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WM. TEMPLEMAN, Manager.

NOTICE.

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WM. TEMPLEMAN,
Manager.

MR. OUMET'S HEROISM.

L. Z. Joncas, M. P., has been letting in some light on the position of Minister Oumet, and incidentally upon the general status of the school question. Le Moniteur de Levis, a paper which appears to speak for Senator Angers, had been attacking the minister of public works, and Mr. Joncas thus defended the latter: "Le Moniteur affirms that if Mr. Oumet is to-day minister of public works, it is because he feared that if he held out Sir Hector Langevin or D. Girouard, the member for Jacques Cartier, would immediately fill his place. This is an affirmation which is contrary to the facts. Sir H. Langevin has been the victim of certain political circumstances which it is not necessary to recall, but nothing justifies the writer in Le Moniteur to state that he was prepared to perform an act unworthy of his political past. And if to destroy these false assertions certain private matters have to be made public, I do not hesitate to speak. I must be pardoned if I am indiscreet. Mr. Oumet so little feared that Sir Hector Langevin or Mr. Girouard should take his place, that in my presence, on several occasions, he begged Mr. Girouard to accept his portfolio, being convinced that he would best serve the cause of the Manitoba minority by remaining friendly to the administration, but being anxious at the same time to give his friend, Mr. Angers, a token of his sympathy and friendship, he decided during the morning of the 11th of July to remain out of the cabinet, but to continue to support the government as a private member. He informed some of his friends who had met in his office of his decision and employed all means possible to induce Mr. Girouard to take his place. The latter persisted in his refusal. Between noon and 1 o'clock that day another meeting of the friends of the school cause was held and it was only after having received the positive assurance that remedial legislation would be submitted at the opening of the next session, even if negotiations were still pending and after having made sure of the support I have spoken of, that Mr. Oumet consented to return to his place among his colleagues." This seems to make Mr. Oumet's fidelity and heroism stand out in bold relief, but where does it leave the cabinet?

AFRAID OF THE LIGHT.

Chicago University, which was established practically with money given by John D. Rockefeller, the Standard Oil magnate, started out with a Mr. Bemis as professor of political economy. In the pursuit of his duty Professor Bemis felt constrained to teach his pupils that trusts were wrong in principle and opposed to the public interest. The Chicago gas trust is one of the biggest of its kind, and is upheld by the Standard Oil Company, of which Mr. Rockefeller is the main pillar. Therefore it came about that Professor Bemis had a bad fall. The story is thus told by the New York Voice:

"Not long ago a prominent officer in the gas trust, already controlling the gas supply of over 40 cities, said to the professor: 'Professor Bemis, we can't and don't intend to tolerate your work any longer. It means millions to us. And if we can't convert you we are going to down you.' How did the corporation proceed to down him? First, by refusing to grant the customary reduction in gas rates to the university so long as Prof. Bemis was with it. Now, by securing a call from the subsequent administration for Prof. Bemis's resignation. The gas trust, by common report, is being sustained by the Standard Oil Company, the head of which, John D. Rockefeller, endowed the university. Mr. Rockefeller and his business associates have the right to establish a school to teach what they like, and to have any professor fired who doesn't suit their views. But the public will know what to do with such a school and how to discount all its teachings on subjects allied in any way with the money interests of its creators. It can still do a splendid work in teaching the languages, abstract science, and higher mathematics; but when it comes to political science and social science, the world now knows that the stamp of monopoly must be there; upon that sort of teaching and upon the professor, who ever he may be, who consents to fill the vacant chair."

"Trusts" cannot afford to have an en counter with economic truths; it pays them better to keep out of the way in the darkness. In that respect protection is one gigantic trust.

PROTECTION AND FARMS.

