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JOHN CAMERON,

Pres't and Managing Director.

God's in His heaven,
All's right with the world.
—Browning.

London, Tuesday, March 12.

CITY ELECTRIC RAILWAY IN SIGHT.

After less than two months' hard labor the City Council of 1895 have brought the inauguration of the electric street railway system in London within sight. The situation was not without many difficulties, but by a policy of conciliation, of give and take, on the part of the respective negotiators, a provisional agreement was last night arrived at, and now only requires the finishing touches of the city solicitor and the legal agents of the street railway company to make it ready for signature and final ratification.

Citizens generally will rejoice that the work of changing the system and of more than doubling the length of the lines, as they now exist, will likely be begun at an early date, and that it is probable that before next fall the trolley will take the place of the horses on the main lines now operated. The new works will put much money in circulation, and be beneficial to citizens generally. Hasten their inauguration, gentlemen!

—London West taxpayers will probably insist in future that every auditor appointed must really audit. Frequent examination of corporation accounts by experts is the best safeguard against wrongdoing, and competent and faithful public servants will welcome it. And reasonable remuneration should be given for work performed for a corporation. The cheapest man is not always the best. Corporations as well as individuals are frequently penny wise and pound foolish.

"LIFE" OF SIR JOHN THOMPSON.

Mr. J. Castell Hopkins, formerly an editorial writer on the Toronto Empire, has given to the public the "Life and Work of the Right Hon. Sir John Thompson, P.C., K.C.M.G., Q.C., Prime Minister of Canada," published by Bradley, Garretson & Co., Toronto. The book contains 479 pages, which have been written and completed since Sir John Thompson died on the 12th of December last. It is not remarkable, therefore, that even a casual reader should discover some crudities in style and not a few typographical errors, which would undoubtedly be avoided in a book written with care and deliberation. Mr. Hopkins seems to have completed his book at express train speed, fearful lest someone else might anticipate him. He has failed to divest himself of the partisan, also. How much improved would be his work if he had brought to bear upon it the fairness toward those politically opposed to him of a Justin McCarthy, who, in his "History of Our Own Times," has set an example of impartial treatment that might well be followed by writers of contemporary history, whether biographical or general. Sir John Thompson was undoubtedly one of the ablest men that Canada ever produced. Friend and foe admitted it. His reputation would not suffer one whit if his biographer were somewhat fairer in his dealing with the dead statesman's political opponents. The best biographer is not he who deems it necessary to hold a brief for a political side.

Little that was not already known is found in this book. Some facts that are known seem, in his haste, to have been overlooked by Mr. Hopkins. For example, referring to Sir John Thompson's departure for England, from which it was fated he should never return alive, the author says: "No one, however, supposed that Sir John was in the slightest danger, or that his ill-health was anything more than the natural and temporary result of too much work and too little exercise and recreation. His most intimate friends did not have the faintest conception that the end of that active and distinguished career was at hand." The declaration of Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, when informed of the death of his chief, must have been overlooked by Mr. Hopkins. Sir Charles declared that the news, startling though it was to most of us, was not altogether unexpected by him. "We knew," he said, "when Sir John left for England that he was a doomed man." The understanding, indeed, we have been told by one well informed, was for Sir John to get his imperial honors, and then return to hurry on the elections, so that, as has been explained, they might be held while he remained Premier. But it was decreed otherwise. This brings us to the center thought which must seize the student who reads

this biography. Next to the impression that it is written not only by an admirer but by a partisan of a very pronounced type, is the irresistible conclusion that is forced upon the reader that in the death of Sir John Thompson the men now in power at Ottawa lost by far their ablest man. Mr. Hopkins makes it plainer than ever that it was the influence of Sir John Thompson, aided by the elder Tupper, which alone enabled Sir John Macdonald to pull through the last general election with a majority of less than 30. The biographer emphasizes the fact that Mr. Abbott was only a stop-gap Premier—that the real power behind the throne was Sir John Thompson. He proves that by his remarkable clear-headedness and power of putting the best face even on an indifferent case—the Administration, discredited by the worst scandals that ever were proved against a Ministry in an English-speaking community, was able to retain the confidence of its usual followers with hardly an exception. The loss to the country of so talented a man was great; to the Conservative party, in its present condition, irreparable. Since Sir John Thompson's death the scene has changed. The book is well bound and tastefully gotten up.

