

The Planet

S. STEPHENSON, Proprietor

FILTHY LUCRE.

There is much paper money in circulation which ought to be called in and destroyed. And if the banks from which these bills are issued will not destroy them, the board of health ought to take the matter in hand and do a little compelling. Bills are in circulation which are too filthy to be handled, and as often as returned to the bank they are again sent out, to the annoyance of all cleanly persons. There can be no doubt that disease germs lurk in the filth with which these nasty bills are covered; they pass through the hands of all sorts of people, sick and well, and can be found in the pockets and hands of the diseased. There is no excuse for the "economy" which keeps these dangerous bills in circulation. It is the growing time; the banks are all doing very well; paper is cheaper than ever before, and every bank should call in all its dirty and mutilated bills and replace them with a new issue. One would think that the banks would do this if only for appearance sake. It is bad enough to receive filthy bills from the general public; but when they are paid out over the counter of the bank it looks very bad, to say nothing of the positive danger there is in handling the disease-breeding rags. The people could work a remedy by refusing to take dirty bills; but that would take a long time. The banks can do it at once, and we hope that, for the sake of their own reputations, if for no better reason, they will call in the filth.

THE COMING SESSION.

The Dominion parliament called for February 1st will assemble under circumstances the most peculiar that have occurred in the history of Canada. For the first time, the ministers will meet the parliament after having responded to the call of Britain for aid in a foreign war. The endorsement of this action will be one of the first matters to occupy attention, and in all probability the settlement of what action Canada is to take in future under like circumstances.

There are several measures laid over from last session which will be again brought forward. Amongst these are amendments to the Railway Act to prevent companies from sidetracking towns in the western provinces, and also to give the government, either through the railway commission or by a railway commission, more complete control of railway rates and other matters. The bill relating to friendly societies will again be presented and possibly legislation somewhat on the lines of Senator Dandridge's bill to prevent charging of exorbitant interest will be taken up by the government. Senate reform is still being harped upon, and it is quite probable the matter will again be brought forward.

Altogether there seems to be ample material for an important session, if the government do not hold back most important legislation as they did last year to the very last moment, so as to get it through without proper discussion.

A visitor from London at Lebel's parlour expressed astonishment at the uniform good looks of the St. Thomas young ladies.—St. Thomas Journal.

Was the visitor a London Asylum attendant or only some ordinary color-blind duffer?

THE REACTION.

Robertson sank wearily into the arm chair in the little smoking room at the back of the tobaccoists.

"I'm just about played out," said he. "Have a cigar, old chap," said his friend Gimbert, sympathetically.

"I'm afraid I'm almost too tired to smoke," said Robertson, "and I doubt whether I've got life enough in me to enjoy it, anyway."

"Come, come, cheer up," said Gimbert, "your run is over now."

"I know, that's where it is," said Robertson. "I was all right while I was going through, from the middle of November until New Year's. I didn't have time to breathe hard, much less eat or sleep. But now that the strain is relaxed, I seem to want to collapse in a heap like a wet dish cloth."

"Nerves knocked out, I guess," said Gimbert.

"Yes," said Robertson, wearily, "I'm all unstrung. No heart in me; no appetite; can't sleep."

"Um," said Gimbert, "you know what's good for that sort of thing?"

"Yes," said Robertson, "but even Dodd's Dyspepsia Tablets won't make up in a hurry for the wear and tear I've put my system under the last few weeks."

"They'll restore your appetite in short order anyway," said Robertson.

"Yes, I ate a little more heartily today."

"What, have you started them, then?"

"Dodd's Dyspepsia Tablets! Yes, yesterday I wish I had begun six weeks ago."

"How do you take Dodd's Dyspepsia Tablets, anyway?"

"I'm taking a couple after each meal," said Robertson. "They digest your food for you, so you're sure to get the good out of it. Then your system builds up again while your stomach is resting."

"They work on a sound principle, those Dodd's Dyspepsia Tablets," said Gimbert.

"Oh! there's no doubt about that," said Robertson.