Free trade is said by Canadian protectionists to be ruining the English farmer, who cannot compete in his own line with the foreign producer. He must have protection in the shape of duties on agricultural products or he will go to the wall. The question naturally arises, why should not the long carriage and several handlings which foreign products must undergo prove sufficient protection for the farmer in Britain? To any person who looks into the subject at once appears in answer. One is the excessive rental which the farmer in the larger portion of the country must pay. The other is the social position of the average English farmer, whose business is conducted on entirely different lines from that of the agriculturist on this side of the Atlantic. The average English farmer would reel outraged if he were required to work in the field as nearly all Canadian and American farmers do; he looks upon himself as a capitalist who should be able to pay others for the work necessary on his farm. There is one thing certain, that the old country agriculturists have not the slightest prospect of inducing the remainder of the population to consent to duties on agricultural products; the large majority know quite well that such a step would be suicidal, and the leaders of both political parties understand the situation too thoroughly to invite a knock on the head by proposing agricultural protection. Undoubtedly parliament could help the owners of the land by taxing all the rest of the people for their benefit, but it is questionable whether the man who actually tills the soil would be helped materially. It is rather odd to find Canadian journals expressing the wish that the British parliament may yet be found silly enough to turn the hands on the dial back half a century by decreeing protection. That would mean not only the restoration of the conditions which led to death from starvation, bread riots and the general misery of fifty years ago, but it would most adversely affect the Canadian farmer, to whom protection in his own country has done quite enough injury. We fail to see why any Canadian paper should wish evil to befall the agriculturists of this country. If the British farmers are referred to what protection has done for their brethren in Canada and the United States they are not likely to find here an argument in their favor. According to the last United States census, the number of tenant farmers in that country increased 26 per cent. between 1880 and 1890, while the number of those who owned their own farms increased only 7 per cent. In Canada from 1881 to 1891 the number of tenant farmers increased 62 per cent. while the proprietor-farmers increased by only 31 per cent. In 1881 the tenant farmers in Canada numbered only 123 to each thousand owners of farms, while in 1891 the number had increased to 149 per thousand. During the ten years 1880-1890 in the United States the proportion of tenant farmers had increased from 225 per thousand to 253 per thousand. "Protection" has worked a little longer for the farmer in the United States than in Canada. The evils of landlordism are coming rapidly upon us under this false system, along with many other evils.

THE FACTS OF "PROTECTION."

Canadian farmers are advised by the protectionist to "try to find out what fifty years of free trade has done for the British farmer and farm laborer." Unfortunately for our neighbor, the Canadian farmers are more likely to inquire what protection has done for themselves, and the answer is quite certain to be unfavorable to protection. Moreover, while they are about it they may be curious enough to ask what protection did for the British farmers when they had it. Previous to 1845 the farmers of Britain enjoyed a high degree of protection—so high, indeed, at one time that foreign wheat could not be imported at all unless the price was up to 80 shillings a quarter. And what was the effect of this glorious protection? There is plenty of evidence to show what it was, because several parliamentary inquiries were held regarding the grievous distress existing among farmers and farm laborers. The evidence elicited by the committees and commissions showed that the condition of the farmer was much worse at various times anterior to the repeal of the corn laws than that which Lord Salisbury describes as disastrous. One parliamentary committee prosecuted an inquiry in 1833, and the almost invariable effect of the answers it received was that the farmers were hastening to ruin. As one witness said, if they had paid up their rents in full, more than half of them would have been insolvent. This notwithstanding the very fine measure of "protection" which the corn laws gave them. In 1836 another committee made an investigation, and the evidence might well be summed up in the reply of one witness: "Farming is in a very depressed state now, in a much more depressed state than I recollect it to have been before." J. B. Bernard, a representative farmer of Buckinghamshire, was asked: "Do you think, then, that the tenants of this country to a great extent hold their farms upon sufferance only, and at the mercy of the landlords?" His answer was: "Yes, I do. One-half of the tenantry in the district is insolvent." Another question and answer read: "Do you think farmers have any means of paying rent out of the profit made on their lands?—No, nor have they for some time." So it was all through the enquiry, and so it was when a fresh investigation was

