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LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 28.

THE BEAVER IN CANADIAN HISTORY.

The recent sale by the Ontario Government of several hundred pelts of fur-bearing animals reared and caught in Algonquin Park is of more than passing interest. All but two dozen of these were beaver furs, and the price they brought was over $2,700. The former Ontario Government stocked the park with beaver a number of years ago, and the present Government is protecting and encouraging the beaver industry. It has been found that the animals multiply so rapidly that it will be possible to hold annual sales without diminishing the supply.

The beaver has played an important part in the history of this country. During the French regime, the fur trade was Canada's chief industry, and the beaver was chief among the furs. According to Parkman, it absorbed the enterprise of the colony, drained the life-sap from the other branches of commerce, and even more than a vicious system of government kept them in a state of chronic debility. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries Canada exported a moderate quantity of timber, wheat, ginseng and a few other commodities, but from first to last she lived chiefly on beaver skins. The Government tried without ceasing to control and regulate this traffic but it never succeeded. It aimed above all things to bring the trade home to the colonists, to prevent them from going to the Indians, and induce the Indians to come to them. To this end a great annual fair was established by order of the King at Montreal, where every summer a host of savages assembled. The Governor-General was usually present, seated in an arm-chair, while the visitors formed a ring about him, ranged in the order of their tribes. Then trade began, merchants of high and low degree bringing up their goods from Quebec, and every inhabitant of Montreal of any substance seeking a share in the profit. A similar fair was established at Three Rivers for the Algonquin tribes north of that place.

These yearly fairs, however, did not fully answer the desired object. There was a constant tendency among the inhabitants to form settlements above Montreal, in order to intercept the Indians on their way down, drench them with brandy, and get their furs from them at low rates in advance of the fair. Such settlements were forbidden, but not prevented. But this was not all, for the more youthful and vigorous part of the male population soon began to escape into the woods and trade with the Indians far beyond the limits of the remotest settlements. Many of them were in league with the authorities. The home Government, unable to prevent the evil, tried to regulate it by license, but this failed to restrain the young men from a general exodus into the wilderness.

The part played by one Oudiette and his associates was one of the most characteristic features of the fur trade. These men were not only charged with collecting the revenue, but were also vested with an exclusive right of transporting all the beaver skins of the colony to France. On their part they were required to receive all beaver skins brought to their magazines, and after deducting the fourth belonging to the King, to pay for the rest at a fixed price, graduated to the different qualities of the fur; but the average cost to the collectors was a little more than three francs a pound. The inhabitants could barter their furs with merchants, but the merchants must bring them all to the magazines of Oudiette, who paid in receipts convertible into bills of exchange. He soon found himself burdened with such a mass of beaver skins that the market was completely glutted. The French hatters refused to take them all, and for the part which they consented to take they paid chiefly in hats, which Oudiette was not allowed to sell in France, but only in the French West Indies, where but few wanted them. An unlucky fashion of small hats diminished the consumption of fur, and increased his embarrassments, as did also a practice common among the hatters of mixing rabbit fur with the beaver. Oudiette then started a hat factory for himself under the name of a certain licensed hatter, thinking thereby to alarm his customers into buying his stock. The new factory was suppressed by the minister, and Oudiette soon became bankrupt. Another company of farmers of the revenue took his place, with similar results. The action of the law of supply and demand was completely arrested by a peremptory edict, which required the company to take every beaver skin offered. All Canada, thinking itself sure of its price, rushed into the beaver trade, and the accumulation of unsalable furs increased. The farmers of the revenue could not meet their engagements, their bills of exchange were unpaid, and the country was filled with consternation.

In 1700 a change of system was ordered. The monopoly of exporting beaver was placed in the hands of a company formed of leading men of the country. The French market refused to take the furs shipped by this company, and three-fourths of them were burned. In 1707 another company was formed, to whose magazines every habitant or merchant was ordered to bring every beaver skin in his possession within 48 hours, and the company was required to pay for them in written promises. Again, the market was overwhelmed with a surfeit of beaver, and all was confusion and distress. In 1721 the monopoly of exporting beaver skins was given to the new West India Company, and then followed the exodus of all that was most active and vigorous in the colony to the woods. There bush-rangers, or coureurs de bois, were an object of horror to the King, defeating his plans for the increase of the population. They became outlaws, but they were intrepid explorers, and are among the most picturesque figures on the canvas of Canadian history.

