

The Free Press,

LONDON, ONT.

Monday, June 30, 1890

SEWERAGE AND LAW SUITS.

It seems useless to go on with the plan of turning the Carling Creek into a leading sewer, so long as the city is subject to vexatious litigation over the pollution of the Thames. If the decision of an English Court is to be held applicable to the circumstances here, our present sewerage system is wrong, and so far from being extended in the way proposed, may have to be wholly changed at a ruinous cost to the ratepayers. That decision is alleged to be that no municipality is permitted to drain its refuse into the running stream, which is, however, the natural receptacle of every surface impurity; and if no municipality, then no private person or corporate company. The oil refineries, gas works, tanneries, etc., would have to find another outlet for their waste materials. To use the Carling Creek, therefore, to carry off the refuse of the Asylum, the Military School and the northern portion of the city generally, would but add to the fault already complained of, since it empties into the Thames precisely as do the present sewers. The estimated expense of the work across the city to the river, from east to west, would be about \$120,000. To make a conduit sufficiently large to the neighborhood of Byron would increase the cost three or four fold; and even there the Thames could not be utilized as an outlet. Every one whose land lay along the river banks would have it in his power to vex the city by trumped-up complaints and lawsuits. The only way to avoid this, if the English dictum regarding riparian rights is to weigh in this case, is to provide means of treating the solid and liquid refuse separately by some process yet to be satisfactorily tested. Until a practical plan of this kind is found, such a plan as the Legislature can pronounce upon as suitable and proper to be adopted, and the use of which ought to be enforced upon all municipalities alike, it would be a hardship were London to be compelled to alter its system at great cost and inconvenience. How could we be sure that after all the trouble and outlay some new notions of sewage treatment would not be brought forward, and all have to be done over again? In the present aspect of things, the lawsuits carried on in the name of the Attorney-General seem to be more with the intent to harass the citizens and pile up a bill of costs than to hasten a real sewerage reform. Certainly, the turn of affairs in regard to the suit already prosecuted is ample warrant to delay consideration of the Carling Creek proposal.

OUR TIMBER STOCK TAKING.

The chief organ of the Hon. Mr. Mowat observes that "tariff or no tariff, and in spite of the efforts of Governments to prevent continental free trade, there must come a day when the American cities must take their timber from Canadian sources." Exactly so! And it is for that reason that the Mowat Government have been so strongly censured for their reckless and extravagant administration of the pine lands of this Province. For years they seemed to regard this portion of the public heritage simply as a fat source of revenue, without any consideration as to how long it was to last, or might be made to continue by careful regulation and judicious methods of renewal. They were warned over and over again by experts in the timber trade, mindful of the exhaustive consumption in the States, that such prodigality as they had displayed was against the future interests of the people, and the time would come when our Republican neighbors would look more and more to Canada for their supplies of lumber. In view of this, Mr. W. R. Meredith, from his place in the House, urged the appointment of a commission to inquire into the extent of the timber lands remaining at government disposal. But this proposition was voted down, and no steps have yet been taken to obtain any exact information on this head. We submit that the observation of our Toronto contemporary above quoted, that "there must come a day when the American cities must take their timber from Canadian sources," is a full justification of the proposal of Mr. Meredith, and affords a fresh reason for taking stock of our timber wealth.

CHOLERA IN FRANCE.

The cable states that cases of cholera have broken out in Brittany, also in Lyons and Marseilles. There is a great reputation at Paris, where the water supply is so short that some of the suburbs and a few of the city wards are now drawing their supplies directly from the Seine, and this condition of things has always been favorable to the spread of typhoid. At the same time it leaves the debilitated system a prey to the invasion of pestilence. France, however, has a good cholera record, and Paris, with her world famed drainage, has probably little to fear. Statistics show that France is not susceptible to the disease, as compared with other countries of Europe. The numbers attacked in previous epidemics have been as follows:—Russia, 1 in 20; Austria, 1 in 30; Poland, 1 in 32; Holland, 1 in 144; France, 1 in 300; and Germany, 1 in 700. These figures are based on later epidemics.

The authorities at Atlantic City have grown tired of a promiscuous study of the human form divine, and young men have been notified that they must dress themselves properly when bathing. The semi-nude toilet which has been in vogue for the last few years is placed under the ban of the law, and those who persist in violating decency will be liable to fine and imprisonment.

CARE OF CONSUMPTIVES.