made in 1842. The London common council in the latter year summarized the evidence as to the farmers' condition and graphically described the state of the country generally under "protection" in the following resolution:—"Resolved: That the continuous and increasing depression of the manufacturing, commercial and agricultural interests of the country, and the spread distress of the working classes are most alarming. Manufacturers, without a market and shipping without freight; capital without investment, trade without profit, and farmers struggling under a system of high rents, with prices falling as the means of consumption by the people fall; a working population rapidly increasing, and a daily decreasing demand for its labor; union houses overflowing as workshops are deserted; corn laws to the detriment and inducing a starving people to regard the laws of their country with a deep sense of their injustice. These facts call for the immediate application of adequate remedies. That this court anxiously appeals to the First Minister of the Crown to give practical effect to his declaration in favor of Free Trade, by bringing forward at the earliest possible period in the ensuing session of parliament such measures for securing the unrestricted supply of goods, the employment of the people as may effectually remove a condition of depression and distress too widely prevalent to be cheaply reached. Why not improve this and other existing roads, instead of proposing the construction of another perfectly needless work which would involve the government in an expenditure of three hundred millions of pounds, and which the province cannot now afford? The mines on the main Quebec can be reached quite as well by the extension of the present Forks road as by the proposed extension of the Hudson Bay railway. The gentlemen who own these mines have some grit and grit about them, and don't want any special 'coddling' such as led to the perpetration of the 108 road 'job' for the alleged benefit of the Hudson Bay company, but for the real benefit of no company or individual, excepting the too easy owners of the 108 house. This letter of Mr. Moore's is apparently a very innocent and public spirited one, but it is all a 'job' which deserves the condemnation of every person honestly interested in the true progress of the district and province.

HUGH WATT, M.D.
150 Mile House, Sept. 1895.

SHOOTING AT SHAWNIGAN.

To the Editor—A paragraph appears in your issue of the 10th re a constable and a "hunter," save the mark at Shawnigan on Sunday last. May I be allowed to say that the constable who was shot with which the "hunter" dropped on the duck, but a rifle, which makes all the difference. The "hunter" was warned not to fire, not on account of the duck, because there were boats with occupants moving about on the lake, and as the constable was concerned for their safety, he interfered on the public behalf. Perhaps the "hunters" are aware that the course of a bullet on the water is not in their control, most likely they do not, hence the culpable disregard so often shown by them for their fellow man's safety, so long as their selfish ends are gratified. Had the "hunter" been prosecuted for an assault on a constable, he would have been fined \$5 and costs, and would not have satisfied the law. He may be pleased he was not. It may interest you to know that a house on the opposite side of the lake has been several times struck and pierced by rifle bullets fired by "hunters" as sometimes do Shawnigan on a Sunday from Victoria, the honor of a visit.

SETTLER.
Cowichan.

THE TRADE OF JAPAN.

United States Her Best Customer, but She Buys From England.

Washington, Sept. 12.—Consul-General McVior has sent to the department of state a comprehensive statement of the trade of Japan for 1884. The total exports appear to have been \$57,929,011, and the imports \$59,680,833. Of the exports \$2,000,000 were sent to the United States, for which this country returned goods to the value of only \$5,579,139. The United States were the principal importers among the nations of Japan's goods. Great Britain imported only \$3,022,740 worth, which was exported to Japan \$21,432,455. They showed that Japan exported \$13,629,005 in gold and silver specie and bullion during the year, and imported \$17,404,688. The largest part of both amounts being in silver. The customs collections amounted to \$2,987,560. The principal articles of export were coal, rice, silks, lacquered ware, matches, mats, copper and copperware, and of imports, cotton, tea, manufactured goods, drugs, chemicals, dyes, paints and colors, rice, locomotives and other machinery (including wheels and looms for spinning and weaving); railway appliances, sugar, steam vessels, wool, and woollen goods. The imported steam vessels were valued at \$4,166,895.

