

The Planet

S. STEPHENSON - Proprietor.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31.

THE LATEST SLAUGHTER.

After the first shock of such a disaster as that which occurred on the G. T. R. at Wanstead on Friday night, the natural question is, who was to blame? comments the Woodstock Express. And the next, can nothing be done to avert such calamities? No doubt a scapegoat will be found. Already it is said the blame is placed upon the shoulders of the station agent at Watford, who, it is said, neglected to deliver an order to the conductor of the express telling him to pass the freight at the Wanstead switch.

But after the blame has been fixed upon an individual, what then? The question still remains, has everything been done that can be done to prevent such accidents? Accidents there always will be, so long as the human machine is what it is, and so long as machinery made by human hands is what it is; but what the public have a right to expect is that the possibility of accidents shall be reduced to a minimum. Has this been done? Why is it that in England, with their flying trains and congested traffic, the loss of life on railways is so small compared with what it is on this continent? English visitors to this country say that there are many things connected with railroading here that would not be permitted in England. Level crossings are left unguarded; trains rush into and out of towns and cities at high speed, without any provision being made for the public safety. Trains rush at each other from opposite directions on the same track, and take the chances of everything coming out all right. The presumption is that nobody—driver, conductor, operator or switchman—will make a mistake. Human experience shows that the presumption ought to be that somebody will make a mistake. An operator may forget, a switchman may be slow, the conductor or the engineer may misread his orders. All these are possibilities; they should be taken into consideration in any system presuming to provide the highest measure of public safety.

A double track, with all trains on each track running in the same direction, would make head-on collisions impossible. The block system, by which no train would be allowed to enter a particular block or section before the train ahead had cleared it, would remove the possibility of a pile-up. The danger would thus be considerably reduced, yet the number of accidents from defective tracks and bridges, and the breaking down of trains would be sufficiently large to keep life from becoming too monotonous. It costs money, of course, to lay double tracks; it requires time to operate the block system, and sometimes time is money. And above all, human life is cheap. This is one of the most appalling facts in the world to-day. Come across a group of men discussing the disaster at Wanstead, and the chances are they will be figuring out in dollars and cents the cost to the company—so many engines, so many cars, so many human lives, all in the scrap heap and all reduced to a basis of dollars and cents. So long as it is cheaper to pay for human lives at the market price than it is to pay for extra railway accommodation and extra precautions, so long will the slaughter continue. It is purely a matter of business with the railways. There is practically no restriction upon them, no honest attempt at regulation in the public interests. For anything the Government does to ensure protection of the lives and rights of the people, we might about as well have no Government. There are said to be some laws on the statute books, but whether they can be enforced, whether they have died from disuse, or what has become of them, no one appears to know. We do all know that there is no law of recent origin calculated to most modern conditions. Self-interest is the only law which the companies are bound to respect, and so long as a human life represents no more than a small sum of money, self-interest will not compel the companies to get out of the rut.

It is clear to any ordinary observer that the road accommodation on this division of the G. T. R. is not sufficient for the growing traffic. The wonder is that accidents are not more frequent. It is not at all uncommon to see trains following each other at intervals of only a few minutes, sometimes only a few seconds. One day last summer an express from the west was compelled to push a freight in ahead of her in order to reach the station. Had the air brakes on the express refused to work, or had the driver failed to notice the signal or the train ahead of him, there would have been another "unavoidable" calamity to be recorded. This is not referred to because it was an exceptional incident. The wonder of anybody ac-

AFTER THE TREMENDOUS RUSH.

We are left with many odd and broken lines in Clothing and Furnishings which we intend offering at special reduced prices to clear. Read the following list over carefully; remember you will get just what we advertise.

Fancy Silk Neck Wraps, \$1.00 kinds for 60c.
Fancy Silk Wraps, \$1.25, 1.50, 1.75 kinds for \$1.00.
Fancy embroidered Suspenders, 75c. 90c. kinds for 50c.
Neckwear—Flowing Ends, Puffs, Four-in-hand Ties, 50c. kinds for 25c.
Large sizes in all-wool Underwear, \$1.00 kinds for 75c., sizes 44 and 46.
Men's all-wool Suits, good linings and well worth \$7.50 for \$5.00.
41 boys' 3 piece Suits, all wool, \$3.75, 4.00, 4.25 kinds now \$3.00.
Men's and young men's Beaver Overcoats, \$7.00 values, black and blue, for \$5.00.
House and Smoking Coats at less than cost.

Visit Meynell's store. You will always get the best of everything for the least money.

MEYNELL

3 doors West from Market
King Street, - CHATHAM

Salt Rheum

It may become chronic. It may cover the body with large, inflamed, burning, itching, scaling patches and cause intense suffering. It has been known to

Do not delay treatment. Thoroughly cleanse the system of the humors on which this element depends and prevent their return.