It will be seen that there is good reason why the beaver has been made Canada's national emblem. Because it is linked with the early development of the country, the effort to save it from extinction should appeal to Canadian sentiment. It was in danger of becoming only a national remembrance. It may become again a national asset.

"SOCIETY."

Said the Earl of Crewe in a recent address: "The separation of castes in London is carried very far. Hundreds and thousands of well-to-do people never meet with anyone who is not of the same class as themselves." This state of affairs is not so curious in an old country as in a new. In England it has the support of a court, an ancient aristocracy, a state church, a leisure class, and a land system which retains many of the features of feudalism. We have none of these conditions in Canada, but we have our class distinctions. They are not so numerous, so clear-cut, and so easy to define as in the old land, but they are very real, and to many people very comforting. Everyone in this country knows perfectly well what the word "society" implies. In the pioneer days the families that controlled the public affairs of this province for so long, and brought their pride of class from the mother country, were the nucleus of Canadian "society," but today it is on a different basis. It owes little to ancestry, and it is not replenished to any great extent from the other side of the Atlantic, although it assiduously copies the English pattern. It is largely home-made, new-made, and self-made. To try to describe its code and its criteria would be a difficult task, although it might yield some entertainment. In a country where the men, with few exceptions, are engaged in earning their living, and obliged to rub shoulders with all classes, "society" is necessarily a woman's kingdom. It is only the fair sex that can afford to be exclusive. Some day this charmed circle will furnish a theme for a Canadian Thackeray.

THE CROWN AND THE CHURCH.

The coronation oath bars a Methodist, a Presbyterian, a Baptist or a Congregationalist as effectually from the throne as a Roman Catholic.

The oath was framed when the memory of the unfortunate reign of James the Second obsessed the British people. James the Second was a proselytizer on a national scale. His open assault upon the Established Church and his tyrannical effort to restore Catholic supremacy were disapproved even by the Pope, who saw clearly what the result would be, and tried in vain to moderate the King's conduct and policy. The anti-Catholic declarations of the oath grew out of the revolution, and their intolerant character reflected the spirit of the times. Among the adherents of the Established Church feeling ran high against the Nonconformists also, as James had attempted to win Nonconformist support by relaxing the laws against dissenters.

So long as there is a state church in England it is reasonable that the King, as its nominal head, should be required to pledge himself to support it. But this necessity is an argument for disestablishment on imperial grounds. When the oath was framed the British Empire was in its infancy, and colonial opinion a negligible quantity. There is no state church in the empire, except in Great Britain, and those outside the pale of the Establishment, who are decidedly a majority of the King's subjects, may be forgiven for feeling that as the crown is the common bond and the common possession of the self-governing British nations, it should not be subjected to a denominational test. The question is not being raised at the present time, but the day will come when the religion of the sovereign will be his own concern. There is no longer any danger that a King of England can subvert a creed or a church as James the Second tried to do.

In the meantime the offensive passages of the oath may be eliminated without in the least prejudicing the Establishment.

"See Canada Grow!" exclaims the New York Herald. The process is visible to the naked eye.

British trade is breaking all records, and at the same time demolishing the arguments against the budget.

Our local contemporary is judging other newspapers by itself. Why not be just and fair?

Another scientist claims to have perfected the storage battery. Isn't that story an infringement of Edison's patent?

The evils of the patronage system are demonstrated anew. See how it has come between Mr. Beck and his newspaper organ!

Middlesex is maintaining her reputation as the premier county. She gave Premiers Blake and Ross to Ontario, and Scott to Saskatchewan. And now one of her boys has been called to the premiership of Alberta.

Even the comet, popularly regarded as a celestial vagrant, testifies to the reign of law. Astronomers know where it is going and when it will return. This is more than can be affirmed of some men by their wives.

A 22-knot and 22,000-ton boat has been ordered for the St. Lawrence-Liverpool route, and by a Canadian firm. The development of Canada has had no more phenomenal feature in the past five years than the growth of the Atlantic steamship service.