The chief article of import from the United States was kerosene oil, \$2,027,310, and raw cotton, \$1,361,781. In both of which articles Mr. McVior reports a perceptible improvement in our trade. The imports from this country also include about \$100,000 of cotton manufactures, \$22,363 worth of arms and munitions of war, \$290,000 worth of leather, \$281,026 of locomotives, \$311,133 of flour and about \$200,000 of other provisions, \$121,184 of sugar and \$106,325 of paraffine wax. Of raw silk alone Japan exported \$11,408,333 worth to the United States. The value of silk manufactures, including \$2,340,376 of habutai silk and \$964,993 of silk handkerchiefs. That country also sent tea to the value of \$3,198,000 to this country, and considerable quantities of rice, matting and carpets.

St. Cloud, Minn., Sept. 11.—Passenger-trains Nos. 2 and 3 on the Great Northern had a collision at Melby this morning. The train from St. Cloud was at a high rate of speed, and came together with terrific force. There are five people reported killed and many injured.

—Rev. F. Franzen, of Chicago, who had just returned from inspecting the Scandinavian missions of China, Japan and India, spoke at the Y. M. C. A. last night in Swedish. The lecture was heard with interest by a fair-sized audience.

prevented it from seeking its customers all over the world. That would indeed be "mad protection" which should now propose a step backward.

The New York Central flyer, as reported by telegraph, claims to have beaten all previous records in fast railway travelling. The distance from New York to Buffalo, 440 miles, was covered in seven hours, or a speed of a little less than a mile a minute. Two weeks ago the West Coast train ran from London to Aberdeen, a distance of 530 miles, in 8 hours and 32 minutes, or a speed of over 63 miles an hour. The East Coast train has a record between the same points considerably faster than that of the New York flyer.

ROADS IN CARIBOO.

To the Editor: A short reply will dispose of Mr. James Moore's letter from the Forks of the Quesselle, in your issue of 27th August, stating that the "greatest drawback in this section is roads," and suggesting that a road be made from the 108 or 111 to Horsely, thence on to the Forks and down the main Quesselle. This he says, "would accommodate all the miners," he names in his letter. Now let me say that the Horsely Company has already two roads to its mine, one of them, it is true, a wholly unnecessary road, and so much of it as is freighted or packed will voluntarily travel over it. Then there is now a fairly good road to the Cariboo and Victoria mines at the Forks (why should they want another?), from which road all the other mines mentioned can be cheaply reached. Why not improve this and other existing roads, instead of proposing the construction of another perfectly needless work which would involve the government in an expenditure of three hundred millions of pounds, and which the province cannot now afford? The mines on the main Quesselle can be reached quite as well by the extension of the present Forks road as by the proposed extension of the Hudson Bay railway. The gentlemen who own these mines have some grit and grit about them, and don't want any special 'coddling' such as led to the perpetration of the 108 road 'job' for the alleged benefit of the Hudson Bay company, but for the real benefit of no company or individual, excepting the too easy owners of the 108 house. This letter of Mr. Moore's is apparently a very innocent and public spirited one, but it is all a 'job' which deserves the condemnation of every person honestly interested in the true progress of the district and province.

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STILL ANOTHER CHARGE.

Prevost Charged With Stealing Money in Connection With the Leigh Estate.

Question as to Whether Mr. Aikman Must Give Evidence Against His Client.

A third charge was laid against J. C. Prevost, late registrar of the Supreme Court, in the police court this afternoon. The charge is stealing \$1565.08 on October 19th, 1893.

A. P. Luxton, of the firm of Davis, Pooley & Luxton, was the first witness. He recognized a receipt given by him to J. C. Prevost on October 19th, 1893, the amount being for Mrs. Walker Dewdney, on account of the Leigh estate. He received a check for the amount signed James C. Prevost, registrar of the Supreme Court.

Mr. Smith put in two orders of court, dated September 13th, 1889, and October 30th, 1890. The first order authorized J. C. Prevost, as administrator of the estate of William Leigh, to sell certain lands, and the second order confirmed the sale to Mr. Jos. Boscowitz.

At this stage Mr. Smith went back to the charge against Prevost of appropriating \$824 in connection with the administration of the Brothie estate.

Robert Brett, of the Attorney-General's office, was called. He recognized a letter received at the Attorney-General's office from Messrs. Drake, Jackson & Helmecken.