The "Maple Leaf Hams"

Are the Best Try Them

PUT UP BY J. P. Taylor

Park Street East. Telephone 187

The trouble with pushing this city ahead is, that there is too much "can't afford it" talk. The only way the burdens of the taxpayers can ever be lightened is by putting the place on a progressive basis.

One of the first duties of the new city council should be to have the street signs properly attended to. For two or three years past the signs have been sadly neglected. Many of them have disappeared; some have been partially detached by the wind, and hanging from one end, so that the stranger who tries to decipher the name of the street is in danger of getting a crick in the neck; many are so defaced that the name of the street cannot be read.—Hamilton Herald.

Say, that pretty nearly describes Chatham, only Chatham is in a still worse condition. Some \$10 or \$50 would put up signs at all the leading corners, but the city council of the past have never seemingly been able to scrape that amount together so as to add this necessary metropolitan touch to the streets.

THE CHEERFUL IDIOT.

Then the heroine, said the youngest boarder, who has a habit of telling about the stories he reads, "discovered that her idol has feet of clay."

"And after that, of course, his name is mud," said the Cheerful Idiot.

THE COLONIZING POWER.

Chicago Record.

Within the last 18 years 8,679,130 square miles have been added to the colonial empire of the great colonizing powers. The total, not including Egypt or the Sudan, is as follows: Great Britain, 3,987,312; France, 2,986,563; Germany, 1,020,070; Russia, 265,381; United States, 160,601; Netherlands, 123,677; Portugal, 96,606; Spain, 79,911.

THAT'S OUR ONLY WEAK SPOT.

St. Thomas Journal.

The Chatham Planet, in a fit of vainglorious boasting, under the heading of "Chatham Heads Them All," says: Chatham abolished the ward system. It owns and operates its own waterworks system. It does the same with its electric street lighting plant. It possesses the finest and most convenient of parks, several in number. It also has miles of granolithic sidewalk. The city owns several splendid iron bridges. Almost every street has magnificent rows of full grown shade trees. No other municipality in the Dominion of Canada combines all these advantages at the present time, though many are seeking them.

And yet Chatham's streets for half the year are either quagmires or miniature lakes, which shows that however theoretically good the system under which a city is governed may be, it requires to be practically worked out on proper lines before the city can be in the van of progress.

HE WANTS TO KNOW.

To The Planet.—Being owner of about 11-2 acres of land south of the G. T. R., but outside of city limits and unproductive, I contemplated building a good dwelling and shop. Am a plumber by trade. Will the lately passed discriminating by-law of the water commissioners, the latest of the first born of this year, subject me to the 25 cents fee? And will I be to lose his worship's protection, ceasing to be a ratepayer of the city?

A. B. C.

At Plumber.

Chatham, N. P., Jan. 8th, 1900.

On the Dundas "Castle" a poor sympathizer with a revolver was found hanging around Gen. Robert's cabin. He was suspected of intending to assassinate the general and was handed over to the authorities at Gibraltar.

W. H. Sinclair, of Owen Sound, is taking steps to upset the election of the town councillors on the ground that as the ward system has been allowed to lapse, the ratepayers were illegally allowed to vote in more than one ward.

The Morning Post says the Boers had been forewarned of the sortie at Mafeking and cut the railway during the night. Hence the armored train could not assist.

Hulbert H. Warner has filed a petition in bankruptcy at New York, with liabilities \$2,230,017 and no assets. Mr. Warner has been prominently identified with the patent medicine business in years past and was connected in mining schemes and other enterprises. All the debts were contracted at Rochester, N. Y., prior to 1893, when he made an assignment on May 8 of last year.

RETROSPECTIVE.

"Harry!"

"What is it, Dorothy?"

"Did you give me that parlor lamp last Christmas, or did I give it to you?"

BRIC-A-BRAC.

The spruce timber of Norway and Sweden is nearly exhausted. In the English church women are being elected to the office of church warden.

The British Archeological School in Greece has resumed the work of excavation in Milo.

