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THE WORLD, TORONTO.

THE TORONTO WORLD

SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 1, 1883.

THE POSTAL TELEGRAPH FOR THE UNITED

Whether the Western Union wire or

losses in the present fight with the

existence as a monopoly is doomed.

A postal telegraph for the great republic

it will be among the certainties are long,

and then the monopoly will be gone. Gould

and Wiman and Eckert have managed to

kill the goose that laid the golden eggs—

for them. This proverbial bird represents

the public patience, now exhausted to

death. Changing the simile, let us

turn to another old proverb. "Let sleeping

dogs lie." Says one version of it, "Dinna

waken sleepin' dogs," says another in the

vernacular of the Scottish lowlands. Had

Gould and his partners been wise, they

would have strangled a point or two—say,

several points—on letting the winds loose

to blow up such a storm as is now agitating

the country. Their wisdom should have

been that of the still sea—keep quiet,

suck and swallow every, and say nothing.

Instead of that they got into a big fight

with the operators, with the result of draw-

ing the eyes of the whole country upon

the Western Union, its easy position and

enormous profits, the very thing they

would have avoided by all possible means.

Before, only a limited number of people

knew the facts of the company's position,

now everybody knows, and all the hidden

things connected with it, which it was

their interest to keep hidden, are being

dragged to light.

The agitation for the government postal

telegraph was pretty strong last session of

congress; but next session it will be irre-

versible. In the senate the demand was

made by Senator Sherman, and in the house

by Senator Sherman and Platt; while in the

house it was pushed by Congressman An-

derson of Kansas. Senator Edmunds then

spoke to the following effect:—

"I beg stock operators in New York not

to suppose that for one man in favor of

buying out any telegraph company any-

where. I am in favor of the United States

building its own postal telegraph and man-

aging it in its own way, and leaving the

gentlemen who are engaged in private pur-

suits to pursue their operations in their own

way as private parties. I do not wish

anybody to take up the idea when I propose

as I hope I shall be able to do if some-

body else does not—at the first session

of the next congress, the initiation of a

the democrats will take good care to let it

as severely as it is possible for them to do.

But both parties will "go for" the

postal telegraph with a vengeance, no

doubt.

The Chicago Tribune, which has come out

squaring and strongly for the government

telegraph, lays down three rules which

ought to be adhered to. First, that the

government construct its own lines, and

have nothing to do with buying or any

company. Second, that it attempt no monop-

opoly, but merely add its own lines to those

already existing; the latter to continue on

as before, if their owners choose. And,

third, that the telegraph be added to the

postal service, just as the parcel post was

two or three years ago. Nor need it take

very long to accomplish this; the bill will

almost certainly be passed next session.

And then, perhaps, Jay Gould may reflect

that it would have been a wise thing for

himself and his colleagues to have "let sleep-

ing dogs lie."

The city, whether it will or no, has to

put up with the disfiguring of streets by the

wires and poles of the telegraph and tele-

graph companies. Their federal charter

gives them the privilege. An electric light

company is now asking leave to erect poles

and wires on our streets, and we see no rea-

son why it should not be granted—there is

no method in making flesh of one and fish

of another. In this age the utilitarian doc-

trine holds sway; and as it can easily be

shown that all these wires are public con-

veniences of the first class, we will have to

put up with their few attendant disadvan-

tages, among which are unsightly poles and

wires. A satisfactory system of under-

ground wires has not yet been devised, and

until it has we must put up with overhead

ones. Another consideration is that the

poles of the electric light company can be

used to carry electric lamps for street light-

ing, thereby enabling the city to remove

the gas lamp-post, which takes up so much

room as a pole.

The Montreal Herald condemns the tele-

graph brotherhood's new company scheme

as visionary and impracticable. That de-

pends, we should say. If the plan first

outlined is shown to be defective it may be

amended; who knows? There are few

kind of business which are in their nature

better adapted than the telegraph business

for being done on the co-operative princi-

ple; and it may be added that there are

large returns on the actual amount of cap-

ital invested and the risk run. There is

good bottom and basis for co-operation in

the telegraph business, if anywhere.

In Ireland agriculture may be good in

certain districts, but there is a falling off

on the whole. The agricultural returns

sent to the registrar-general of Ireland for

1882 show a falling off of eighty thousand

acres, which have relapsed into bog. The

area under crops has decreased 114,089

acres. The decrease of land under fish

cultivation is 34,000 acres. The returns

of potatoes show 1,000,000 tons less than in

1881. Were the country to get a rent from

agriculture, however, a considerable revival

would probably be witnessed. In fact a

revival is even now going on, according to

the very latest accounts.