The medicine taken by Mrs. Ida E. Ward, one Point, Md., was Hood's Sarsaparilla. She writes: "I had a disagreeable itching on my arms which I concluded was salt rheum, began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla and in a few days felt better. It was not long before I was cured and I have never had any skin trouble since."

Hood's Sarsaparilla Promises to cure and keeps the promise. It is positively unqualified for all cutaneous eruptions. Make it.

quainted with the conditions as they exist at present must be that accidents are so few. The wonder is that in the task of handling such a tremendous traffic with such limited accommodations, the human machine does not fail more frequently. It is to be hoped that one effect of the disaster will be to hasten the double-tracking of the road from Hamilton west.

Municipal elections at the holiday season are awkward enough, but we

may be happy that we have not a political fight on as well. North Perth, North Grey and North Norfolk are enjoying a double dose—Guelph Mercury.

A British lacrosse team is coming to Canada next year. We will have an opportunity to get square for a few things they are doing over there to that alleged representative Canadian football aggregation—Ottawa Citizen.

A newspaper in Indiana has started a competition to find out who is the first prize bar of that state, and will give him a prize. A rival editor says the quill-driver of the newspaper in question knows very well he will win it himself, and started the competition out of sheer vanity.—Toronto Star.

At the Holland House, a Scotchman speaking of Dr. Lorenz, the famous Austrian, said: "I cannot understand all this Lorenz fuss and flutter. Why, this thing is as old as the hills. My friend Professor MacEwen, now Sir William MacEwen, of Glasgow, made rickety bones straight as a die by the thousand, twenty years ago, and for this, along with his finding out that fits often arise from a tumor on the brain, he was made President of the British Association, in one sense the highest honor in the land. I remember he opened 12 skulls, took out the tumor in them, and cured 18 of the sufferers of epilepsy."—New York Times.

SHOE-HYPOCRISY.

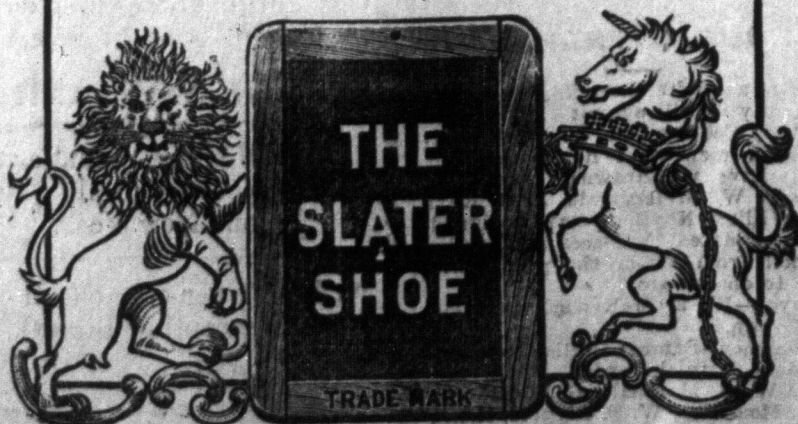
You cannot judge a book by its cover—nor a shoe by its looks.

The author's name on each, is significant! Finish today conceals equally—good leather, and poor shoddy.

Wear alone tells the difference!

Shoe-insurance consists in buying The Slater Shoe, for Men and Women, which is stamped with the Makers valuation in a slate, viz.—\$3.50 and \$5.00.

Booklet explains.



Trudell & Tobey, The 27's. Sole Local Agents

EXTREMES.

Montreal Star.

While the American poor are railing a mighty cry for bare necessities, American railway managers say that the private cars of millionaires are so numerous as to interfere with the regular traffic. The touch of these two facts causes a flash which reveals wonderfully the state of republican society.

HIS FAREWELL

The following valedictory was read to the council by Mayor Sulman last evening—

To the Municipal Council of the City of Chatham.

After eight years' service around this council board as councillor, alderman and mayor, the time has arrived for me to say farewell and step down and out. When a man has become identified with council matters for so many years it would be foolish to say there is not a certain amount of regret at leaving, but this regret is more than counterbalanced by the feeling of relief that I am experiencing of having finished my work and retiring from this high and important office to attend more particularly to my business affairs. No man can be mayor of this city and devote the time necessary for its welfare without neglecting his own business and at a serious inconvenience to his private life, but I have always tried to place my high office first and foremost in my reckoning and I am proud to say that in the two years of my mayoralty I have never missed a meeting of the city council.

