

The Planet.

DAILY AND WEEKLY
Chatham, Ont.

THE EXAMINERS SHOULD BE
COMMENDED.

The indiscreet friends of the principal of the Central School are said to be reflecting on the board of examiners for trapping that teacher.

Such conduct is most reprehensible. People who indulge in these slanders are doing Mr. Smith's cause no good. The board of examiners did perfectly right in catching him, and putting an end to a most despicable practice. Every member of that board is to be commended. They have shown themselves the right men in the right place, and every citizen who hints otherwise we believe is an enemy of the public good. The way to prevent practices of this kind is to prove that they cannot be committed without certainty of detection.

Clemency for the principal of the Central School the Planet favors. We believe the citizens at large also favor it. But we don't propose to allow the examiners, who only did their duty, to be put on their defence while the real culprit is made out a partial martyr.

To attempt to defend or excuse the offence committed, or to shoulder the blame on others, is foolish. We trust and hope the school board and the government will pardon that offence and it is with the object of making such a course on their part possible that we find it necessary to warn those who in their ardor are injuring instead of aiding Mr. Smith. It is easy to understand that if the condoning of the act committed is to reflect on others that it is hopeless to expect the department of education to exercise clemency.

FAMINES MORE FREQUENT THAN
SUSPECTED.

Terrible as the India famine is, says London Tit-Bits, it is by no means the first time that England's eastern empire has felt the pinch of hunger, and millions of its people have succumbed to the awful death of slow starvation. Nor is India the only country which suffers from famines. Indeed, famines have occurred from the earliest times. The scriptures speak of several famines, one being mentioned as having occurred in Palestine as far back as the time of Abraham.

Even England has by no means been exempt from this terrible scourge. The first of which we have any record occurred as early as A. D. 54. In 272 there was a terrible famine throughout the whole of Britain, and people are reported to have "ate the bark of trees and roots." In 310, 40,000 people perished in this island through the want of food. The famine of 1065 was very severe.

Again, in 1070, the island was visited by a famine, and historians tell us that it was so severe that man, driven by hunger, ate human, dog and horse flesh, while others sold themselves for slaves. In the famine of 1258, when wheat fetched the then exorbitant price of 20s a quarter, 20,000 died in London alone of starvation. A famine of an entirely different nature occurred in 1296, when wine was so scarce that it could hardly be obtained for love or money to minister the communion in the churches.

Ireland, in 1847, the island was visited by a famine, and historians tell us that it was so severe that man, driven by hunger, ate human, dog and horse flesh, while others sold themselves for slaves. In the famine of 1258, when wheat fetched the then exorbitant price of 20s a quarter, 20,000 died in London alone of starvation. A famine of an entirely different nature occurred in 1296, when wine was so scarce that it could hardly be obtained for love or money to minister the communion in the churches.

Ireland has been peculiarly unfortunate as regards famines, generally brought about through the failure of its potato crop. That of 1846-47 was very severe. Parliament advanced nearly £10,000,000, and the famine in the whole island lasted nearly six years. About 275,000 persons are supposed to have perished, while over 1,000,000 emigrated to America.

Of great and prolonged famines in foreign countries there is a terrible list. In 1604 Egypt experienced the commencement of a seven years' famine. For seven successive years from that period the overflow of the Nile failed, and the worst horrors of famine were experienced. The wretched people resorted to cannibalism, and organized bands, kidnapped the unwary passenger in the desolate streets by means of ropes furnished with large hooks let down from the windows.

In 1162 there was a universal famine, and scarcely any country escaped the pinch of hunger. 1314 witnessed a great famine in Thuringia, Poland and Silesia. India was visited by a famine in 1344-45, which extended more or less over the whole of Hindustan. The Emperor Mohammed, it is said, was unable to procure the necessities for his household. In 1847 Italy passed through a terrible famine, and, together with the pestilence of a deadly nature which followed, two-thirds of the whole population died. Russia was the scene of a famine and plague

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In 1600, which resulted in the death of 530,000 people.

In 1769-70 occurred the first great Indian famine of which we have any authentic record. Since then this unfortunate empire has been visited quite a number of times with this terrible scourge. In fact, it is estimated that in India alone there have been in all 34 famines in just over a century, 27 of them being of a severe character.

We notice that by the new curriculum of the Ontario Law School, the Benchers of the Law Society have put Edwin Bell's book on the "Law of Mortgages" on the course for students in the third year. This is an unusual compliment to be paid to a Canadian legal writer, and Mr. Bell is to be congratulated on the success of his book.

If you ask a man for an ad. or a few locals, says the Toledo Daily News, he will tell you he doesn't believe in advertising — a paper is never read. But let him be caught hugging the hired girl or chasing a loose piece of calico up the street after dark, or struggling with a jug of "Tamarin" water, if the printing office is in the garret of a two-story building, he will climb to the top and ask the editor not to publish it in the paper where everybody will read it.

"Revenge to-day, mourning to-morrow," is practically the universal cry of Europe; but it is sorrowfully admitted that there can be no revenge to-day, nor perhaps for many to-morrows, for the incredible barbarities that are reported to have marked the last scenes within the legations at Peking. Nothing is clearer than that the anti-foreign conflagration in China is rapidly permeating even hitherto quiet provinces, and though it is recognized that every day which leaves Peking in the power of the mob increases the perils and difficulties of the situation, nothing comes from the diplomats of Europe to show that the powers have overcome the jealousies, resulting in general impotency, to which is commonly ascribed the sacrifice of the handful of women, children and men comprising the international colony in Peking.