It is not often that a Canadian judge has been or will be induced to leave the security and emoluments of the bench for the hurly-burly of politics. Those who pretend to fear for the integrity of the judiciary on this ground are drawing upon their imagination. As a rule lawyers are anxious to leave politics for the bench.

A DOUBT.
[Baltimore American.]

Husband—I suppose you think you are one of those women who never did a foolish thing in their lives?

Wife—Oh, no; I couldn't think that. I married you.

AN EXPERT AT THE GAME.
[Boston Transcript.]

She—My chaperon can't see a thing without her glasses, and now she's mislaid them.

He (chuckling)—S-sh! Don't say anything! I've got them in my pocket.

HOW AND WHAT THEY WEAR.
[Cleveland Leader.]

Man (fatuously)—Blondes, I find, don't wear well.

Brunette (indulgently)—Oh, well, the poor things probably wear the best they have.

HONESTY REWARDED.
[Milwaukee Journal.]

Does honesty in politics pay? It does, in Canada.

Look what has happened to W. S. Fielding, next to Sir Wilfrid Laurier the biggest man in the Liberal party in the Dominion. What happened to him? Oh, nothing—only the presentation of a purse of $120,000, made up by members of the party who think he is splendid.

Nothing approaching the magnitude of this popular testimonial has been seen on this continent since the presentation of a house and lot to Admiral Dewey. And the Canadian personage's achievements were in peace, not war, making the gift the more noteworthy in that it was made in cold blood.

In the last fourteen years Fielding has been minister of finance of the Dominion. He has always been a modest, untiring worker, and is one of the men who have not become rich in public life in Canada. He need not fear the wolf at the door now.

Fielding is a Nova Scotia newspaper man. By merit he worked himself up to the head of the Government of his Province. Premier Laurier claimed him for the cabinet, where he has rendered conspicuous service not alone to his party but to the whole country, and has become known as much for his integrity as for his ability.

A PROVERB REVISED.
[Life.]

Some are born good, some make good and others are caught with the goods.

THE WORTH OF HIS MONEY.
[Punch.]

Better Half—Sam'l thou old villain, I do believe thou be drunk.

Prodigal (contentedly)—Well, if I be'unt I ha' wayasted three boab!

MATTER OF YEARS.
[Chicago News.]

Knox—Popleigh doesn't brag about that bright boy of his any more.

Blox—Has he ceased to be bright?

Knox—Not exactly. He says about the same sort of things as formerly, but he's got to the age were they are saucy.

UNDER WHICH GEORGE?
[Toronto World.]

The question once more before England is whether the country will be governed by Lloyd George or by unalloyed George.

PREACHING VS. PRACTICE.
[Winnipeg Telegram.]

A heap of very respectable citizens are hoping the Johnson-Jeffries fight may be prevented, but as evidence of the good faith let some of them grab a newspaper to read the result of the mill.

A GOOD MAN.
[Kingston Standard.]

By the appointment of Br. G. H. Perley, M.P., as chief Conservative whip, the Conservative party has moved up a strong, clean man, and a good fighter. The party is surely coming into its own.

PLEASED ALL AROUND.
[Edmonton Bulletin.]

The R. N. W. M. P. are to remain the constabulary force of Alberta for another five years. This is good news. It would be better news if the arrangement were for fifty years instead of five.

THE WASTE OF CHILD LIFE.
[Dr. Christopher Addison, M.P.]

If we thought of the mortality in the South African war, and put it beside the infant death rate, we would find that more children were lost under the age of three every year than there were lives of men lost in South Africa.

DO THEY NEED A RIDE?
[Hensall Observer.]

The new water wagon is doing good work. Would advise some of our citizens to climb on to it.

PRESERVE REMEMBRANCE.
[Judge's Library.]

"Since I've come back I find that I'm forgotten by all my friends."

"Why didn't you borrow money off them before you went away?"

BEATEN DOWN.
[Puck.]

The way of the transgressor is hard, of course. It is so thoroughly and persistently travelled.

GIVING UP.
[Puck.]

It requires something of a hero to give up when he is wrong, and a good deal of a family man to give up when he is right.

HABIT.
[Detroit Free Press.]

"What induced you to become a poet?" asked the inquisitive neighbor.

