

The Free Press, LONDON, ONT., Tuesday, Aug. 2, 1887.

SATISFACTION—NOT APATHY

There is a complaint on the part of a temporary that the people are too apathetic. That they take things altogether too easily. That they will not be aroused by the representations made to them as to the need of abolishing the Debt, though they have been implored time and again to consider its magnitude, and to jump to the conclusion that the nation is about to fall out of the country in consequence. These are the things that are apathetic as to the general condition of the country, and of the failure to unite a number of provinces politically which are said to have been favored by nature, and physical comfort.

AMERICAN DAIRY INTERESTS

An exchange says that the American dairy interests are startling and enormous. They represent an investment of nearly five times as much as the entire bank capital of the country—that is to say, the bank capital is a little less than \$671,000,000, while the dairy interests amount to more than \$3,000,000,000. Of course our readers cannot swallow such frightful figures in a lump, and we will therefore arrange them in several smaller but still heroic doses. The number of milk cows is estimated at 21,000,000. They give each an average of 350 gallons of milk annually. This would make an aggregate milk production of 7,350,000,000 gallons, a magnificent ocean, a fair sized Niagara. Four thousand million gallons are used for butter, 700,000,000 for cheese and the remaining 2,450,000,000 pass through the adulterating hands of the milkmen and grocer, and down the throats of 83,000,000 men, women and babies in the land.

EXTRADITION

The escape of McGargle to Canada suggests to numbers of our American exchange the prosecution of a vigorous effort to procure the adoption of an adequate extradition treaty between the two countries. They ought to be in mind as to it if the extension of the treaty, so as to cover cases like that of the Chicago hoodler, has not been brought about. It is because the Washington Government "refused to negotiate." They stuck on the point as to whether a man should be liable to trial on any other charge than that for which he was extradited. Great Britain took the position that a man extradited on a charge of "bribe-taking," for instance, should not be put on trial for a political offence. But the United States said, unless they would take him on one charge and try him, if they wished, on another, they did not want the treaty extended. And so the proceedings dropped. No doubt it is an easy thing to see the "hoodlers" who come here protected by the British flag, but if they will not "negotiate," but rely upon sharp practices, as in the case of McGargle, to regain possession of the prisoner, they must be content.

WATER METERS

A letter appeared in a late issue advocating the use of water meters as a check upon the waste that goes on irrespectively of whether there is plenty or scarcity at the reservoir. It is argued that the water might be measured out and charged for the same as gas, whereby those who used it economically would not be any worse off, while those who let their home taps and lawn hose run uselessly would be obliged either to pay for the waste or stop it. This is well enough in theory, but difficult to put into practice. If meters were to be put in all over the city, it would cost for plant at the outlet \$75,000 or more. Then, a water meter is more subject to wear, and tear than a gas meter. It soon rusts and gets out of order. It is only in a large hotel, factory, or railway shop that the meter system has been found to work well. Besides, if meters were put in, a rental would have to be charged for them of say 25c per month, as well as an added water rate of \$3 a year. Now, if more cost is to be put on, it might just as well be by way of enlarging the general supply as by stunting the use of what we already have. The present mode of assessment seems well enough, perhaps as nearly just as can be arrived at. The main object is not to put any one on short allowance, or offer a premium for a parsimonious use of the water. It is desired that it shall be used by all citizens, and take the place of well water in every family. But there ought to be some effective check put to the immoderate waste that may be noted by any one with their eyes open, such for instance as the turning on of two or three lawn sprinklers immediately after a heavy rainfall, and allowing them to run all night, in face of special notice given that a "famine" was to be looked for. A meter would not be out of place on the premises of those who use the water in such way. It would admonish them to be careful, as it is probably a fact that the most prodigal are the hardest to satisfy, and the most sensitive to the amount of a quarter's rate. In Cleveland the meter is in use among those who would rather buy their water at so much per cubic foot, than a fixed rate. The cost was put by a late resolution of the Board at an equivalent of seven cents per 100 gallons. The effect of this action is said to be to raise the rate to the big consumers, like the railroads, and to correspondingly reduce the amounts paid by the smaller concerns. While the meter service, therefore, might do for the railway, which has been using at the rate of about one-third the total supply daily, it would not recommend itself to the general household, who would rather pay a fixed rate and know how much it is to be before the bill is sent to him. It is pleasing to note that the number of services put in this season is in excess of any former year, showing the gradual abolition of wells, and a steady gain in popular appreciation of the city water and the system of supplying it.

