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The Planet.
DAILY AND WEEKLY
Chatham, Ont.

WHY DO SWIMMERS DROWN?

Why are drownings so frequent? Every day the newspapers tell us of good swimmers being seized by cramp and drown. It was not so thirty or forty years ago. Then cramp was rarely felt by a swimmer. Why is it so prevalent now? Has there been a change in the temperature of the water? Or does the present mode of living encourage cramp?—Hamilton Spectator.

Dear boy, things are no different, relatively, now than they were thirty or forty years ago. The percentage of drownings is no larger and the causes, whatever those causes may be, are identically the same. The reason you imagine it is not so now, is then, is that a better newspaper service and a better telegraph service gives you access to more news. As for the causes of drownings, people talk about cramps as they do about heart disease. (We do not believe that one drowning in a thousand is due to cramp. A better explanation might be physical exhaustion causing the swimmer to become "rattled" and thus unable to use his swimming abilities to advantage. As a matter of fact most people, especially adults, over-estimate their swimming capabilities. A father who is not in daily practice, should take no risks. He should keep within reach of the shore.

A FOOLISH BARGAIN.

We find the following in that excellent Liberal paper, the Montreal Witness:

"The advocates of limiting the marriage rights of Canadians by the ecclesiastical usages of one or other denomination and practically subjecting the laity in this matter to the clergy, have fallen back on the old plea, the last and ready resort in which every ecclesiastical claim takes refuge, that at the time of the cession of Canada to Great Britain there was an agreement between the French and the English king that the latter's new subjects should enjoy the free exercise of their religion. It does not concern us now to examine exactly how much of this understanding is supported by the treaty of cession and how much of it is dependent on an act of the British parliament passed later, seeing that neither act can be considered eternal. As for an act of parliament, the power that made it can unmake it. As for a treaty, it is simply preposterous to hold that a king that could not guarantee the perpetuity of his laws to his own country or even, for that matter, the perpetuity of his throne, should be able to determine forever the laws and customs of a country which he was surrendering. One would think the unreasonableness of such a claim would occasionally occur to the persons who so gravely appeal as often as once a week to the worn-out guarantee of what they call liberty. Those who fought and suffered to make Canada a self-governing country should be the last to appeal to the usages of a regime, which has, happily for France, passed away and which was, as compared with Canada's self-governing liberty, the blackest of bondage."

All of which is very true. As a matter of fact, would the people of Quebec themselves consent to have their present privileges circumscribed by the treaty of 1763? Not much.

Calumet, Mich., a town of 40,000 inhabitants, has built, equipped and is running a municipal theatre. The mayor acts as censor of all the plays produced in the theatre. There's socialism in practice.

The number of excursions to Belle Isle reminds us of the fact that this is an American resort which could be duplicated on a smaller scale at the Lighthouse, where we could spend our own money in our own land. The site is there and the people to patronize it are here and elsewhere in Kent and Essex, but where is the enterprise to develop it?

There is a superstitious idea current that the bodies of drowned people rise to the surface nine days after going down. Along this line an item is floating around among our exchanges alleging that Fred Carey's body was found at Rondeau exactly nine days after his death. This is not so. He was drowned one Sunday and found the next. As a matter of fact the nine-day theory is all rot. The length of time it takes bodies to rise depends on the temperature of the water. In Lake Superior, for instance, the water is so cold that the bodies of the drowned very seldom come to the surface at all. In the warmer lakes and rivers the time extends from three or four days to two weeks or longer, according to the season. The warmer the water, the quicker the decay is induced. Gases are generated and it is these gases that, failing to escape, bring up the bodies to the surface.