—“And must I go?”—The street car horse.

THE BREAD AND BUTTER QUESTION.

During 1894 Great Britain imported 151,000,000 bushels of wheat. To supply her the chief competing countries were: In the new world, Canada, the United States and the Argentine Republic; in the old world, Russia and India. At a recent gathering of distinguished Englishmen, Mr. Crawford, a Government statistician, read a paper on the subject of the sources from which in future Britain would be moved to obtain her needed wheat supplies. Basing his calculations of the cost of wheat growing in the United States on some recent returns made by the Agricultural Department, which may be as reliable as such estimates usually are, though they have been criticised by some as too low, Mr. Crawford gives the following comparison of the cost of production:

In England.....100
In Western States of America.....70
Dakota.....57
Russia.....54
India.....68

Russia, if these figures are reliable, produces wheat cheaper than Dakota. Some of the older statisticians present questioned this very much, and Mr. Crawford threw himself heavily upon the statistics of Hon. J. Sterling Morton, at the head of the United States Department of Agriculture. Inquiries were made as to why Argentina was left out of the comparison. It was difficult to obtain estimates from there, as the development was of such recent date. The general opinion was that Argentina could beat the world in the wheat business. There were others present who seriously questioned whether Mr. Crawford had not put India too high. They did not believe that Russia could beat India.

To all of those questions the reader of the paper replied:

“The exact measure in which the lower cost of production in the great wheat exporting countries will be reflected in the value of their grain in consuming markets depends, of course, on the charges for conveying grain to its destination. These charges, as I have shown, have been materially reduced in the 25 years, 1869-92, the reduction amounting, on the whole, to not less than 50 per cent. Here, then, we have two factors of some significance, which should not be forgotten when other theories are advanced to account for the fall in the price of wheat.”

In conclusion, Mr. Crawford thus summarizes his investigation:

“In concluding this brief examination of some of the circumstances connected with the changes in the price of wheat, it may be desirable that I should indicate the general results of my inquiry. One conclusion seems obvious. No single factor can be pointed to as the sole cause of these changes. They have been effected by a combination of circumstances. But it would seem to be clear that an important element in the situation since 1879-81 has been the settlement and exploitation of fertile areas of virgin soil in the United States, which can be made to produce a given quantity of wheat at a lower cost than would be incurred in raising the same quantity in the older fields of production. This development has been concurrent with, and indeed, facilitated by extensions and improvements in the channels of communication and transport. Examples have been given of the estimated cost of production in three great countries contributing to the bread supply of the United Kingdom. It has been shown that in a group of States producing two-thirds of the wheat crop of the United States the estimated cost of production is 3 shillings and 3 pence (78 cents) per bushel, while in Dakota wheat can be grown at an outlay of 2 shillings and 8 pence (64 cents) per bushel. On a belt of black soil extending across the southern half of the Russian Empire a bushel of spring wheat (this variety forms the bulk of the crop) can be produced, according to the official estimates, at an average cost of 2 shillings and 6 pence (60 cents). An official calculation puts the cost of production in India at 3 shillings and 1 penny (74 cents) per bushel, converting the rupee at its exchange value in the year in which the official estimate was made, 1879-80.”

