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JOHN CAMERON, President and

Manag. Dir.

God's in His heaven.

All's right with the world.

—Browning.

London, Saturday, March 21.

Splendidly Isolated No Longer.

How quickly the international situation

changes.

But the other day, Lord Salisbury,

the British Premier, was asserting

that he would never arbitrate the

Venezuela question with the United

States as a factor in the dispute. Now

we have the two great English-speaking

powers committed to co-operate

for a peaceful settlement.

Even late last fall, there was every

indication that Great Britain meant to

compel the Sultan to respect his pledge

that Armenian Christians should be

protected. But Lord Salisbury now

asserts that he is powerless to compel

the Sultan to act because the other

powers decline to co-operate.

While these problems were in course

of solution, Mr. Chamberlain delivered

his famous address at Birmingham, in

which he rejoiced over the "splendid

isolation" of Great Britain, which, he

admitted, through one cause or another,

was then practically without

allies.

Today, after the lapse of a few

weeks, it is admitted that Great Britain

is not "splendidly isolated," but

that, in order to hold her own as an

Eastern Power, she is compelled to

agree to a practical alliance with

Germany, Austria and Italy.

It is with the active aid of these

countries—till now known as the Triple

Alliance—and in opposition to the

wishes of France and Russia, old allies

of hers, that Great Britain is today

enabled to find Egyptian funds with

which to pay for an expedition to send

to fight the Mahdi of the Sudan. That

individual has been menacing Italian

interests in Africa, and Italy is already

sorely beset by the King of Abyssinia,

who routed her big army a few days

ago. Italy, therefore, has a decidedly

selfish interest in forcing Great Britain

into an alliance with the other three

powers. But what are the interests

of Austria and Germany? Selfish, too,

doubtless. These powers know that

the British occupation of Egypt is

decidedly distasteful to France, and

that so long as Great Britain retains

sole control of the land of the Nile, so

long is it possible to prevent British

co-operation with France. To keep

Britain at loggerheads with her old ally,

and to compel the motherland to

for sake her "splendidly isolated" position,

and to seek the aid of Germany,

Austria and Italy is indeed a triumph

of diplomacy on the part of these

Powers. But whether it will promote

the peace of Europe, or have a

restraining influence on Russia's

advances in the East, is another question.

A Word for Rapid Transit.

Some objection is made to the system

of rapid transit provided by the

London Street Railway Company, and

the city engineer has been censured

because he does not constantly inter-

fere to compel the railway men to go

for the prosecution, and to guarantee

him protection in order that a conviction

against the originator of the conspiracy

might be insured. Francey's

confessions in the witness box were

exceedingly discreditable to him. If

the Medical Council of Ontario have

not already disciplined this man, they

have a duty to perform to the public.

Level Up the Pensions.

The Duke of Cambridge draws \$68,

000 a year, as a royal prince. He is a

cousin to Queen Victoria. He is in re-

ceipt of a further \$11,000 as colonel of

the Grenadier Guards. Now it is pro-

posed by the British Government to

add \$9,000 a year pension to the duke's

emoluments. Sir William Harcourt, on

behalf of the Liberals, strongly op-

poses the grant. He has an impreg-

nible position so long as the common

soldier has no inequitable reward for

his services. The Duke of Cambridge

never saw active service, and has lived

his long life in luxury. But James

Jones, who died in Sheffield the other

day, saw service as a common soldier

at the forcing of the Khyber Pass, at

the relief of Jellalabad, in actions at

Jugdulluck Pass, Tuzeeun Valley,

Khoord, Cabool Pass, Cabool, Moodkee,

Ferozeshah, Sobraon, Rannuggar, Su-

dullapore, Chillianwallah, and Googera-

t, and at Alma, Balaklava and Se-

bastopol. While the Duke was in re-

ceipt of \$71,000 pension a year, this

soldier had to be content with eight

pence a day, or about \$1 a week.

The protest of Sir William Harcourt

against giving large pensions to men

who do not need them and rewarding

the common soldier in this beggarly

manner is most timely.

Sound the Alarm.

When Mr. Hardy's bill for reducing

the number of county councilors was

under discussion, it was brought out

that in future members of township

councils will not be county councilors,

and that the reduction will save the

taxpayers of the Province \$35,000 a year.

Mr. St. John and other Conservative

members opposed the change, alleging

that it was borrowed from the United

States. Dreadful to contemplate! When

Canada followed the United States in

adopting the dollars and cents system

of currency in preference to £. s. d.,

the same outcry was raised. But who is

so foolish as to wish to go back to

the old order of things? If a reform

is in the right direction, sensible peo-

ple care not from whence it comes.