The Philadelphia Medical News treats upon special hospitals for consumptives. The article is based on the fact recently determined that consumption, or tuberculosis, is contagious. It has been shown by the investigations of Professor Koch, of Berlin, and by the physicians of other parts of Europe that the mortality from consumption among nurses attending consumptive patients in hospitals, is greater than among those attending patients suffering from other diseases. It has also been ascertained that a rabbit can be inoculated with tuberculosis from the scrapings of dust from the walls of a room in which a consumptive has lived. There have been many superstitions about consumption, as our readers know, but science has shown that consumption is a preventable disease. The disease usually gains a foothold because of neglect and the difficulties attending effective treatment of the lungs. The writer in the Medical News believes that the disease may be kept in check, like smallpox, by judicious isolation of patients in homes and in hospitals. He holds that consumptive patients in hospitals should not be near other patients, but should have a separate department, with special facilities for disinfecting the premises. The News says:—

In this city attention has been called to this subject very recently by the exhaustive and very able paper read before the College of Physicians by Dr. Lawrence Flick, in which he discusses the subject of hospitals for tuberculosis and describes the buildings and methods of administration of the various hospitals of this character which are found in England and on the Continent. He also dwells upon the importance of the establishment of hospitals for consumptives in this country, and we agree with him perfectly in the assertion that physicians and hospital superintendents have no right to place in the same wards with other cases persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

These suggestions ought to have due weight with the managers of hospitals, if any of them still pursue the practice of keeping consumptives in rooms with other patients. Consumptives must be treated with tenderness and sympathy, but the lives of friends and relatives should not be placed in jeopardy by close personal association. Careful observers of the ravages of consumption know how one after another member of a family has perished, neither strength or apparent health being a sufficient defense against the disease. The consumptive who is not wholly selfish will insist upon keeping as much as possible aloof from friends and relatives.

BUFFALO AND BARLEY.

The Buffalo newspapers have agreed to accept an increase of 5 cents a bushel in the duty on barley. The duty is now 10 cents a bushel. The McKinley Bill fixed the duty at 30 cents, and the Senate Finance Committee reduced it to 25 cents a bushel. The Buffalo newspapers claim that maltsters have invested \$7,500,000 in malt houses to handle Canadian barley, and that a duty of 25 cents a bushel will ruin the business and injure the elevating interest of Buffalo. Perhaps, observes the Rochester Democrat (protectionist), the Senate will listen to the present complaint on the barley tariff and adopt a tariff of 15 or 20 cents a bushel.

CURRENT TOPICS.

Ninety-five cremations have taken place in the crematory at Cincinnati, the latest one last week. The crematory has been built only two years.

A very ingenious instrument has lately appeared for showing the velocity and pressure of the wind. The effect is produced by the rising or falling in level of mercury in a trough.

"Strawberry tea" is the outcome of a new industry in Germany in the utilization of the young leaves of the strawberry plant as a beverage. Having been carefully dried they are used instead of Chinese tea, which they closely approach in taste.

Dr. Luys says that seeing through a closed door is possible to a hypnotized person. The optic nerve acquires such power that a man has been known to read a paper with his eyes bandaged, and to distinguish the color of glass balls through a wooden screen.

Prof. Lintner, N. Y. State Entomologist, has made a microscopic examination of the insect collections of a single electric light, and estimates that the debris which he inspected represented 33,000 insects. As many of the smaller forms of insect life probably constituted the larger portion of those attracted to destruction by the light, he believes that the average number of insects destroyed in a night by a single electric light is nearly 100,000. "The electric light," to quote Prof. Lintner, "will undoubtedly prove an active agent in the reduction of insect pests, and also furnish entomologists with many rare specimens and with many species never before seen."

Hamilton Times:—Mr. Helmut is displaying a laudable zeal to protect Birchell, now lying in Woodstock jail on the charge of murdering young Benwell. Birchell, although a prisoner in jail, is entitled to be treated as an innocent man until he is found to be guilty, and we have no sympathy with those who are inclined to treat the prisoner harshly while in jail. The prisoner has yet to be proved guilty, and should the State fail to do so, and he prove himself an innocent man, no reparation the authorities could make would ever compensate the man for the disgrace and ignominy which have been heaped upon him since his arrest.