CURRENT TOPICS

The liveries of the London Lord Mayor's and Sheriff's staff footmen and servants are their prerogative, and generally find their way out of the stage, but this year an Indian Prince was so struck with them on the jubilee day that he has secured the reversion to them at the end of the civic year.

EVERYBODY BUYS OPERA GLASSES

"Everybody buys opera glasses," said a New York dealer, in response to an inquiry, "church members, ministers, lawyers, and mechanics. Although a luxury, they are daily coming into more general use. One reason is the great decrease in price since gold came down to a level with their money, and another is the fact that the level with gold. For instance, an opera glass that costs about \$3 now, during the war would have cost \$12 or more."

A SCHEME FOR A SYSTEMATIC BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

A scheme for a systematic botanical survey of India has been adopted by the British Government. The whole country will be divided into four divisions, under the charge respectively of Surgeon-Major George King, F.R.S., Mr. J. F. Dalziel and the Messrs. and B. and B. The survey, which ought to yield results of importance to pharmacology as well as to botany, has been proposed by the authorities of the Royal Gardens at Kew.

JUST TWELVE MONTHS AGO A YOUNG MAN

named Saunders attempted to murder his sweetheart in the streets of Huddington by stabbing her with a sword cane. For that offence he was sentenced to fifteen years' penal servitude. After a painful illness the girl gradually grew better, but she always retained that piece of the sword blade had broken off in her body, and was still there at Huddington, and B. and B. Hospital, Cambridge, has just succeeded in extracting from the girl's body a piece of the sword blade, more than six inches in length. The most extraordinary fact connected with the operation is that, although the wound was in the girl's chest, the blade was extracted, broken and fixed, from her back. It must have thus turned completely round. Her recovery is considered to be almost certain.

CHART WINE IS SAID TO BE GOOD IF Poured

into a watermelon. It assimilates with the juice of the fruit very nicely. A Connoisseur says that one bottle is, perhaps, a sufficient quantity, and you get the two flavors of the grape and that of the watermelon. It is done on a principle of making a salad; you must use just enough of the condiments in the dressing so that you may get a smack of each without any one predominating. Therefore one bottle of chart is enough. It is thought. Many people prefer their watermelon without any addition to its taste. Others favor what they call modern improvements. The real requisite for the full enjoyment of this grand fruit is thirst and a hot day. Let the melon under these conditions be taken from its bed of foam. Let us hope that August will be kinder to us.

N. Y. TIMES—SOME DRUGGISTS CHARGE

10 cents for the use of the telephone. Others have made it free. Quite all have Directors and sell postal cards, and stamps for the accommodation of customers "and the public in general." One has made the announcement—"Soda water, 6 cents, or three glasses for 10 cents." Every possible inducement is held out for people to enter the store, so great has become the competition. The best houses announce "Winkers" giving the latest sporting news, and some of them give light lunches that would do credit to Delmonico's. Efforts to reduce temperance men are not infrequent, and among them is the announcement of "Fresh clam juice, 2 cents a glass." Hot beef tea, lemonade, coffee, and "the finest buttermilk in the city" may properly be put down among the strong temptations held out to the abstemious.

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT THE HURT SUFFERED

in pugilism are particularly severe, and that but few pains equal the pain resulting from a blow of the fist squarely and forcibly delivered upon the nose. An incident which goes to support this allegation is reported from Paris. A lion tamer in one of the Boulevard shows was set upon by a powerful and irritable old lion, whose cage he had entered according to habit in the course of an entertainment of the beast made his attack without warning or particular cause, and in an instant the man was upon his back between the lion's paws. The spectators screamed, thinking it was an end of the lion tamer, but, like a fish, he was upon his feet, and striking out with his right in accurate pugilistic style, landed his fist upon the lion's nose, with a spot that was heard all over the place. The lion roared and said in a hoarse and hoarse away, shaking his head and shutting his eyes as if in pain, while the man stepped quickly to the edge of the cage. The blow was a good one, and if it had fallen upon a man would have undoubtedly "knocked him out." Evidently it made the lion tingle from the spot where it was delivered to the tip of his tail.

A NEW FORM OF SHIRT COLLAR IS NEEDED.

A great number of handkerchiefs are tucked around men's necks nowadays between the shirt collar and the skin of the neck. Some of these handkerchiefs look as though they have never been devoted to any other purpose, yet others have the appearance of having seen hard usage. By some men they are tucked in with more or less neatness, with a corner of the handkerchief on a precise line with the top button of the waistcoat. Others tuck them in and cram them down their throats, carelessly producing an effect such as one might imagine would be the result of turning the shirt inside down and putting it lower end, or skirt, on top.

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