Here is an interesting table for Canadian readers, showing that, in spite of the low price of wheat, Russia continues to export in increasing quantities. The total export of wheat from Russia in periods of five years since 1869 has been as follows:

Years. Bushels. Years. Bushels.
1869-73.....266,087,000 1884-88.....430,712,000
1874-78.....321,220,000 1889-93.....531,497,000
1879-83.....337,865,000

A careful examination of all these data by Mr. Robert P. Porter, a United States Investigator, indicates that in spite of some advantages which India has, and which the Argentines are developing, Russia stands the best chance in the future of securing the largest share of the 151,000,000 bushels of wheat which the United Kingdom imported in 1894. One of the speakers at the meeting in England, who was struck

with the fact, made the point that this was a fearful power for one country to have over another. A stroke of the pen could thus stop England's supply of food in the event of a war with Russia. Mr. Porter says Uncle Sam would be willing to send the wheat in that case. But what does he say to the motherland drawing her supplies of wheat from this great Dominion? Here we have millions upon millions of acres of land suitable for wheat cultivation. We have but to make it easy for farmers to earn a decent living on our virgin lands to become more and more the successful rival of Russia and the Argentine Republic, and all other wheat growing lands. We make bold to say that with greater freedom to take British products in exchange for our great farm staples, British imports of Canadian wheat will enormously increase, because by this means the cost of transportation will be decreased. There will be cargoes both ways, and those who in Canada live by supplying the wants of the agricultural population will, with them, be benefited.

The settlement of our Northwest—the future prosperity of Canada, indeed—depends upon the greatest possible freedom to buy from and sell to our customers, whether they are found in Great Britain or elsewhere.

WANTS GOOD TERMS.

Newfoundland Will Ask Canada to Take Her In.

The Conditions—Nearly Two Million Dollars Required.

St. Johns, Nfld., March 12.—The delegation to Canada to confer on confederation, consisting of Premier Whiteley, Colonial Secretary Bond and E. P. Morris, a Cabinet Minister, leave if possible this evening for Ottawa. Newfoundland requests Canada to grant her the following terms: Nine hundred thousand dollars for the administration of justice, interest on the public debt; \$1,000,000 for the use of the local government and civil service departments; Newfoundland to provide for any deficit by local taxation on income, property or imports; Canada to send a commission to examine the affairs and curtail the civil services.

If the terms are conceded by Canada the colony is to submit it to the vote of the people at the next election.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

—The annual meeting of the Western Ontario Bible Society will be held in the Synod Hall, adjoining St. Paul's, on Monday, April 22. The Bishop of Huron as president, will occupy the chair. Henry George, the distinguished political economist, had the good fortune to be born lucky, but not rich. He has just been left a legacy of \$20,000 by an English admirer. This is the first sum of money which he has received in ten years.

—Messrs. Horace Bates, J. Macdonald, W. H. Brodison, Joseph Simmons and ex-Mayor Essery left this morning for St. Catharines, where they will attend the annual meeting of the Grand Orange Lodge. On his return Mr. Essery will visit the Grand Lodge of the Sons of England in Woodstock.

—Mr. Stephen Carter, of 413 Bathurst street, is rapidly recovering from an operation which he underwent at the City Hospital for the removal of a piece of steel from the bone of his left arm. Mr. Carter is a spring maker at the Grand Trunk roundhouse, and while working ones day a small piece of the metal penetrated the bone of the arm, causing an abscess.

—Balliff English called at the county jail this morning and took another delegation to the Central Prison, Toronto. It comprised Fred Johnston, the colored man, who got four months for assault upon a third ward widow, and Levi Plank, of Strathroy, sentenced to four months for stealing a silver watch from Bert Moore, a young Ekfrid man. Mr. English also had two prisoners from the west.

—The Grand Lodge of the Sons of England has convened in Woodstock. The London lodges—Chelsea, British Lion, Beesford, British Oak, Trafalgar, Kensington and Piccadilly—are standing representatives. Messrs. Jos. Hook, the past district deputy grand president; Richard Wray, the district deputy grand president; Ald. Parnell, James Court, G. W. Heard, Thomas Hobbs, Harry T. Smith, W. Tyler, Job Cook, R. A. Jones and George Roughley have already left to attend the meeting.