"I wasn't induced, madam," replied the bard. "I just fell into it."

VALUED IN COIN.
[Boston Transcript.]

Train Passenger (to porter who is wielding whisk)—Much dust on me, porter?"

Porter—'Bout fifty cents wuth, sah.

BETTER STILL.
[Baltimore American.]

"They tell me, Sally, you are a good laundress. Now, do you do your washing with avidity?"

"No, I don't, ma'am. I uses a good brand of soap."

RELIEF.
[Louisville Courier-Journal.]

"The doctor prescribes close attention to business."

"Why is that?"

"He says I positively must have some relaxation from this baseball strain."

ROUGH ON TORONTO.
[Hamilton Spectator.]

Toronto society is complaining because it will not see much of Gen. French. What is society's loss in this case will be the general's gain.

ACCUSTOMED TO HONORS.
[Toronto Telegram.]

No, the crown of England did not come to a prince unaccustomed to the highest of earthly honors, George V. being already an LL.D. of Toronto, Queen's and McGill.

HIS GAME.
[Washington Herald.]

"Some say there is a sucker born every minute."

"I don't know anything about that," responded the eminent trust magnate, "nor do I care, so long as the birth rate of ultimate consumers remains as satisfactory as it is."

THE NIAGARA "JUICE" FOR THE DETROITER

Company Formed to Carry Out Project by Way of Windsor.

Windsor, May 28.—Notwithstanding the declaration of Hon. Adam Beck, Premier Whitney's "power minister," that under no circumstances will the exportation of Niagara power be permitted, a well-formed plan is under way to bring the "juice" into Detroit.

Indeed, so far have the promoters succeeded in their operations that a company has actually been formed to carry the undertaking to a successful termination. The officers of this company, according to information in the possession of one of the most prominent Conservatives in the city, are: William C. Kennedy, president of the Windsor Gas Company; John Davis, formerly inspector of inland revenue, and now retired; George M. Hendrie, of Hamilton; M. J. Dee, of Detroit; Oscar E. Fleming, of the law firm of Fleming & Drake, and defeated Conservative candidate at the last provincial election.

The plan of the company, as understood by well-informed politicians here, is to take the power via the new Michigan Central tunnel, into Detroit, where arrangements have already been concluded to dispose of as much of it as may be procurable. The syndicate members are planning, it is said, to purchase the power at Windsor, and then dispose of it at a satisfactory profit through the medium of the tunnnel company.

RAIL BILL HELD UP

Telegraph and Phones To Be Put Under President Taft's Commission.

Washington, May 28.—At the last moment before reaching the point of voting on the railroad bill today, the senate took the important step of adding an amendment, placing interstate telegraph and telephone lines under the supervision of the interstate commerce commission. This action was followed by an effort to restore a portion of section 12, affecting mergers, which heretofore was voted out.

Both provisions were introduced so suddenly as to surprise the senate, and the latter was considered so important that rather than vote on it without more consideration than it was able to give the senate took an adjournment until tomorrow.

The action of the senate on telegraph and telephone companies insures their inclusion in some form in the proposed law, as the subject is covered in the house bill.

The suggestion for the inclusion of telegraph and telephone companies within the control of the interstate commerce commission was made by Senator Dixon, of Montana, but ultimately his amendment was superseded by one in simpler form which was offered by Senator La Follette, of Wisconsin.

The senate reached the voting stage at 4 o'clock, after an animated debate, which was carried on largely on the Democratic side of the chamber, and which dealt especially with the question as to whether the Dolliver amendment regulating the stock and bond issues of railroads was in accordance with the last Democratic platform.

It had been supposed that action on the Dolliver provision would be followed by votes on the physical valuation amendment offered by Mr. La Follette and the national incorporation amendment of Senator Newlands.

FIRE AND WATER

Runaway Horse With Wagon Ablaze Plunges Into Canal.