Mr. Smith asked to be allowed to put in some facts of which he had given notice.

Mr. Aikman objected to the admission of the facts.

Mr. Smith said his only course then was to call upon Mr. Aikman to give evidence.

Mr. Aikman also objected to this. He asked for time to consider the matter. It appeared to him very strange that he should be called upon to give evidence against his client.

The matter was laid over, and the third charge, re Leigh estate, was proceeded with. The charge was that on January, 1891, Prevost made a deposit of \$6142, a portion of which was a check for \$6000 from J. A. Boscowitz.

This deposit was credited to Prevost's private account. He recognized the check for \$1565.08, which amount was charged to the account of the registrar of the Supreme Court for the time being.

This closed the evidence on the third charge, and Mr. Prevost being asked if he had anything to say answered "No."

Mr. Aikman did not call any witnesses for the defense.

The point as to whether Mr. Aikman can be called to give evidence on the second charge, re Leigh estate, was postponed until the effect of the next morning.

Although there is no doubt that many more charges could be laid against Prevost, the Attorney-General's department do not intend to lay any more against him, unless any of those now pending should fall through.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

Differences Between Medical Health and Sanitary Officer.

The Board of Aldermen met last evening in special session when the following letter was read:

Victoria, B.C., July 4th, 1895.
Chairman and Members Board of Health, Victoria, B.C.

Gentlemen: Occasions having arisen in connection with the relations of myself as medical health officer and the sanitary inspector, in which my instructions had been ignored upon the excuse that Mr. Conlin was independent of my authority, I have deemed it essential in the interests of public health to ask that a statement by you of our respective relations be made.

Elsewhere the medical health officer has been, and is, the actual chief of the health department, being held responsible to the board of health for the sanitary condition of the city; in fact, unless this be the position of the medical health officer, it is impossible for him, as an expert in hygiene, to know the actual sanitary condition of the city, and thus be able to safeguard the people.

In 1886, after the smallpox epidemic, we have seen cases of smallpox, which by the seal of the then sanitary inspector in carrying out my instructions were so quietly handled that an epidemic was averted and the public were in no way alarmed. You may see, then, how necessary it is that there should be no conflict of authority, and that, in fact, the health officer have complete control of the sanitary administration of the city. To this end I respectfully draw the attention of your honorable body to the relations existing between the present sanitary inspector and myself.

I have the honor to be,
Your obedient servant,
GEORGE H. DUNCAN,
M. H. Officer.

It was explained that the medical health officer and the sanitary officer differed as to whether pits or boxes were the best for closets. In fact the sanitary officer was not inclined to be so strict as the medical health officer.

The Mayor said the point was whether the sanitary officer should not take his orders from the medical health officer.

Ald. Williams said that Dr. Duncan had said he was perfectly willing to advise the sanitary officer to manage the inspection of premises. He wanted to know whether the sanitary officer should act under his instructions in cases of infectious diseases.

The Mayor thought Dr. Duncan wished to have full control, and Ald. Cameron thought the medical health officer should have full control.

Ald. Partridge thought the Act provided for two distinct officers.

Ald. Macmillan considered that the sanitary officer was the proper one to attend to the inspection of premises and sewers. The duties of the two officers should be divided.

Ald. Humphreys was of the same opinion. The sanitary officer should have control of sanitary matters and take his orders from the medical health officer in health matters. Mr. Conlin had done a lot of good in sanitary matters. If he had to take all his orders from the medical health officer he could not do as much work as he is doing now.

On motion of Ald. Bragg, seconded by

Ald. Williams, it was decided to invite Dr. Duncan and Sanitary Officer Conlin to attend a meeting of the Board of Health.

The majority and minority reports of the firewards regarding changes in the department which have been "on the table" since June were again laid over on account of the absence of Ald. Wilson, chairman of fire wardens.

Ald. Hall complained of the dinner done in the park by boys.

THE SCHOOL BOARD.

An Unimportant Session Last Evening. Changes in Teaching Staff.

With the exception of Trustee Hays, the full board was present at last evening's meeting of the Board of School Trustees. Trustee Lovell occupied the chair.

