

## What the World is Saying.

### Canadians as Letter writers.

The people of Canada wrote 456,085,000 letters last year, and no doubt some of them were sorry afterwards.—Ottawa Free Press.

### The Controllers of the Voters.

There are now five States in which the women vote. In the others they merely control the voters.—Los Angeles Herald.

### All the Traffic will Stand.

So Count de Lesseps is really to marry Sir William Mackenzie's daughter. Well, Bill can give them enough to keep on with their high flying.—Lethbridge News.

### Should be Able to Worry Along.

A New York woman gives her opinion that her daughter should be able to live on \$20,000 a year. The cost of living in New York is evidently moderating.—Buffalo Express.

### A Bad Combination.

Whiskey and firearms make a bad combination. Both could well be dispensed with by Hamilton's foreign settlement.—Hamilton Spectator.

### Independents no Longer Cranks.

A few years ago the cranks were independents. Nowadays the definition of a crank is a man who stays with his party through thick and thin.—Chicago Tribune.

### The Hat Pin as a Weapon.

As an Ottawa girl recently demonstrated, a hat-pin, in the hands of a determined lady, is assuredly a terrific weapon.—Peterboro Examiner.

### Would be a Curiosity.

The Governor of South Australia has declined an increase in salary, which fact among Canadian politicians would render him a rare curiosity.—Montreal Gazette.

### A Prediction.

Before 1920, the four provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia will have a population of at least 10,000,000.—New York Commercial.

### Calling for Homeless Children.

There are three open homes calling for homeless children to every homeless child in the Province of Alberta. No child endowed with average intelligence and a normal body need remain homeless in this country.—Calgary Herald.

### Not a Very Useful Body.

The Senate has adjourned until January 21, owing to lack of work. What can a suffering country do in the way of finding work for an august body that is physically incapable of sawing wood or shoveling snow and such like chores, and is otherwise incapable of undertaking higher and more useful labors?—Toronto Telegram.

### Weather Insurance for Fairs.

An act is to be introduced at the coming session of the Ontario Legislature to insure agricultural exhibitions against loss by bad weather. The appropriation will be classified in the estimates in aid of the fair and a protection against the foul.—Regina Leader.

### A Possibility in Russia.

A writer who has studied Russia has said that it is quite possible that the Russians of fifty years hence may revive Tolstism as a religious cult, with a mythical figure of Tolstoi in the background, and around his name a great tangle of traditions which the man himself would regard with horror.—Toronto Globe.

### Talk at \$25 per Minute.

The time of the Commons costs the country some \$25 per minute session. The discussion of that thirty line Le Devoir article took an hour and a half. With this data it ought to be easy to figure just what a column of Le Devoir's Government criticism costs the Dominion of Canada.—Ottawa Evening Journal.

### Truth Cheaper Than Fiction.

Dr. Cook, when he wrote a lie about the Pole, made \$100,000. Now when he is prepared to tell the truth—perhaps—he gets but a thousand dollars. Which proves that, while truth is stranger than fiction, it is also cheaper, this being one case where the price is not governed by the law of supply and demand.—St. John Telegraph.

### Looking Forward in Toronto.

Some Toronto people seem to think it is absurd to talk of having a million of a population in the city in twenty years. In London, with its seven and a half millions, they are preparing for a population of ten millions in the next twenty years. In all this huge gathering the care for health conditions is such that the death rate is only a trifle over fifteen per thousand.—Montreal Herald.

### Revolvers Too Plentiful.

A man arrested recently by the local police, and found to have a loaded revolver in his possession, had twelve dollars added to his other fine. Good. If the illegal carrying of firearms were treated thus severely every time an instance comes to the authorities' notice, perhaps the didn't-know-it-was-loaded and shooting-scape incidents would in time become less.—Toronto News.

### Jerusalem Being Improved.

Jerusalem is being rapidly modernized. Water-works, sewers, electric lights, telephones and other conveniences of a modern city are being established. The scribes will turn their attention to real estate, the money changers will open brokers' offices, and the Pharisees will not overlook any municipal franchises. Palestine will be reclaimed, but Milton's dream of Paradise regained remains a futurity.—New York Sun.

### Reasons and Reasons.

Several reasons are offered by the big Chicago packers for the material reduction in the price of their products. A reason not advanced, but which, in all probability, had considerable to do with the step, is the desire to head off an expected material reduction in the protective tariff governing these products on the part of the newly-elected Democratic Congress.—Duluth Herald.

### "Canadians for Canada."

The mayor of Ottawa has said a good thing. He may say many good things, but history has not recorded them. What we are now thinking of is his statement that the old cry of "Canada for Canadians" should give place to "Canadians for Canada." This is an exceedingly happy phrase, and we all ought to paste it in our hats, and then, perhaps, it will filter into our brains. "Canadians for Canada." So say we all of us. So say we all.—Victoria Times.

