

The Planet

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RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION.
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TUESDAY, SEPT. 24.

ONTARIO ELECTIONS.

Doubt is expressed whether Premier Ross will fulfill his pledge to hold another session of the Legislature before the general elections. The Toronto World says a great friend of Hon. G. W. Ross said the other day, "There will not be another session of the Ontario Legislature before an election," and the World thinks that the signs point that way. Fortunately we are well prepared in West Kent, with a good candidate and a general feeling that we are going to be on the winning side this time.

HOW VERY CUTE.

The steamer Hartford, of Chicago, in passing through the Welland Canal the other day, damaged a Grand Trunk bridge, points out the Windsor Record. Her captain refused to stop and settle, and before the government cruiser Petrel could get up steam the Hartford got away and reached Chicago.

A fine of \$500 has been imposed on the Hartford, and the very cute captain has undertaken to get rid of the liability by having his vessel renamed. At the dead of night the Hartford became the Charles H. Hackett, and Capt. Barry thinks he has escaped the payment of damages done by the steamer Hartford. Capt. Barry has a great head.

NO CREDIT TO THE BOERS

Civilization has still a good deal to do for a people who continue resistance when their families are fed and protected by the enemy. There is a point where resistance ceases to be a patriotic duty and where ostentatious warfare marks the instinct of the savage. The Boers knew long ago that they could not serve their country's cause by remaining in the field. Their cause is not only lost but their wives and children are a charge upon the generosity of the enemy. Patriotism is not the word for the final stand of the Boers. With their forces shattered, their cause hopeless, a civilized people would know that their duty was towards those nearest them. That duty cannot be discharged by holding out against the British, and the Boers in opposing a foe which feeds their families display more than a tinge of savagery.

One of the two Ontario ministers who went over to Syracuse and got into trouble has been suspended till conference meets. There should be no desire to rub it into the unfortunate men—doubtless their punishment has already been quite equal to their offence; but really the story of the drugged candy was pretty hard to swallow.

Russia has built—though badly—a long railway across Siberia to the Pacific coast. This is considered of great strategic value, but the British are going from one better, by arranging for the completion of a railway over 6,000 miles long, connecting Alexandria in Egypt, with Shanghai in China. This line will be of very great importance to Great Britain from every point of view—diplomatically and commercially.



East Victoria Conservatives have re-nominated Mr. John Carnegie, who has so well represented the constituency in the present Legislature. Mr. Carnegie is a member of the best type, fully understanding the needs of his constituents and of his province. He applies himself to legislations with a single eye to the public good. His wide experience, his knowledge of agriculture, and his sound judgment will make him an important factor in the shaping of affairs when the Whitney Government is formed.

ASSASSINATE IT.

Pertinacious. That name of McKinley's assassin is pronounced "Tachawlgosch." If you can't pronounce it play it over on your piano.

NECK OR NOTHING.

Ottawa Citizen. Laing's Nek, Nicholson's Nek, Commando Nek, and now Sheep's Nek. We seem to be always getting it in the neck.

VERDE CENSUS 1901.

Belleville Intelligencer. Other places are advertising their "Fall Fairs," but Belleville's fair is made up of fair ladies, and they don't need any advertising, they're going fast enough.

HEADING OFF SUSPICION.

Hamilton Spectator. It is perhaps proper to state that it wasn't the Spectator man who kindled Mr. Tarte's fireworks prematurely. He can prove an alibi.

HIS FAITHFUL ALLY.

Toronto Telegram. Carrie Nation is to appear in Ottawa, where she will divide honors with Hon. Sydney Fisher as the uncompromising enemy of strong drink.

A GROWING TENDENCY.

Kingston News. There seems to be a growing tendency among the people to dispense with funeral displays, and this change promises to become popular. It is common to append to notices of deaths the words, "The funeral will be private." There is no necessity of people going to great expense, when in many cases they cannot afford it, in order to have a big turn out at the funeral of a relative or friend.

HOME MADE ANARCHY.

Dundas Star. The Toronto Globe, in an article on "What is Anarchy?" admits that the reckless giving away of public franchises, "corruption," "a gerrymander," "tampering with ballots," is anarchy, and should be dealt with as such. Can this be the same Globe that has fought and is still fighting to keep a government in power that is guilty under each head? In an unguarded moment the Globe states what it knows to be the truth, but will forget about this and uphold the Ross Government in the same old style. But what else could be expected from a paper that is interested in some of the "given away" franchise?