—Tonight Mr. Hyman, M.P., will meet his committee for No. 2 ward, and tomorrow night the committee for No. 3 ward will meet. All in favor of Mr. Hyman's candidature will be welcome. Last night there was a very large attendance at the committee meeting for No. 1 ward, and the greatest enthusiasm prevailed. It was the biggest committee meeting ever held for the ward, and many new friends appeared and offered their services. All meetings are held at the central rooms, Oddfellows' Hall.

—The case of Bartram vs. London West was settled by the Supreme Court today. It refused Mr. Bartram leave to appeal from the judgment of the Chancery Division. The case arose over the clerkship of the village.

—Prof. Wiggins, of Ottawa, who was a careful observer of the eclipse of the moon Sunday night, says it was remarkable from the fact that it happened so near the celestial equator. This, he thinks, will produce violent atmospheric disturbance on both the earth and moon, and a very decided fall of temperature on both. In all probability, the event will be followed by slight earthquake shocks in both hemispheres.

Cigarettes and Finors.

The greater portion of the police magistracy time at the county court this morning was taken up with the hearing of cases against five dealers in cigarettes. Chief Williams was the complainant. Ever since the institution of the Newsboys' Home, two of the little chaps who make their headquarters there—Henry Brennan and Herbert Wilson—have made a practice of smoking cigarettes. The management could not break them out of the habit, and a scheme was devised by which the dealers who sold the goods could be identified. One day the boys were furnished with money by Mr. D. Elion, of the home, and told to go and buy some cigarettes. No particular shop was named, and in their rounds they visited John Pennecott's, Geo. Currell's, Joseph Goldner's, John Jeffrey's, and Marcel Hoehn's. The boys returned the cigarettes to Mr. D. Elion, and on the information furnished, charges were laid. Pennecott, Currell, Goldner and

Jeffrey were fined \$10 each—the minimum fine after the law—and Hoehn was acquitted, it being proven that he was not the proprietor of the store. The cruelty to animals case against Driver Wm. Kerr, of the bus which connects the city car lines with London West, was adjourned until Monday. The crown witnesses were absent. Frederick Jenero was accused by his wife of having threatened her life. He was committed to the County Jail and Alexander Hall were fined \$2 or ten days.

GRAND TRUNK INVESTIGATION.

Mr. Barker's Report—A Technical and Lengthy Document—Advances to the Chicago and Grand Trunk.

A cable from the Montreal Star's special correspondent says: At the last half-yearly meeting of the Grand Trunk Railway a committee of dissatisfied shareholders asked for an investigation of the road's accounts. This was agreed to by the board, and Mr. Samuel Barker, formerly of the Great Western, was chosen for the work. Various reports with reference to Mr. Barker's report have been in circulation, stating that a floating indebtedness had been found, etc. The report was handed to a Star correspondent today. The report on the Grand Trunk affairs is addressed other leading Grand Trunk stockholders who formed the deputation that not to the board, but to Mr. Price and insisted on the examination. It is strictly an accountant's inquiry, covering fifteen closely-printed pages, and is highly technical. It makes no comments. The deputation complains that the board has not issued with the report a detailed statement, without which it is difficult to understand the report. The deputation therefore also circulating an abstract of the chief statements, and inviting the proprietors of the stock to forward their names with a view to a conference of the large security-holders. Mr. Barker's report to the committee of dissatisfied shareholders states that the authorized loan and capital are correctly stated in the board's report as bearing an annual interest not exceeding \$1,374,690, of which \$45,000 are unexercised. The advances made on account of Chicago and Grand Trunk are \$520,850. The deputation's analysis of Mr. Barker's report shows that besides \$377,614 advanced to the Chicago and Grand Trunk, included in the company's asset of accounts due, \$143,236 have also been advanced, and do not appear in the Grand Trunk balance sheet as an asset or as debited to Chicago and Grand Trunk. For these advances the Grand Trunk hold coupons amounting to \$897,074, yet in the report for December 1893, the board said the suspense accounts had been wiped out. The deputation deduce from the report that between May, 1888, and June, 1894, the Grand Trunk Company took out of its gross earnings \$37,561 to make up the deficit on the interest of the Toledo, Saginaw and Muskegon road. These advances do not appear in the Grand Trunk accounts as a deficit against the Toledo road, but the Grand Trunk holds the unpaid coupons of the road for these advances. Yet during the same period there was credited in the Grand Trunk net balance statement an interest on the Toledo bonds \$35,207, nearly the whole of which had been deducted from the Grand Trunk's own gross earnings. In addition to the \$137,755 shown in the Grand Trunk balance sheet as accounts due to the company. The other accounts to and obligations of the Detroit, Grand Haven and Milwaukee road amount to \$219,031. Mr. Barker finds that the board retained to June 30, 1894, temporary loans of \$200,000. The deputation says that Mr. Barker shows that it has apparently been the custom of the Grand Trunk to include in the deduction of interest on acquired bonds and obligations on controlled lines the whole of the interest on the bonds owned by the Grand Trunk, as if it had been collected in cash.