### A Last Resort in China.

The burning of mission stations in China is becoming too common a means of expressing dissatisfaction with the government. "The taxes are too high; come out and let us hunt the missionaries," seems to be rather illogical, but the peasants know that the destruction of missions makes more trouble for the authorities than anything else they can do.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

### The Russian Government's Methods.

Five St. Petersburg papers have been suspended for having printed a speech made in the Duma in which the cruelties of the Russian police were severely denounced. This sort of treatment of newspapers used to be common in St. Petersburg under a former regime. It looks like going backward to have it reported as becoming again common. The Russians have not learned all that is required in connection with the operation of representative institutions.—Ottawa Citizen.

### Danish Injustice.

Alberti, ex-Minister of Justice in the government at Copenhagen, has been sentenced to eight years' imprisonment for having committed frauds to the loss of the public. In Denmark the law seems to be in hands strong enough to secure that the strongest shall be punished when he goes wrong. Not many countries are likely to have in such a position as the ministry of justice a statesman who will abuse his trust in a financial way, and they are still fewer, it is to be feared, in which justice would be so rigidly done.—Vancouver Province.

### The Future of Canada.

Viscount Hill says the future of Canada is assured. We should have thought it would not have been necessary to visit this country to make a wise remark such as that. Considering that the best Canadian securities sell at practically the same price as consols, and that the shrewdest of British investors are sending their money here, it is plain that the future of Canada was assured long before the Viscount came here. At the same time it was very nice of the British nobleman to be polite about it.—Monetary Times.

### Toy Babies.

We notice in an American paper that American women—society women especially—are taking to the nursing of toy babies. The new toy, which is known as the Bisque baby, had its origin in Paris, of course, and is designed as a doll for grown-ups. It is said to be most properly displayed at receptions and automobile parties. "When brought into the domestic circle, judiciously wrapped in a blanket and correctly cradled in a motherly arm, it produces an undeniable impression." No doubt it will help to serve the purpose of keeping alive some traces of the maternal instinct in fashionable circles where children are unfashionable.—Toronto Star.

### A Subject to Argue About.

The Ottawa Citizen says "there were monarchies before republics were ever heard of." Is our contemporary quite sure about this? As a matter of fact we do not suppose that any one knows what was the first form of government. Possibly some prehistoric wielder of a big stick pounded his fellow cave-men into submission to his autocratic rule; but possibly also, a lot of our remote ancestors got together and chose one of their number for a boss. This would be a good subject for discussion on alternate days with the sanitary condition of Timbuctoo, or the effect of Halley's comet upon politics in the United Kingdom.—Hamilton Times.

### The Lash for Wife-beaters.

We know, by the experience of communities in which it is used, that the lash is an excellent deterrent for just such offences as wife-beating. It will carry conviction to a man whom no argument is able to reach. It will remain in his memory when the amount of his last fine has been entirely forgotten. It will help him to stay his hand when the thoughts of former jail sentences are only incentives. True, the lash is not a refined argument, but neither has the wife-beater a refined mind or refined feelings. We must adapt our form of reasoning to the intellectual and moral capabilities of those whom we wish to convince. As soon as brutes cease to exist in any community, we may revert to other than brutal methods.—Kingston Whig.

### In Regard to Northern Canada.

There are vast areas in Canada of which even the Government has no definite knowledge, and there are thousands of square miles where the foot of a white man has never trod. Practically all knowledge of this big, wild country has been secured again and again along a few chosen and well-worn routes outside of which investigation has seldom gone.—Leslie's Weekly.

This is a mistaken though frequent impression. Hudson Bay trappers and others have traversed almost every hundred square miles of the northern country, although these men are not the kind that add much to systematized and scientific information about the wilds. But discoveries of lakes as large as Superior, as was recently announced from the Barrens, are absolutely impossible now. Northern Canada has been too well travelled for that.—Saskatoon Phoenix.

### An African King to Go to London.

The King of Barotseland, who once nearly worried a high British official, Lord Selbourne, to death, by presenting him with a tame hippopotamus, several lions and much smaller game, all of which etiquette forced him to keep, is to be present at the coming British coronation. Some fact will have to be exercised by British officialdom when this and other dusky monarchs arrive in London next June, or King George will find himself saddled with an entire African menagerie, like the king in the opera who was presented with a white elephant. Just the same, it is the presence of men like the Barotseland monarch and his army contingent that will give the pageant its picturesque value, and its educative force as a lesson upon the vastness and cosmopolitanism of the British Empire.—Victoria Colonist.