During the time I have been at the council board I have seen Chatham bloom from a provincial town to the best of the smaller cities on this continent. I have seen the water-works bought by the city, the electric light works built and operated by the city, the frontage tax installed, the building of granaries, the removal and carried to almost every quarter of the city, the commencement of vitrified brick pavement, which promises to become a permanent and lasting roadway for our city, the building of the Central school, the separate school, and the Carnegie Library, the abolition of the wards for the election of aldermen which I was the originator and which has proved a great success, and the improvement in every branch of the public service of the city have taken place during this time and last but not least, I have had the pleasure of seeing during my term as mayor, two large manufacturing concerns locate here, together with a number of smaller ones, while all the old factories have extended and increased their size and capacity.

Now after eight years' of service, as my time has come to lay down the gavel, I desire to say to the public of the city that I trust any one with whom I have had differences of opinion which have led sometimes to bitter feelings on their part that they may forgive and forget and believe me when I say that I have always done what I thought was the interest of the city without fear or favor, and I want from henceforth to be at peace with all men, and I suppose I should add ladies too.

To the city officials I have nothing but kind words to say—from the laborer on the corporation to our valuable clerk—they have all rendered me any assistance necessary and the city is to be congratulated on its staff of officers.

And to my colleagues who have assisted to make the past year a very pleasant one, may you who are running for office secure that confidence in the public which you deserve and I trust you will all be re-elected, as the city would be well taken care of by this Board. I am only sorry that I cannot have the privilege of voting for all of you, as I see several are not in the field. I may say the past year has been the most pleasant in my public life.

"Our parting is not as the friendship of years, That chokes with the blessing it speaks through its tears, We have walked in a garden and looking around Have plucked a few leaves from the myrtles we found."

But now at the gate of the garden we stand, And the moment has come for unclasping the hand; Will you drop it like lead, and in silence retreat, Like the twenty crushed forms from an omnibus seat?

Nay! hold it a moment—the last I may share—I stretch it in kindness, and not for my fare; You may pass through the doorway in rank or in file, If your ticket from nature is stamped with a smile.

For the sweetest of smiles is the smile as we part, When the light round the life is a ray from the heart; And lose a stray tear from its fountain might swell, We will seal the bright spring with a quiet farewell."

GRAND OPERA HOUSE

WM. B. SHERMAN

Presents the dramatic success of the season—a Metropolitan production of Westcott's most popular novel,

"David Harum," with the talented character actor, VALENTINE LOVE, in the title role.

Chatham Opera House, New Year's Day, Matinee and Night. USUAL PRICES.

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Stores at Chatham, St. Thomas, Ridgeway, Orillia, Tillsonburg and Simcoe

WISH YOU A
HAPPY AND
PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR....

The Northway Co., Ltd. | The Busy Cash Store | The Northway Co., Ltd.

To the Electorate of 1902 - 1903

You will need clothes and good clothes and will want to save your money. By coming to us we will attend to all. If you visit our store we will convince you that we have the largest assortment by far, of Imported Worsteds, Scotch, Irish and English Tweeds and Overcoats, also the largest stock of Canadian goods to choose your Fall or Winter outfit from, of any tailoring establishment in the West.

Give us a trial. Our prices are right and we have nothing but skilled workmen. We guarantee our work to be perfect. Also see our ready-made pants at \$1.50 and \$2.00, the best in the land.

TO THE LADIES.....

By visiting us we can show you the very latest Dress Goods, from the finest to the coarsest also see our cape and mantle cloths, steamer rugs, flannels, yarns etc. We are offering special inducements in Flannels this season. When in want give us a call and you will not regret it.

THE T. H. TAYLOR CO. Limited, Flour and Woolen Mills

A. O. U. W.

The Ancient Order of United Workmen relieves the destitute and protects the home.

Bro. United Workmen, don't forget. The election of officers for 1903 takes place on Friday evening, Dec. 26th. A large attendance is requested. Refreshments.

Visiting brothers welcome. W. G. ARNOLD, JOHN R. SNELL, M. W. Recorder

Minard's Liniment for Sale Everywhere

KENNY'S

Offers this week only

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—BY—

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We Were Rewarded...

Through the liberal patronage accorded us by the good people of Chatham and vicinity, we feel pleased that our efforts were appreciated beyond our fondest expectations. It will always be a pleasure to consider your wants with the greatest care and forethought.

Permit us also to take this opportunity of wishing you all

A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR : : :

Central Drug Store,

C. H. GUNN & CO.,

THE LEADING DRUGGISTS,

TELEPHONE 105. CHATHAM, ONT.

REMOVED.

S. B. ARNOLD has removed his Law Office a few doors North on Fifth Street, and is now second door East of Street.

MONEY TO LOAN.

MONEY TO LOAN—On Land Security, at from 1-2 to 5 per cent, on borrower's own terms of payment. Apply to J. G. Kerr, barrister, Office, Fifth St., Chatham. 6m

Minard's Liniment is the Best.