A communication was received from Miss Withrow tendering her resignation as teacher of the fifth division of the Boys' Central school. In acceptance of the resignation the board expressed its approval of the efficient service rendered by Miss Withrow during the past five years. Messrs. Powell and Lammiman, the board's solicitors, forwarded the opinion of the city barristers, who had been consulted as to the advisability of an appeal from the decision of the courts in the case of Muirhead & Mann vs. the city. In effect, the opinion was that it would be inadvisable to appeal.

A ballot was taken to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Miss Withrow, and the following promotions and appointments were made: Fifth division, M. G. H. Fawcett; sixth division, Miss C. C. Christie; seventh division, Miss Jesse; eighth division, Miss Shrapnell.

Miss Arthur was temporarily appointed for three months to the fourth division of the Spring Ridge school, and Miss Shrapnell, and Mrs. Francis Brown to the position vacated by Miss Arthur.

The school attendance for August was: Average daily attendance, 1782; pupils actually attending, 2022; average per teacher, 42.12.

Trustee Lewis gave notice that at the next meeting of the board he would move a resolution to stop teachers' salaries for three months.

The meeting adjourned at 10 o'clock.

SPIDER FARMING.

Tricky Wine Merchants Buy Them in "Cobweb" their Bottles.

Although entomologists have often raised spiders for the purpose of scientific observation and investigation, spider raising is a money-making industry in something rather novel. One has to go only four miles from Philadelphia, on the old Lancaster pike, says a Philadelphia paper, and ask for the farm of Pierre Grantaire, to see what can be found nowhere else in the country, and abroad only in a little French village in the Department of the Loire.

Pierre Grantaire furnishes spiders at so much per hundred for distribution in the wine vaults of merchants and nouveau riches. His trade is chiefly with the wholesale merchant, who is able to stock a cellar with new, shining, freshly labelled bottles, and in three months so them veiled with filmy cobwebs, so that the effect of twenty years of storage is secured at a small cost.

The effect upon a customer can be imagined, and it is hardly to be measured in dollars and cents. It is a trifling matter to cover the bins with dust, but to cover them with cobwebs induces a customer to buy.

It is not all kinds of spiders that make webs suitable for the purpose of wine merchants, and those selected by Mr. Grantaire are species that weave fine, large ones of lines and circles. They are the only webs that look artistic in the wine cellars or on the walls of the Epeira vulgaris and Nephila plumipes.

When Mr. Grantaire has an order from a wine merchant, he places the spiders in small paper boxes, a pair in a box, and ships them in a crate with many holes for the ingress of air. The price asked, \$10 a hundred, well repays the wine merchant, who, at the expenditure of \$40 or \$50, may see his stock of wine for a thousand or more dollars above what he could have obtained for it before the spiders dressed his bottles in the robes of long ago. Mr. Grantaire has on hand, at a time, ten thousand spiders, and young, the eggs of some of which, the choicest, he obtains from France.

When the mother spider wishes to lay her eggs, she makes a small web in a broad crack, then she lays say 50 eggs, which she covers with a soft silk cocoon. In two weeks (or longer in winter) the eggs begin to hatch, an operation that takes one or two days. The egg shells crack off in flakes, and the young spiders have a struggle to emerge. Then they begin to grow, and in a week look like spiders. They often moult, and shed their skins like snakes. The brood has to be separated at a tender age, else the members of the family would devour each other until only one is left.

—The Daughters of St. George will have an interesting programme for their concert at A. O. U. W. hall on Monday evening. James Pilling will sing "Faithless Nell," a song by W. W. Clarke and Ernest Wolff. The Little Four, a quartette chosen from the Juvenile Opera Company, Mrs. Rowlands, Miss Wolf and Mr. Penketh will also appear.

—At the meeting of the Sons of Erin last night T. M. Jones delivered an interesting lecture on "The Soldiers of Early Irish History." It was very interesting. There was also a musical programme, in which Messrs. Lang, Wallis, Flint, McDowell and Prosser took part.

TROUBLED.

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