

The Planet.

DAILY AND WEEKLY
Chatham, Ont.

THE PARISIAN SUNDAY.

Four of the ministers have met in Paris just in time to attend the exhibition on Sunday. When a complaint was made in Parliament here that the Canadian section was open on Sunday the minister of agriculture took action and afterward announced in the house that the Canadian protest had prevailed and the doors of the Canadian show would be closed on the first day of the week. But as soon as the house was prorogued and Mr. Charlton had gone home word came that Mr. Tarte had permitted the doors to be re-opened, that the Canadian section was in full blast seven days in the week, and that the department of agriculture had endorsed the continental Sunday. Mr. Tarte is reported to have said that he could not help it, as the authorities threatened to break in the doors if they were not open on the great Parisian holiday. If this is so we have seen a great change in the chief commissioner. It was only the other day that Mr. Tarte threatened to close up the whole show if the British commissioner persisted in treating Canada as a colony like New South Wales, and not as a nation independent of the mother country. The fight which Mr. Tarte made in order to give himself the status of a national commissioner he has not thought worth while to make to meet the wishes and satisfy the conscience of the Canadian people. He can fight the British commissioner to show that Canada is not British, but he cannot resist the French commissioner to show that Canada is not French.

QUADRUPLED EGYPT'S WEALTH.

Now that the Soudan is quiet and English soldiers are no longer kept busy, English engineers are seizing the opportunity of proving that their country's occupation of Egypt is for that country's gain. Her wealth is almost entirely dependent upon the Nile, and anything, therefore, that will hinder the free course of that river, or waste, or misdirect its waters, is attended with certain loss to the nation. To keep the channel open, to reserve its valuable waters and to distribute the same with care and prudence, this is the formidable task which the British engineer has set out to accomplish. It means much for England's prestige, then, that what has already been done by merely temporary means, has resulted in a saving of over one-half the cotton crop, valued at over twenty millions of dollars. But, better still, a feasible scheme is projected which will make for permanent results, it is claimed will actually double the crop and increase the value of the yield by \$45,000,000 a year.

It seems that after the White Nile leaves the highland lake regions a vast swamp or "sudd" region, extends over two latitudinal degrees. Here it breaks up into hundreds of narrow, sluggish channels, which are easily clogged by vegetation which there grows so rank and close, that to keep the course clear the blocks of "sudd" which close the passage have to be cut away again and again. Major Peake has recently done this at trifling cost compared to the advantages already referred to, but permanent relief is now in sight, and is to be obtained by the following scheme, at an estimated cost of less than five million dollars.

It is proposed to build a huge reservoir at Assouan, just below the marsh, to hold some thousand million gallons of water, with a supply of a hundred cubic metres per minute, and another just below the outlet of the Victoria and Albert Nyanza eighteen times the capacity and volume. Then with the strengthening of the banks of the three main channels, immense supplies of water will be under perfect control. The entire Nile valley from Alexandria to Khartoum will rejoice in two never failing crops a year, and never again will navigation be impeded or the wealth of Egypt placed in jeopardy by insufficient and irregular irrigation.

NO ELECTIONS THIS YEAR.

The Planet said many moons back that notwithstanding all signs and statements to the contrary, it would never believe in an election before next spring unless the writs were actually issued. Now, the Planet doesn't profess to know anything more about the matter than anybody else. Its opinion in the matter is based on the lack of unity in the Liberal ranks, which will prevent them ever agreeing on anything.

Alexander Smith, the chief government organizer for the Dominion, has addressed a circular letter to the faithful in each Ontario municipality. Mr. Smith urges vigilance and care in revision of the voters' lists of 1900, telling the friends to see that every Liberal is enrolled. Information bureaux are established at Toronto and London, and capable men have been sent out to give instructions. Mr. Smith says: "Over and over again let it be borne in mind that this will be the last opportunity to revise the

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voters' list before the present Dominion parliament expires." Mr. Smith knows that if an election is held before New Year's Day, or for some time after it, the list used will be that revised last year. That list is yet in the hands of the Queen's printer, at Ottawa, and few, if any, printed copies of it have yet been issued. In fact, the bureau has hardly completed sending out the lists revised in 1898. The admissions of the organized cannot, therefore, apply to elections to be held this autumn.

However, it is not at all too early to get ready even for next year's elections.

AN UNUSUAL SERMON.

One advantage of the summer vacation is that the tourist has the opportunity of hearing a sermon from a preacher who is not obliged to tone down the truth till it cannot possibly offend the listener's conscience. The Philadelphia Record is authority for the following:—

The millionaire church-goers at Newport, R. I., heard an unusual sermon on Sunday last from a visiting clergyman of New York, the Rev. Dr. Hamilton. He declared that they were not a privileged group, but, on the contrary, that they were burdened with heavier moral obligations than any other people in this country. Having wealth and social eminence, they were bound to set an example of goodness to the seventy million Americans whose ambition is to follow the lead of Newport. The preacher thought there might be an excuse for some others to play golf on Sunday, but not for the rich residents of that resort. The Newport ideal of a lavish, unnecessary, thoughtless expenditure of money, he said, causes many a good man to go to prison through trying to provide

his wife with funds for imitating his hearers. He would cure the cottagers, too, of their vulgar habit of giving private dinners and parties in public places on a Sunday, and thereby "exposing the privacy of the household to the gaze of public curiosity." He confessed his inability to find words, that would express the enormity of the evil of petty gambling which is now practiced in many Newport cottages. Altogether, the sermon was calculated to awaken his hearers to a sense of the influence which they exercise over the social life of the country.