Ottawa, May 27.—A runaway horse hitched to a blazing popcorn wagon, heading down Nicholas street and plunging into the Rideau Canal, a mile away, with flames of burning gasoline from an exploded gasoline tank spouting high in the air behind the terrified animal, provided an exciting spectacle for residents of Ottawa East tonight. The gasoline tank exploded as the driver was peddling popcorn in front of his wagon on Nicholas street. With the wagon ablaze and spots of burning gasoline covering the horse, the frenzied animal bolted down the street turned into Echo Drive, and at the end of a mile run plunged into the Rideau Canal to escape the flames. Humane Inspector Lemoine, with the assistance of a crowd of spectators, succeeded in getting the horse, still hitched to the charred remnants of the wagon, ashore. The animal, though severely burned, came through the perils of flood and fire without fatal injuries.

Kingsmill's

Make Your Porch Comfortable

These warm days (and it will be warmer ere long) make your porch or verandah a cool, comfortable, cosy place to sit. The items mentioned below will add greatly to the "verandah comforts" during the next few months. ANNIVERSARY SALE PRICES PREVAIL.

Verandah Shades

These prices will prove interesting, doubly so because they come at this wanted time.

Size	Regular	Anniversary Sale
5x6 feet	$1.00	59¢
6x6 feet	$1.25	69¢
5x8 feet	$1.50	78¢
7x8 feet	$2.00	99¢
8x10 feet	$2.50	$1.19

COMPARE OUR PRICES.

American Awning Cloth

We have it. The colors are absolutely fast, and at this ordinary price the superior quality of this cloth will surprise you. All 36 inches wide; in plains and stripes of reds, greens and blues. ANNIVERSARY SALE PRICE, yard ..... 30¢

Japanese Mattings
FOR THE FLOORS

Dozens and dozens of designs in plain colors and browns, greens, blues, reds, etc; all 36 inches wide. ANNIVERSARY SALE PRICE, per yard ..... 18¢

COCOA MATTINGS IN ALL WIDTHS, per square yard ..... 60¢

Moravian Reversible Rugs
JUST RECEIVED

Many have been waiting for these. The designs were never better and they are excellent for wear. Note these special prices:

Size.	Anniversary Sale Price.
16x32 inches	30¢
22x44 inches	65¢
36x65 inches	$1.50
3x9 feet	$2.50
3x15 feet	$3.90

AS OUR SUPPLY IS LIMITED WE WOULD ADVISE YOU TO BUY NOW.

Anniversary Sale Prices on Carpets, Rugs, Linoleums and Curtains. Investigate.

MAIL ORDERS FILLED.

Kingsmill's

A GREAT WAR IS ON IN THE BALKAN WILDS

Albanians Battling to Establish a Monarchy of Their Own.

Belgrade, May 28. — Never has there been a European war so effectively veiled from the gaze of the public, from the eyes of journalism, as that which, for over a month, has been going on in the mountains of Albania. The reasons for this obscurity are twofold: The important bearing that the conflict has on Balkan history, with its tense ramifications in the Chancelleries of Vienna, Constantinople, St. Petersburg, Paris and London, and the inaccessibility of the country in which hostilities are developing.

To judge from the notes published in the official press of Constantinople and Vienna, the affair is merely a native insurrection against the Turkish Government. This is not the fact. The real project of the Albanians is to declare their independence of Turkey, to secure it by force of arms, to establish a monarchy, and to place Prince Albert Ghika on the ancient and long-vacated throne of Epirus.

To show how untrustworthy are the official dispatches, it is only necessary to relate that on May 11, it was officially reported that 1,200 Turks had swept the valley of the Morava free of Albanians and had pacified Ghilan, losing only twenty-four killed and wounded, while the fatalities among the rebels amounted to 200. Added to this dispatch was the information, imparted in Constantinople, that the insurrection was at an end and that the authorities were merely concerned with measures for disarming the inhabitants. As a matter of fact, 5,000 Turks and 1,000 Albanians were concerned in the Morava Valley affair and Ghilan is still in the hands of the rebels.

As to troops being operated by the Turkish Government, they number 30,000 if not 50,000, and the entire fighting strength of the opposing Albanians is 10,000 or 12,000. The Turkish troops are operating in three columns, with Shefket Pasha on the right, Shefket Turgut in the centre, and so far they have only succeeded in penetrating a short distance through the Katchanik Pass, about which the main strength of the enemy is concentrated. The entire area of insurrection in Albania extends from Vuchitirn to the Katchanik Pass, and from Djakeva and Ipek to Ghilan and the Upper Morava Valley. The severest fighting occurred in the Katchanik Pass, through which the railway runs from Uskub to Mitrovitza. Here the Albanians withstood the Turkish troops for some days, but have now been driven back. Efforts are now being made to dislodge them from the Tchernolova Pass, which commands the road from Ferisovitch to Prizrend.