At leadville, this past winter, the snowfall was 21 feet, and at Ruby, Col., it was 43 feet 8 inches.

The Peace Society of Copenhagen had succeeded on March 31 in collecting 300,000 signatures to an appeal for disarmament.

An artificial rubber, as good as the real thing, is now made of glue and glycerine mixed with a sulphur oil, such as ichthyol.

An electric arc lamp for use under water—a consummation that has baffled electricians for years—has been produced by a German firm.

Cerebro-spinal meningitis has broken out among farm horses in the vicinity of Gratersford, Montgomery county, Pa., and many are dying.

The German army includes more than 10,000 military musicians. Other powerful nations on the continent employ rather less numbers in military bands.

In 20 years the American Bible Society has distributed 350,000 bibles in Mexico. In the same time the British and Foreign Society has distributed 157,000 copies.

Most of the animals for American zoos came from the Old World, but the young hippopotamus Cyrus is to be sent from the New York zoo to Germany.

Statistics published in Montreal show that 20,000 people have left the province of Quebec for the States this year. Most of the emigrants have gone to manufacturing centers.

Norwegian legislators propose that girls who do not know how to knit, sew, wash and cook should be refused permission to marry. Daughters of wealthy men are not to be exempted.

In Russia 65,000 students are engaged in a sympathy strike. They have ceased to attend lectures because the students in the University of St. Petersburg were prohibited from enjoying holiday revels.

Since the Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis, the new pastor of Plymouth Church Brooklyn, has been preaching sermons on the characters in well-known novels, librarians throughout the city report a greatly increased demand for the novels themselves, and the men at the street book stands are hardly able to meet the new demand.

A Manchester, England, doctor, after five years' observation and experience of influenza, states that cinnamon is the best drug to cure the disease. It may be taken as a decoction or in the form of tablets.

The Arkansas Supreme Court has decided that a man cannot escape jury duty because he has not paid his poll tax. Heretofore the fact that a man had failed or had refused to pay poll tax has excused him from such service.

"Manjak" is the name of a new mineral, of a lustrous black, discovered on the island of Barbadoes. According to experts, it is petrified petroleum mixed with solid organic matter. It will form a valuable fuel, far superior to coal.

The story of the finding of the sea serpent on the island of Suvarow, on the British Columbia coast, has been explored by a Sydney scientist who declares the bones found are those of a stilted, a rare species of the whole family.

Collis P. Huntington and associates have purchased the Texas Mexican Railroad, which runs from Corpus Christi to Laredo, Tex., a distance of 160 miles. It is a narrow-gauge line, and it will be immediately changed to standard width.

The American Church Missionary Society has charge of a movement to build Protestant Episcopal hospitals at Havana and Matanzas. Committees have already been appointed to undertake the raising of a fund of \$200,000 for the purpose.

Estimated expenditure for the British navy during the coming year is, in American values, \$132,970,000. Our own Congress appropriated for similar purposes this spring \$66,098,783. Ten years ago, in 1889, Great Britain spent only \$69,210,000 on its navy and the United States \$21,378,809.

A doctor was summoned at Gosport, England, for riding a bicycle on the footpath, and he raised a novel defense. He stated that there was an act of Parliament which gave a doctor permission to take the shortest cut when on his way to an urgent case. After an adjournment to allow him to produce the act, the magistrates have decided in his favor.

The recently published army returns for the year 1897 give the nationality of Great Britain's 219,283 soldiers then serving as 158,566 English, 16,485 Scotch, 26,374 Irish, 4,275 Indians and colonial, 142 foreign and 2,551 unknown. These figures say the Regiment, prove that the Englishman has the largest amount of military enthusiasm, and serves his country to the extent of 5.50 per 1,000 of the population.

The most remarkable advertisement yet is that of an English firm that offers to every married woman who buys a pound of its fifty-cent tea for five consecutive weeks a pension of \$2.50 a week in case of the death of her husband, provided he was in good health when she began to buy the tea. The pension is to continue as long as she remains a widow.

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J. W. DYER

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