A Good Idea.

Some people have objected to the

enforcement of the curfew bell ordi-

nance by municipalities, on the ground

that it infringes on the liberties of the

young. It has been tried in the city

of Lincoln, Neb., with so great suc-

cess that the chief of police is moved

to report that during its enforcement

for the first month in that city there

has been a falling off in crimes of 75

per cent over former months. With

this report before it the council of the

large city of Omaha has now adopted

an ordinance to compel boys and girls

to go off the streets at an early hour

at night. Everywhere a strong be-

lief has grown in favor of putting

down crime by preventing it, by re-

moving temptations to wrong-doing

from the pathway of the young, and by

taking such children as are utterly

homeless and finding comfortable

places of abode for them. This prin-

ciple was recognized by the Ontario

Government when it passed the law

giving municipalities power to enforce

the Curfew Act, and in a still more

stantial help to the Children's Aid Soci-

eties, whose whole aim is to place

the waifs and strays of the country

in decent and comfortable homes,

where they may grow up to be useful

men and women, as far removed as

possible from the temptations that

come from running the streets of towns

and cities. We have plenty of this

class of population to take care of

without paying a Dominion bonus to

bring additional neglected ones into

the country. What every municipality

needs is a reputable agent to take

charge of and look up homes for ne-

glected and deserted little ones, such

as the energetic Children's Aid Society

of this city has employed. There would

be a material decrease in the number

of paupers, criminals, and other de-

pendents which society has now to

maintain.

By the Way.

A London, Eng., correspondent says

that reports of cold weather in this

country read strangely there where

they have had but four cold days in

the last winter, the morning of the

coldest showing 10 degrees above zero.

"And," he adds, "we have had so few

fogs this winter that London can well

vie with the Riviera as a winter resort

for comfort and warmth."

|| || ||

Sir Donald Smith announces that the

C. P. R. Company has made no propo-

sition to sell its lands back to the

Dominion Government. We all desire

to see the lands settled as speedily

as possible, and it is apparent that

the C. P. R. is doing more to find set-

tlers than are the men in power.

Therefore, Sir Donald Smith's state-

ment that the company has not even

contemplated making application to the

Government to take back the lands is

reassuring. Population is needed in

the Northwest, and Canada needs every

possible agency at work to secure it.

|| || ||

Only one in every thirteen of the

persons put in prison in the United

States is a woman. The ratio is about

the same in Canada. And yet there

are men who tell us that woman is

inferior to man, and that for that

reason she cannot be entrusted to aid

in selecting the men who make the laws

which she must obey.

|| || ||

It is somewhat remarkable that both

Mr. Marter and Mr. Haycock refused

to present any evidence before the com-

mittee of the Legislature on the Gov-

ernment House. They missed a great

opportunity for effective work.

|| || ||

The highest medical authorities are

beginning to doubt the germ theory,

and Dr. Laurie's latest discovery will

make them more skeptical than before.

Dr. Laurie claims that there is no

parasite in the blood in malaria. If

this fact be established it not only

goes far to destroy the excellent rep-

utation which the phagocytes enjoy for

promenading the veins and devouring

the malaria germs wherever found,

but it is decidedly unfavorable to the

whole germ theory of disease. Malaria

was supposed to be the one disease in

which the action of the bacillus was

said to be undoubted, and if it is dis-

News New and Near

Latest Happenings in the Western

Ontario District.

Fruit Prospects in Huron County—An

Aged Postmaster.

W. J. Clarke, the telegraph operator

who suicided recently in Jersey City,

formerly lived in Dresden.

Arrangements have been completed

whereby Duncan Weir, of Theford,

will build a flax mill at Forest this

summer.

One day lately Mr. James Ewing

called at the manse, Queen Hill, and

on behalf of the congregation present-

ed Rev. H. McQuarrie, of Port Elgin,

with a fine fur cap and overcoat.

Assessor Roche, of Dutton, has com-

pleted the assessment of the village

for 1896. The value of real property is

\$153,106; personal property, \$16,060;

taxable income, \$1,000; total assess-

ment, \$170,155.

John C. Fox, having reached his 89th

year, has resigned the position of post-

master of Olinda, South Gosfield, at

which he was appointed in 1858. At

that time there was only one other

postoffice in the county.

Mr. Angus McLeod has sold his farm,

on the 4th con. of McKillop, Huron

county, to James H