A touch of rheumatism, or a twinge of neuralgia, whatever the trouble is, Chamberlain's Liniment drives away the pain at once and cures the complaint quickly. First application gives relief. Sold by all dealers. 5

The Best Wedding Gift

The proper gift from the father and mother to the bride is a piano. For the sake of permanent satisfaction, for the sake of beauty, durability and tone value, the instrument selected should be a

NORDHEIMER PIANO

This is the piano that has won its way to the front by sheer merit. Its construction contains the most perfect principles for the production of tone, and its success has given it the name of Canada's "Quality Tone" Piano.

These pianos are described in a booklet which we will be pleased to send you.

The Nordheimer Piano & Music Co., Ltd.

J. J. CALLAGHAN, London, Manager, 188 Dundas Street.

BOYS ARM BLOWN OFF BY POCKET EXPLOSION

Was Igniting Firecracker When Flame Touched Powder in Pocket.

Toronto, May 28.—An accident which may result fatally, and in which three people were injured, happened last night shortly after 8 o'clock on McCaul street, just above Grange road. There seems to be no doubt that the occurrence was purely accidental, but the circumstances surrounding it have given the police ground for an investigation.

The cause of the accident was an explosion of some unknown substance in the pocket of a fourteen-year-old boy, who was walking down McCaul street with a companion eleven years of age. According to some witnesses he had a firecracker in his hand and in his attempt to light it the flame from the match ignited the powder in his pocket and caused the explosion.

The injured are:

Frank Barsottie, aged 14, of No. 85 D'Arcy street.

Stewart Plant, aged 11, of No. 157 Beverley street.

Miss Maud Barnett, of 249 Queen street west.

Young Barsottie had his right arm so badly shattered that amputation below the elbow will be necessary. Besides that he has a bad wound on the right thigh just below the hip and is suffering greatly from shock. Plant was injured about the face and head principally, and it is feared that his eyes are affected. He also has a fracture of the right arm sustained through his fall after the explosion. Miss Barnett had her right hip wounded, but is suffering principally from shock. The two boys are in the Sick Children's Hospital, and Miss Barnett is in Grace Hospital.

THE PHENOMENA DUE TO HALLEY'S COMET

Fogs, Floods, Hailstorms and Topsyturvy Atmospheric Conditions Ascribed to the Celestial Tramp.

Rome, May 27. Spring weather is still practically unknown in Italy this year and low temperatures prevail even in the south, where, as a rule, the summer heat sets in with the month of May. Italian astronomers and meteorologists deny that the present abnormal atmospheric conditions are due to Halley's comet, but the public generally is inclined to a contrary opinion and the following table has been drawn up of phenomena which have accompanied its appearances:

1066—Fogs throughout the world and a pestilence in Germany.

1145—Floods and storms in France and Germany, famine in Austria and scarcity in Germany.

1222—Heavy hailstorms in Germany, a great earthquake in the Rhein Provinces and in northern Italy. The city of Brescia destroyed. A violent eruption of Etna. Heavy fogs.

1301—Mild winter, famine and plague in Germany.

1378—Bitter and long winter, wet summer and famine.

1456—Summer and autumn very wet, hot and stormy summer. Great earthquake in Italy, when over 70,000 persons were killed.

1531—Floods during summer, tidal wave in Flanders, great scarcity and famine in southern Europe.

1607—Mild winter in Europe with the exception of England, where it was very severe. Floods during spring. Great storms. Aurora borealis and eruption of Etna.

1682—Hot rains during January and floods in Germany and Holland. Stormy year. Water famine in Spain. Heavy fogs. Earthquake in Peru. Eruption of Vesuvius.

1759—Very mild weather and exceptionally hot summer. Eruption of Vesuvius. Violent earthquake in Turkey and in northern Europe.

1835—Very cold spring, especially in Sicily and Rome, also in southern France. Earthquakes in Asia Minor.