The Globe pleads, and rightly, against violence being used towards anarchists, advocating enforcement of strict laws, but it will be found making excuses for the non-enforcement of the laws on the statutes of Ontario, when the members of the "machine" are on trial for their crimes under the above headings. When the Liberal-Conservative Government is returned to power at the coming elections they will strictly enforce the law and stamp out the forms of anarchy existing under and protected by the present government.

BACK FROM THE KLONDYKE

H. F. Battisby, of Walkerville, Returns Home From the Arctic Circle.

In a Conversation with The Planet he Tells of his Experiences in the North.

Herbert Francis Battisby, brother of the rector at the English church, Walkerville, has just returned from spending two years within the Arctic circle. Mr. Battisby is an athletic young man of 28, and he has been assisting at the English church missions in the far north at Fort Simpson, Fort Macpherson, and Hay River. Bishop Reeve presides over these missions.

Speaking of his two years sojourn in the land of perpetual night, and perpetual night, Mr. Battisby said that he had enjoyed it very much.

The staple food at the Missions is fish. Many kinds are caught in Great Slave Lake, including white fish, trout and Jack fish.

The waters of the lake are always excellent, and the Great Slave Lake white fish are the finest in the world. The flesh, when cooked, is solid and dry, and is delicious, but Mr. Battisby states that having eaten on fish three times a day for two years, he is taking particular pains to avoid fish of any kind. The fish diet was sometimes changed, and variety given by a meal of muskrat.

Mr. Battisby says that there is but little difference between the flesh of the beaver and the muskrat and the latter, taken in their prime just at the opening of spring, afford a meal than which there is nothing nicer.

The returned missionary assistant has been up and down the Mackenzie and Athabasca rivers. Of the former, he said that you could pick up stones along it, and cracking them open, you would find a thin layer of pure gold. Gold could also be found all along the Athabasca river just by washing the sand with a shovel.

Mr. Battisby was strong in his conviction of a Government that allowed the Edmonton route to be advertised this way as a means of easy access to the Klondyke.

"Take ten dollars out of a man's pocket and you will pay for it," said Mr. Battisby. "Yet the Government allowed unscrupulous men to advertise all sorts of lies about the Edmonton route. Why, even a Government official reported that from Athabasca landing the gold seekers could take the water route, and that the boats would be taken down that same route."

Mr. Battisby said that there were 80 miles of rapids and some very dangerous falls along this route. In fact, the way is so dangerous that it cannot be run in safety without competent guides. Yet the Government official never said a word about guides being needed, and as a result two young fellows went down one of the falls not knowing it was before them, and their boat was found bottomed up and they themselves were drowned.

"I went down with a fleet of 24 boats, on each of which were pilots, but only four of these guides were competent to take the boats down some of the rapids and, at these dangerous points we had to take while the boats were taken down four at a time. Neither did that same Government official tell that to reach the Klondyke, the adventurers had to yet no small distance, and a rapid go up River, a stream so rapid that the boats were taken down two men to steer the boat and they had to wade in the water to do so while the others towed it. The surrounding land was full of muskrats and impenetrable of porcupine. Should the bow of the boat get turned the least bit from heading directly against the water, over would go the craft. It is only possible for boats of narrow beam, light structure and of no great length to make up this stream. How then were scows 40 feet long to be taken up?"

"Had you seen as much of it as I saw, you would be bitter too," concluded Mr. Battisby. "I saw the poor fellows returning home broken in health without a cent, with wives and children at home depending on them."

Mr. Battisby is a typical Englishman. He didn't wear underclothes until the thermometer was down to below zero and he only put them on then because he was going to sleep on doors five nights on a trip by dog train. He has a large number of curious and interesting articles picked up during his life in the far north, including a Caribou fur coat, the kind with a hood worn by the huskies, as the Esquimaux are called, moccasins, articles of use made from bone, a moose skin jacket, etc.

Mr. Battisby says that the Esquimaux are far more intelligent than the Indian. He has a knife made from a file. The process adopted in making the knife by these little dwellers in the frozen north is primitive and crude. They rubbed the file with stones and thus wore it down thin enough to make a huge butcher knife, to which they attached a handle of bark. It must have taken months to wear down this file, but the present owner of the vicious-looking weapon says that the husky will sit all day patiently rubbing, only stopping to occasionally light his pipe.

Asked as to the most curious sight he saw in the far north, Mr. Battisby said that what most struck him occurred last May in the vicinity of Fort Simpson. One day he was ploughing with two cows while two ladies were skating on the ice on a lake not half a mile away. The frost never gets all out of the ground, and in summer you can dig down and find frost, yet very good potatoes are raised.

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