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FROM LAKE TO LAKE

A MAGNIFICENT STRETCH OF PARKS AND AVENUES.

Along the Niagara River From Lake Erie to Lake Ontario—An Important Announcement Made by Chairman Langmuir, of the Niagara Falls Park Commission, on the Occasion of the American Commissioners' Visit.

On the occasion the other day of the visit of the Park and Outdoor Association's visit to Niagara Falls, including the American Park Commissioners, Chairman Langmuir of the Canadian Niagara Falls Park Commission delivered an important speech, in which he said in part:

The luncheon over, Mr. Langmuir bade the guests welcome in the name of the commission, and said they had done a great deal of good. He welcomed the American commissioners and regretted that they did not see them often. He had been set down for a paper before the association, so he would take this opportunity of reviewing the history of the park on the Canadian side of the river, more especially as its financial basis differed from that of any other park in the association. The State of New York had purchased the lands for their reservation and also made an annual appropriation for improvements and general maintenance, thus relieving the commissioners of all financial anxiety. New York's action stimulated public opinion on this side, but, the Dominion refusing to act, it was not until 1885 that three commissioners were appointed by the Province, of whom he regretted he was the only survivor, to select and appraise lands for a Provincial park. The area was consequently limited to the strip lying along the river from the Clifton House, one mile south. Nature had, however, defined a wider area for park purposes, and on the commissioners' recommendation the strip was widened to the bluff and lengthened to two and one-half miles, debentures for \$600,000 being issued to pay the cost. The whole expenditure to be met by the commission then reached \$40,000 per annum. To meet this an admission fee was at first proposed, but fortunately abandoned. The alternative chosen was to grant franchises, and against the objections raised he confidently asserted that no violence would be done to the most advanced aesthetic taste. First an electric railway was permitted, at a rental of \$10,000 per annum. This was a vital necessity to enable the public to view the scenic grandeur. Another franchise for a similar amount was granted for supplying meals and taking photographs. The third class was franchises for the generation and transmission of electrical power, which now brought in \$60,000, and which would be increased to about a quarter of a million when the various plants were completed.

Apart from the question of whether the commissioners could thereby be charged with desecrating the sacred grounds committed to their care, he admitted they and the Government of Ontario could not reasonably ignore the imperious demand of public sentiment throughout the country, that the waters of the Niagara River should be in part utilized to develop power for commercial purposes. The sites granted for these power plants were distinctly outside the territory which was originally intended to be expropriated for park purposes. Had however, that property not been expropriated, it would long ago have been converted into a manufacturing district overlooking the park, with all the defacement and other objections incident to such surroundings. Instead of that there would be plans, approved in every detail by the commissioners, for the greatest electrical development in the world, especially designed to do the least possible violence to the environment of the great cataract.

"And now, in conclusion," said Mr. Langmuir, "will you permit me to venture to take an outlook into the future, the near future, I hope, and picture in your mind's eye the completion of all the plans and projects of the Park Commissioners on the Canadian side of the river. It is doubtless known to some of you, at least, that the river bank from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario is vested in the commission. This reserve, now in the process of being made the full width of 66 feet at all points, will be completed, the bank of the river freed from erosion by the construction of an electric railway on the shore line from Fort Erie to the park, a well-constructed and well-kept road, ornamented with shade trees along the entire bank of the river, forming an avenue to Queen Victoria Park. Within the park the works of construction in connection with power plants completed, with only two artistically designed power buildings in sight. The river bank along the upper falls, the Dufferin Islands, and the entire grounds above the Falls restored and beautified to correspond with the finished portion of the park overlooking the cataract. The unsightly buildings overlooking the Falls, in one of which we are now sitting, torn down, and a fine, artistic structure for shelter and refectory purposes erected, and the whole of the grounds roads and walks in the park brought up to the highest standard of aesthetic taste. Then, passing from the park surrounding the Falls to the lower gorge of the river, with its magnificent grandeur from the base of the cataract until its majestic banks and rushing waters merge into the quiet scenery of the lower river, we come to the Niagara Glen, immediately north of the whirlpool, comprising 100 acres of territory, unique in its unrivalled and primitive wilderness, which by the construction of roads, walks and means of access will have become one of the most fascinating resorts in the gorge, as well as a very paradise for botanists. The Queenston Heights Park, with its grand panoramic views, will

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be completed and restored, from the historic monument on the summit to the shores of the river below, with the whole river gorge, from the Falls to Queenston, improved and restored and its magnificent views and vistas opened up. In fine, the whole shore of the Niagara River, from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario, will be restored and converted into one continued series of avenues and parks for the recreation and enjoyment of the millions of overworked and tired humanity, where they can come for a time from the turmoil and toil of their busy and wearing lives to this mecca of peace and quietness, to commune with the majesty of nature and the eternal.

SIR EDWARD LAWSON, BART.

Commenced His Active Journalistic Career in 1857.

