.

We allow railway fare to those from a distance up to \$8.00, and can secure good board for gentlemen at \$2.50 per week, and for ladies at \$2.00.

Our Catalogue is acknowledged to be the handsomest issued by any business school on the continent. Write for one, if interested.

D. McLAUCHLAN & CO., Chatham, Ont.

M19-a3

DON'T WAIT

For a cold to catch you. Have a bottle of Radley's Cough Balsam in the house to catch and cure the cold.

A few doses relieve the cough and allays the irritation. Part of bottle usually cures.

If after using half a bottle it fails in your particular case return the bottle and your money will be refunded.

Reliable Druggists

Minard's Liniment Cures Diphtheria, etc.