The following, which appears in an Ot-

tawa despatch, is worthy of more than a

passing share of public attention: As an

evidence of the hold that trust and loan

companies have on the farmers in the county

of Renfrew, Mr. G. W. Monck, M.P.P. for

Carlton, who is an agent for an English

company, says that out of one hundred

farms held by one company they have sold

ninety. These have been principally taken

up by newcomers, who are filling the places

vacated by farmers who got the Manitoba

fever.

It is not generally known that the hand-

ling and transmission of her majesty's

mails is made a special exception in what is

known as the Canadian "statute book as the

Land's day act. So that those who object

to Sunday work in the postoffice here can-

not urge that it is illegal. It always was

intended that the mails should be pushed

through.

Just now the Montrealers are getting

cheap fuel through a fight among the de-

alers. Here the dealers are "solid," and the

price of coal is "solid" too. Buyers can't

budge a cent's worth.

THE MEDICAL FRATERNITY AND

THEIR FEARS.

To the Editor of The World.

Sir: As you have shown a disposition

to be liberal on a previous occasion, I again

appeal to you for space for another com-

munication which the Globe could not find

space for, though its editor expressed him-

self "in full sympathy with me, and was

sorry the overcrowded state of their columns

prevented publication. At the same time

it was presented, their columns being filled

with reports of church conferences and the

usual amount of "sporting intelligence,"

there was no room left for any other sub-

ject. It may be very convenient on the

part of the Globe to give its "sympa-

thy," but a practical illustration of it would

have been more satisfying to those most in-

terested, and would have prevented any

suspicion arising as to the hollowness of its

pretensions to be the friend of the working

man.

The following thoughts were suggested

by the (then) recent meetings of the differ-

ent medical councils held in the city, cou-

pled with a little personal experience with

the doctor:

As a text, an extract from the address of

the president of the Ontario college can be

used where he states, "The object of the

college is not to protect the medical profes-

sion from the competition of non-regular,

but to protect the public from ignorant

practitioners." Now this is certainly a

laudable motive, and if with this had been

added a desire to modify the charges for

"professional services," some benefit to the

public would no doubt have resulted from

their gathering, as there are but very few

persons who do not at some time require

the aid of a physician.

The writer, a journeyman mechanic, in

the course of his ordinary avocation, last

fall had his hand poisoned by the material

used in his daily labor and found it essential

to consult a doctor. To properly illustrate

the purpose of the article it would almost be

necessary to enter into details but so as not

to occupy too much space that can be dis-

posed of by stating that I was the recipient

of a bill amounting to \$12 for "profes-

sional services" which rather surprised

me, as all the attendance and advice was re-

ceived by myself at the doctor's office, no

visit being made to my home, and the

whole time occupied by the doctor upon me,

if put together, probably would not exceed

three or four hours at a farthest. Herein

then lies the difference between the profes-

sion of the doctor and the ordinary profes-

sion of society. To replace the amount of

that bill, or rather rate it (having no funds

or bank account to draw from) it will re-

quire eight days of ten hours each of work,

not hard work, or I may say ninety hours,

as about one hour is occupied in going to

and returning from where I am at present

employed. Now mark the contrast: what

a discrepancy there is. It might be urged

that that does not fairly represent the aver-

age wages received by the best mechanics,

and that I do not have a large number of work-

ing for, and is all that some employers are

willing to give their men. However, take

the very best mechanic in any trade and

paying highest rates paid and the discrep-

ancy for services rendered by professional

gentlemen and the working classes is strik-

ingly apparent. I only regret that the com-

plainting of being overcharged by the individual

referred to here. He was recommended to

me by a physician in high standing in the

town, where I formerly resided as being

"one with a conscience and charge ac-

cordingly, and I had fallen in with some of

those who had a few years back, when

under protest was compelled to pay

\$3 for about five minutes worth of

consultation.

Not objecting then to these gentlemen

receiving so much for their services when

an equivalent is returned, the question

naturally arises, why should we, the toiling

masses, receive comparatively so little

when doing work for them that they can-

not do for themselves, as they are doing

in the construction of the decorating and

beautifying the palatial residences, that the

most of them occupy. This is a problem

for Mr. Gould and his partners to solve.

And not thought presents itself on reading

the proceedings of the council as reported.

The committee on medical education, among

other things, expressed its disapprobation of

"consultation with homoeopathic practition-

ers." The president in his address admits

the "relations" of the homoeopaths to the

profession, and the fact that homoeopaths

are successful in the treatment of

diseases, the poor patient yield to the regu-

lar treatment, because the trial of other

methods is prohibited, though there are

indications in the city where such cases

as the above have been treated success-

fully by the homoeopaths.

By the ordinary method, having, I

presume, exhausted his skill and all the

knowledge that the "regular" have at the

command, as laid down by the school, he

brings the sufferer to the association to

"ask its opinion" what he shall do.

With the case, though "the first

business of the physician," the president

assures us, "is to save life rather than to