Sir Edward Lawson, Bart., whose pedigree is, as The Times says, the reward of The Daily Telegraph's "unswerving fidelity to the Government of Lord Salisbury and Mr. Balfour," is the son of the late Mr. J. M. Levy, J.P., one of the founders of the cheap press, and was born in 1833. In 1875 he assumed by royal license the name of his uncle, the late Mr. Lionel Lawson. Commencing his active career of journalism in 1857, he was prominently connected with the repeal of the paper duties, and during the long period of his direction of The Daily Telegraph was responsible for the organization and success of funds in relief of the cotton famine in Lancashire, 1860-65, and of the windows and orphanages of our soldiers and sailors in the South African war, the last amounting to over £250,000. Sir Edward was the late George Smith on the Assyrian research expedition of 1874-7, the results of which he presented to the British Museum, and Mr. (now Sir) Harry Johnston to explore the Kilimanjaro region of eastern Africa in 1884. In conjunction with the proprietor of The New York Herald, he organized Mr. (now Sir Henry) Stanley's great journey across Africa, 1874-7, where the Congo was discovered. Sir Edward married, in 1862, Harriette Georgiana (who died in 1897), only daughter of Mr. Benjamin Webster, and his elder son is Mr. Harry Lawson, 1st Lt.-Col. commanding the Royal Bucks Hussars, and formerly M.P. for West St. Pancras and East Gloucestershire, who has latterly exchanged a once vigorous Radicalism for political views more consonant with the hereditary principle.

Natural Sequence.

Miss Thirty-odd—Softly had the audacity to propose to me last evening. Miss Twenty-odd—Indeed! And when is the wedding to take place?—Illustrated Bits.

A Cat's Care of a Squirrel.

A queer case of feline affection was witnessed at Charles Tumbly's last week, says The Mirror. Review. A little squirrel, whose mother had been killed, strayed into a box where an old cat had her brood of kittens. Instead of, as is usually the case, being instantly killed by the old cat, the strange little visitor was affectionately adopted into the kitten family, and was fed and protected by the cat for a week until it strayed away and was lost.

EIGHT YEARS OF MISERY

What Maurice Best Might Have Avoided if he Had Started to Use Dodd's Dyspepsia Tablets Right at the Start.

Maurice Best, of Southern Harbor, Nfld., suffered torture for eight years simply because he would not believe that Dodd's Dyspepsia Tablets would cure him. He says: "In 1882 I was attacked with Dyspepsia. I was in continual misery for eight years. Sometimes I would go off in a faint and for ten minutes I would be more dead than alive. Doctors could not cure me and gave me but little help."

Then it occurred to Mr. Best that it would not hurt him to try Dodd's Dyspepsia Tablets. He did so and this is what he says of the result: "The first two boxes I used gave me new life. I kept on using them and was soon a new man. I can't say enough in their favor." Why don't you try Dodd's Dyspepsia Tablets?

THE HORROR OF CATS

NEW DISEASE OF THE NERVES DISCOVERED BY S. WEIR MITCHELL.

Napoleon I. and Lord Roberts Conspicuously Suffered From It—General Discussion of Curious Malady Invited—Is There a Racial Similarity of Snakes With Cats?—Horror to Afflicted Is Alike.

The announcement by Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, Philadelphia's well known neurologist and novelist, of the discovery of a disease of the nervous system which he somewhat unscientifically terms "cat fear" has been regarded by the majority of laymen about the light of a joke. However, Dr. Mitchell does not so consider it, and he has asked for testimony on the subject of this curious malady from any one who has seen it manifested. He believes that a sober discussion of "cat fear" will develop valuable theories concerning a nervous affection which, while not at all fatal, does cause great unhappiness to those who suffer from it.

The feeling of repulsion which almost every white man experiences when he sees a snake is not more reasonable than the repugnance which a smaller number of persons feel toward cats. That it is not the power to harm which causes this almost universal feeling of repulsion with regard to snakes is shown by the fact that many persons are as deeply affected by the sight of a six-inch grass snake as they would be by that of a boa constrictor. One medical man who has already entered into the discussion of "cat fear" has attempted to prove the racial similarity of snakes and cats, and to this alleged similarity he ascribes the characteristics of the cat we are not much nearer an explanation of the cause of "cat fear." The Biblical theory that the serpent brought about the fall of Adam gives as satisfactory a reason as any that has been assigned for the common horror of snakes.

Cats have from time immemorial been the objects of superstitious regard, and in the days when witches were believed in no witch was authentic without her black cat. Omens in which its, both black and of other colors, were common among the lower classes of nearly every race. Why this should be so is no more to be explained than is the veneration which cats were held by the ancient Egyptians. Their goddess Isis, counterpart of the Greek Diana, was often represented as a cat, and her own city of Bubastis, one of the lower arms of the Nile, has been discovered a vast cat cemetery where the sacred felines of the temples were deposited after death. That place 700,000 Egyptians made annual pilgrimages. There they laid and sold bronze images of the cat goddess, some of which are now in museums in this country.

Women are said to suffer particularly from the horror of cats, and men who have fearfully the utmost physical perils have been known to exhibit signs of extreme fear in the presence of a cat. Many persons object to cats on moral principles and do not like to have them around. Others detest them and drive them from the house. Still others experience so active a feeling of horror as to be unable to look at a cat and almost to faint if one brushes against them.

The extreme type of phobias with those whose nervous organization is so acutely sensitive as to make them feel the presence of a cat in the room is actually seen. In Napoleon I. was this affected. One occasion he was found by a servant shivering in his tent, face blanched to a deadly pall, with great drops of sweat on his forehead and he himself almost in the verge of syncope. In reply to a constant's hasty question he said there was a cat in the tent. No cat was visible to Constant, but a servant revealed the offending animal behind a screen.

Lord Roberts, too, is said to be deathly afraid of cats. It is reported that during one of his actions at a moment when he was standing with his staff in a field of battle he was suddenly served to change color and to play every symptom of actual terror. Presently he pointed to a commissary wagon on which was perched a black cat, and his attention was not restored to consideration of the situation about him until the cat had been chased away.

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