An invention to perfectly restore to roller milled flour its lost wheat flavor is said by the Miller to have been perfected. Since the inception of roller milling, the trade have been discussing the fact that by the new process the delicate flavor which used to characterize the stone-made article

has been missing owing to some change in the wheat mixtures. Whether it is the evaporation of an essence, or a volatile oil, or the absence of small particles of brain, or the lack of the oil squeezed from the germ in stone-milling which accounts for the deficiency in flavor, experts are not agreed, but that modern-milled flour is wanting in the appetizing factor which pleasantly affects the palate nobody disputes. Various attempts to evolve a process by which this flavor should be retained or restored have been made but until now without success. The subject is well worthy of investigation, and as flavor is likely to count for much in the future of flour-milling, the process is deserving of further study and adoption.

In view of the tests being made some of those people who thought the light colored blocks were not up to quality, must be figuring out now, how much they don't know about vitrified brick.

DEPLETING BRYAN'S RANKS.

Hamilton Spectator.
It may be that the arrest of anarchists in Chicago is a Republican party dodge to deprive Candidate Bryan of votes.

OFFENDED BY FAMILY LIKENESS.

Philadelphia North American.
"Foreign devils!" cry the Chinese. "Yellow devils!" we retort. "Massacre without mercy!" they scream. "No quarter!" we shout. The reason given by a southern gentleman for his dislike to the negro recalls itself. "I dislike the negro," said the Colonel, "because he's so infernally like a white man."

GOOD FATHER O'LEARY.

The Mail.
Of all the chaplains who went with the Canadian contingent good words are spoken. It is of interest to note that Protestants as well as Catholics are loud in their praises of Father O'Leary, the Roman Catholic chaplain. This priest was here, there, and everywhere, and was most kind to all, irrespective of creed. At Paardeberg Father O'Leary buried all the dead, using the Church of England service for the Protestants. One poor fellow, a Protestant, who was wounded and dying, was ministered to by Father O'Leary. The kindly clergyman borrowed a prayer-book and read to him and prayed with him, observing to the soldier from whom he got the book: "It will comfort the poor fellow to hear a few words from some of the prayers of his own church, even if the priest who reads them belongs to another."

LANGUID

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THE COST OF COAL.

The Price at the Pit's Mouth in Various Countries in Europe.

The price in coal at the pit's mouth varies a good deal in the different centres of production. The lowest point appears to have been touched in British India, viz.: 38 cents per ton—while the dearest coal is met with in the Cape Colony, where the pit's mouth price is \$3.55. The corresponding price in Natal is much less—viz., \$2.50 per ton. Coal can be obtained at the pit's mouth in New Zealand for \$2.45 per ton; in Tasmania for \$2 per ton; in Victoria for \$2.30 per ton, and in New South Wales for \$1.88 per ton. Transvaal coal costs \$1.82 per ton at the pit's mouth. The United States claims to rank next to British India as a cheap coal-producing quarter, the average price at American pit's mouth being \$1.15 per ton. As regards European countries the cheapest coal would appear to be available in Spain, where the pit's mouth price is only \$1.52 per ton. Austria comes next with \$1.55 per ton; Great Britain third with \$1.62 per ton; Russia fourth with \$1.68 per ton, and Germany fifth with \$1.72 per ton. The average pit's mouth price in Belgium is \$2.04. France figures to still less advantage with an average of \$2.16 per ton. The average output per man employed is 450 tons per year in the United States; in Great Britain 297 tons; in the Cape Colony only 56 tons; in Natal, which has the advantage of a good supply of coolie labor, the annual average output is 156 tons per man. In British India the average stands at only 68 tons per man. The German average is 271 tons per man, and the French 216 tons per man per year.

PUNCHING HOLES WITH A RIFLE.

Drilling Holes Done in an Emergency by a Gun.