That plot in Pretoria must have been Oom Paul's plan of staggering humanity.

The distance the allies will have to march from Tien Tsin to Peking in 79 miles.

The way these Boers are acting may compel us to borrow the services of General Weyler to pacify the country. The burghers do not seem to appreciate forbearance.

We have the testimony of Mr. Birmingham, late Conservative organizer for the province of Ontario, that the election of 1883 as well as the election of 1887, was won by fraud on the part of the conservative party.—St. John (N. B.) Telegraph.

Indeed! Where is that testimony to be found?

A French-Canadian Liberal paper of Montreal, with some pretence to speak for the party, says: "We are on the eve of the dissolution of the Federal Parliament, for we learn from an excellent source that the general elections will be held next October, nomination on the 16th and voting on the 23rd. We expect the dissolution of Parliament will be announced as soon as the Ministers return from Europe."

Chatham as a health resort sounds funny, but according to its local papers it is about to become a Mecca for the blind and the halt because of the discovery of mineral water on a farm adjoining the city. Not content with possessing a brewery, Chatham is now set up in the sanitarium business. It will take a heap of mineral water to counteract the effects of the Thames and McGregors' Creek.—Ridgeway Dominion.

The editor of The Dominion should try this mineral water for the bilious attacks which his everlasting kicking seems to indicate are in danger of becoming serious.

The editor of the Hamilton Times, who lived in Chatham several years, and knows all about the famous mineral well just rediscovered here, says:—"The water is probably stronger because repressed in its flow. It tastes of salt, sulphur, crude oil, iron, magnesia and other unpleasant things and smells something like overripe eggs, bluish of carbon, sulphur, and a disturbed skunk. After a few days the odor becomes less pungent, but it is always vigorous enough, and nobody takes more than one glass at a dose—at least not after the first experience. The man who is to popularize it ought to adopt a flowing well of jockey club or white rose." If water with a certificate like that won't kill germs and microbes; what will?

THOUGHT HE WAS A PEACH IN HIS LINE.

Belleville Sun.

According to a Brussels telegram the assassin of King Humbert was known as "Tomato." He is certainly one of the worst fruits of anarchism.

CHEERFUL GIVERS.

Ridgeway Dominion.

A Dresden citizen always puts a nickel in the contribution box. He says the Lord loves a cheerful giver and he can always part with a nickel more cheerfully than he can with a quarter. There must also be a number of cheerful givers here.

NOTHING EXTRAORDINARY.

Watford Guide.

American physicians are making a great ado about a man in New Haven who lost two-thirds of his brain and still lives. Cases are quite common over here where men are elected to office who are minus that organ altogether.

EDUCATION IN "ADS."

Ottawa Citizen.

In order to insure the reading of his advertisements regularly by the public the experienced business man does not merely announce his line of trade and the location of his store, but tells day by day what he has to offer; that is new. The reader gains a practical education in social customs, fashions, inventions, trade, etc., from a study of the advertising columns of the newspaper. As the "ads" become more specific the number of regular readers increases.

Chas. Apger

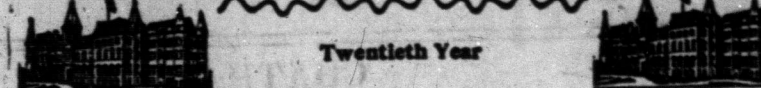
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JAS. McLACHLAN, Secretary.

LITERARY NOTES.

"THE SMART SET" FOR AUGUST.

"The Master Chivalry," by Margaret Lee, is the novelette in August Smart Set. Miss Lee has written many successful novels, notably "Divorce," the praise of which by Mr. Gladstone, some years ago, aroused discussion of the work throughout the world. This latest story, the author asserts, is the strongest she has ever written. It deals with a social question of intense interest—a man's daring and magnanimous reparation of another's wrong in the case of a lovely and high-bred girl. The theme strikes a new note in fiction, and the situations are dramatic and stirring.

Miss Caroline K. Duer's stories in The Smart Set have won the admiration of all readers, and established her fame as one of the cleverest writers of this day; another of her vivacious tales, the best she has yet written, entitled, "My Niece, Mrs. Dowe," appears in the August number. Edgar Wallace contributes a smart London story called, "Learning More of Life." Clinton Ross is the author of "The New Prince Hal," a tale of turbulent times in the romantic kingdom of Nassau-Cassel, while Charles Stokes Waynes writes a modern New York society story entitled, "The One in the World."

The most sensational feature of the number is the revelation of an historic mystery by Allan Upward, entitled "The Secret of St. James' Palace." Leading English periodicals refused to publish this article, it is stated, for fear of giving offense to the Royal family, and in the past English publishers have been promptly imprisoned and punished for merely hinting at what is now clearly set forth.

All in all, The Smart Set for August is by far the most entertaining number of that interesting magazine that has yet been issued. The wit, the cleverness and the variety of this publication are ever a matter of astonishment.

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