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MR. SMITH'S DEEP DISGUST.

Robbery Independent, N.

There is nothing done at Ottawa that a dozen men of ordinary intelligence, under a good chairman could not accomplish in six weeks. A thousand dollars for the season is more than ample pay. So far from giving them more pay, they should be docked \$10 for every day they sit beyond six weeks. That would put an end to the eternal wind-pounding and vocal performances.

THE LAWYER'S WAY.
Exchange.

"If I were to give you an orange," said Judge Foote, of Topeka, to D. O. McCray, "I would simply say, 'I give you the orange,' but should the transaction be entrusted to a lawyer to put in writing, he would adopt this form:—I hereby give, grant, and convey to you all my interests, right, title and advantage of and in said orange, together with its rind, skin, juice, pulp and pits, and all right and advantages therein, with full power to bite, suck, or otherwise eat the same or give away, with or without the rind, skin, juice, pulp, or pits, anything hereinafter, or in any nature or kind whatsoever to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding."

WILL THE GUILTY ESCAPE?
Principal Grant.

The moral life of the country suffers from attempts at whitewashing Mr. Lemieux; but what language is too strong to apply to the emergency meat scandal?

It was bad enough to send our soldier lads to Kingston in the depth of winter miserably shod; bad enough to keep others at Toronto for weeks without rifle practice, the rifles having been sent to Halifax; but to give them as emergency food what was no better than pea meal cakes was like giving drowning men sham life-preservers.

THE OFFICE DESERVES THE PENITENTIARY, as the premier said, but though the offence has been proved, will anyone be sent to prison?

ROSCOE CONKLING.

The Career of an American Who if Living Now Would Be But Seventy Years Old.

If Roscoe Conkling had lived until Oct. 30, '99, he would have been but seventy—the allotted age of man according to Scripture. The fact that he has been dead eleven years and a half and that for the seven preceding years he was a practicing lawyer in New York city emphasizes the truth that he was a young man when public honors were heaped upon him. In short he was only a boy when he was appointed District Attorney of Oneida county. He was admitted to the bar in the spring of 1850, when he was 20 years old. He was so big, even then, that nobody thought to inquire his age. Being a full-fledged attorney, he was sent to Albany to interview Hamilton Fish, then Governor of New York, in behalf of the Whig choice for District Attorney. The Governor was greatly taken with the dignified bearing of the boy; he knew his father the "Judge." So he cut the interview short and announced that he had an appointee for the office of District Attorney of Oneida county. "And who may he be?" asked Mr. Conkling. "Roscoe Conkling," was the surprising answer. Behold him then returning to Utica the District Attorney of this county and still but 20. Did he employ a lawyer? No. He jumped in, and conducted the prosecution of every criminal case on the court calendar of the remainder of the year 1850, alone and unaided.

Another thing that prevented Uticans from thinking of Conkling as a young man was his prematurely gray hair and beard. These, in connection with his great size, gave to him a venerable appearance which his years did not justify. James Russell Lowell tells a story of Daniel Webster, who, raising to his full height, spoke from the cavernous depths of his great chest the following lugubrious words: "Discontinue the Whig party! But to where would I go?" Then Mr. Lowell added: "If he had been a little fellow, five feet two, we should have answered him: 'Who the devil cares where you go!' But he looked so imposing when he spoke that we were all frightened at our temerity in purporting to dissolve the party that held Daniel Webster, whose quick death left us at liberty to break up Whiggery in Massachusetts." It was something so with Roscoe Conkling. Nobody would have thought of discontinuing the Republican party while Roscoe Conkling remained a Republican. But there came a time when Mr. Conkling ceased to be an active Republican. This was in 1884, when James C. Blaine was the candidate for President; and when Roscoe Conkling's friends in Oneida county compassed his defeat and elected Grover Cleveland.

Conkling was first elected to Congress in 1858; re-elected in '60; defeated by Francis Kernan in '62, but elected again '64 and '68. Then he was elected Senator in '73, and '79; resigned in '81, and after trying in vain for a re-election, abandoned politics for law, at which he made a most tremendous success. He was only twenty-eight when elected to the House and thirty-six when he entered the Senate, and but fifty-one when he retired, and but fifty-nine when he died. He accomplished enough for a man before the dawn of his sixtieth birthday.

Church—I see the school which teaches shorthand has failed in Philadelphia. Gotham—Too rapid for e'm, I suppose.

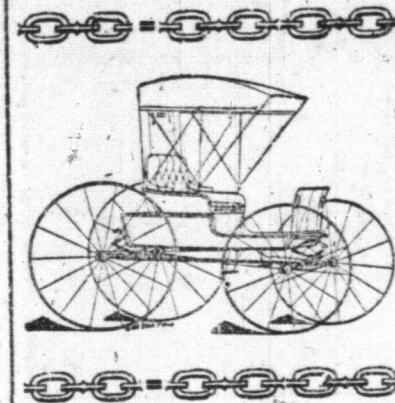
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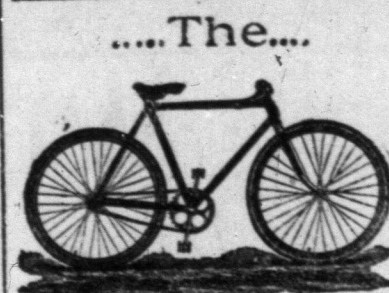
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