"Up at my camp near the Four Peaks," told Jim Bark, the well-known cattleman, "the boys are all handy with a rifle. We've a lot of black-powder Winchester has been discarded and nothing but the best goes. Most of the new guns were bought during the Spanish war, when we would experiment all day with these trunks and rough trenches, learning the art of war at home. We found that a bullet from one of the new Winchester, driven by smokeless powder, was good for four feet and more of pine timber and for more than a foot of iron. I thought the boys had done about everything in the shooting line that could be done long ago, but I was mistaken. I sent them up a wagon. In hauling down some firewood they broke the holsters all to splinters. The holsters held up the wagon bed, you know. Well, the boys figured out all right the rebuilding of the wood parts, but came near being stumped on the iron fixing. They got some old iron wagon tires and cut them in proper lengths, but had not a way they could see to punch the necessary bolt holes. Finally the question was solved. One of the boys carefully marked the place for the bolts, stood the piece of tire against a tree and put a bullet, 30-calibre, through the tire at each place marked. It was a novel sort of blacksmithing, but it worked."—The Arizona Grapevine.

Soldiers on Stilts.

Improbable as it may seem, the French army has lately been making experiments with a view of testing the value of stilt walking. The result appears to be, according to the Leisure Hour, such as to render their adoption by the French army for special purposes highly probable. They are found to be serviceable not only in placing telegraph wires in very rough country, but also as a means of quickly ascertaining where a river can be safely forded by troops. The stilt man, by the aid of his lengthened legs, can measure the depth of the water with great ease and precision. He can feel about the shallow places and thus lead the troops. A foraging soldier expert in the use of stilts might have been of service to our commanders in South Africa, where the watercourses are strategic obstacles of great advantage to the enemy.—Westminster Gazette.

A Cure for Toothache.

A medical remedy for toothache of great repute is sodium salicylate, and Dr. Frederick C. Coley, in a recent article in The Practitioner, states that he knows of no other drug to equal it, especially for those cases where the pain is started by taking cold. The pain is generally promptly relieved by a dose of 45 grains, and if this be repeated every four hours the inflammation may be fully subsided, leaving of course a decayed tooth, which will need attention, perhaps extraction, at the hands of the dentist. The addition of belladonna is often advantageous, and it is said that 15 minims of the tincture of belladonna will often give the patient a good night's rest, when without it sleep would be impossible.

Rabbit as an Egg Hatcher.

In an aviary in one of the wards at Catterham Asylum last year says Nature a wild rabbit turned a dove off its nest and sat on two doves' eggs till they were hatched. This year the nurse was true to another hatching operation. They have placed two bantam's eggs in the same nest. The rabbit has taken to these eggs, and only leaves the eggs to take its food, returning at once to the nest. The eggs are six feet from the rabbit when taken out of the nest and placed on the floor by a nurse, very quickly climbs up again to the nest.

Unequal Contest.

There are eight inches more rainfall annually on the south shore of Lake Superior than on the north shore and three inches more in the cases of Lake Erie and Ontario. There is also a greater precipitation on the eastern shores of Lakes Huron and Michigan than on the western.

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In the Matter of George Taylor, of the City of Chatham, Tobacconist, Insolvent.
There will be sold at Public Auction, by Andrew Thomson, J.C., Auctioneer, on the premises lately occupied by the said insolvent, No. 75, North Side of King Street, Chatham, on Friday, August 10, 1900, at 11 a.m., at a rate on the dollar, the following assets of said estate, in three parcels:
1. Billiard and Pool Tables, and other articles, covered by chattel mortgage as per inventory, \$1,619.00
2. Stock in trade of cigars, tobaccos, pipes, etc., furniture and fixtures, not covered by chattel mortgage, as per inventory, \$553.98
3. Book debts and promissory notes, as per inventory, \$545.39
The stock sheets and inventories are in the hands of the Assignee for inspection.
Terms:—Twenty-five per cent. cash. Balance on good approved, endorsed notes, at 2 1/2 months, with interest at 6 per cent.
There will also be offered for sale at the same time and place, subject to terms and conditions which will be made known at the time of sale, all the interests of the said insolvent, as transferred to the said Assignee, in the undivided one-half share of part of Lot No. 86, Old Survey, on the West side of Forsythe street, in Chatham aforesaid, upon which is situate a two storey double frame dwelling in good repair.
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