N. Y. Press:—Horses can be bought just now at prices so low that persons are often afraid to make purchases lest they should be swindled. Yet there is a legitimate reason for the low prices. A vast army of New Yorkers buy horses in the fall and keep up a winter establishment, who, when they get ready to go to the country for the summer, prefer to sell

their horses rather than pay for their keeping during the summer. It costs \$30 a month to board a horse at a boarding stable, and the cost at a private stable is almost double. It is the putting of such horses on the market that drives prices down.

The gold fields of South Africa continue to disappoint the investing and financial world. For May the ascertained produce of the Witwatersrand was 38,844 ounces of gold, worth about £150,000; which is only a trifle better than the corresponding return for May, 1889, although more and better crushing machinery has been set to work. That gold is still obtainable, although not at the fabulously great and increasing rate expected in the times of feverish speculation, is plain nevertheless. Of late investors have been tempted to declare that there is neither wit nor water, to say nothing of gold, in the whole area, which is an exaggerated way of putting it. The process known as "picking out the eyes" of the mines went on more or less generally, when the public were only too ready to believe in stupendous returns, however obtained.

Buffalo is taking steps to put a stop to the smoke nuisance. Every manufacturer, the law says, shall provide his furnaces with some kind of a device for burning the smoke. Of course it is better yet not to make any smoke, a feat that skillful firemen say they can accomplish with good fuel. The experience of Mr. Butts, of the firm of Tucker & Butts, with fuel is valuable, says the Courier. He buys anthracite culm or screenings and mixes with it one-fourth the weight of soft coal screenings. This makes a practically smokeless fuel, and the cheapest fuel that can be had.

Some little time ago a writer sent an article to a magazine with the following explanatory note:—"I know that you probably have several thousand articles on hand, many of them by well known writers, while I am entirely unknown. But I venture to hope that you will look at my article at once, first, because it is on a fresh topic, and is concisely put; secondly, because it is not folded, but sent to you between two pieces of paste-board; and thirdly, because it is type-written." The article was promptly accepted, and appeared in two months.

Canada Health Journal:—Human intercourse, cholera requires, for its conveyance, with certain meteorological and local conditions for its development, and the ingestion of specifically infected water, etc., for its communication. Thus, while it will cross the Atlantic in a fortnight, it marches by slow stages through lands where railways are still unknown, retreating into winter quarters when traffic and travel are suspended, to reopen the campaign with the return of warm weather, naturally earlier in the south.

In the window of a fishing tackle store in Fulton street, New York, is displayed a fly-rod three feet long, and tapering from the thickness of a lady's pencil at the butt to the size of a pin at the tip. It is made of Japanese bamboo with a tip of whalebone. There are three joints in the rod. The line of the length of the rod is of fine gut. At the end of it dangles a tiny yellow fly, concealing a barbless hook. The rod was made in Japan, and is a specimen of those in use there in the capture of minnows, which are regarded as a delicacy by the natives.

A school teacher, near Dawson, Ga., having instructed a pupil to purchase a grammar, the next day received a note thus worded from the child's mother:—"I do not desire for Lulu shall engage in grammar, as I prefer her engage in useful studies and can learn her how to spoke and wrote properly myself. I have went through two grammars and can't say as they did me no good. I prefer her engage in german and drawing and vocal music on the piano."

The leader of the band of Russian nihilists most recently arrested is a cousin of the famous composer, Felix Mendelssohn. He has long been prominent among the Russian revolutionists, and has frequently exposed himself to danger. He was arrested some years ago for threatening the Czar's life, but escaped.

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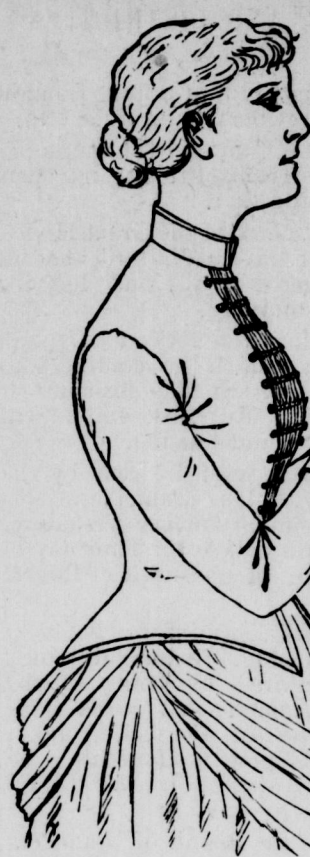
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A. BENOIT, Capt., Secretary.

Department of Militia and Defence.

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