BRITAIN'S NEW NAVY.

LONDON, March 12.—In the House of Commons yesterday, Mr. Edmund Robertson, Civil Lord of the Admiralty, said in response to questions, that since the beginning of 1894 seven battleships had been started in the course of construction in England and one in Russia. None had been begun in Russia.

Prof. Walter S. Haines, of Rush Medical College, Chicago, declares Dr. Price's Baking Powder absolutely pure.

BOY KILLED HIS FATHER.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., March 11.—Nicholas Rodvin, a German boy 17 years old, killed his father, Peter Rodvin, today during a quarrel.

A TORTURED CHILD FOR TWO YEARS.

Its Head Rendered a Volcano of Fiery, Itching, Burning Pains.

So speaks Maxwell Johnson, 112 Ann street, Toronto: My six-year-old daughter, Bella, was afflicted with eczema for 24 months, the principal seat of eruption being behind her ears and on her face; her head was on fire with painful, burning itching, which was made worse by constant scratching and tearing at with her hands. We spent money without stint in constant endeavor to afford the little sufferer relief; every advertised remedy was tried; innumerable treatments with soaps and medicines and specific treatment by physicians having high endorsements in curing such diseases were of no relief in her case. A short time ago I purchased a box of Dr. Chase's Ointment, the first application of which showed the curative effect of the ointment; only one-half of the box has been used, with the marked change of an entire disappearance of the eruptions, and I can confidently say my child is permanently cured. Any enquiry cheerfully answered with enclosed stamp.

To Smokers

To meet the wishes of their customers The Geo. E. Tucker & Son Co., Ltd., Hamilton, Ont., have placed upon the market

A Combination Plug of

“T & B”

SMOKING TOBACCO.

This supplies a long-felt want, giving the consumer one 20-cent plug, or a 10-cent piece or a 5-cent piece of the famous “T & B” brand of pure Virginia Tobacco.

The tin tag “T & B” is on every piece.

TRANSFORMATION

Begins Today.

From the somber hues of winter to the bright, sparkling colors of spring.

TO=DAY

We Receive the First Shipment of Spring Dress Goods

Crepons!

The Leader This Season.

Simply marvelous what new weaves and ripples of beauty they are sending us in these exquisite stuffs.

Silk and Wool Crepons,
Wool and Mohair Crepons,
All-Wool Crepons.

In Every Conceivable Color,
In Changeable Effects,
In Ripples of Various Sizes.

We have spared no trouble to make this department the banner Dress Goods Department of the city.

Don't think we believe nobody else has any new goods besides ourselves; we know better than that.

But we are so well pleased with our new goods we want everybody to see them.

This is only the first shipment. During this week we will put into stock an immense assortment of Dress Goods.

Silks and Trimmings

We will announce their arrival in these columns from day to day.

OUR Dress Goods Department

Is large and well-lighted. Everything tending to the comfort of our patrons is well looked after.

A First-Class Dressmaker Is on the Premises.

Chapman & Company

126-128 Dundas Street, London.