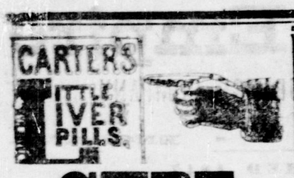

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NEW YORK CITY

The Free Press,

LONDON, ONT.

Thursday, November 3, 1887.

THE AMALGAMATED PREMIERS

The self appointed conference held at Quebec, at which Mr. Mercier and Mr. Mowat were the principal figures, has not yet given to the public the results of its deliberations. It is common rumor, however, that certain resolutions were sketched out which are to be submitted to the provincial legislatures for their approval, to form the basis of a grand attack upon the Federal arrangement as it now exists. The issues that will thus be raised will be in the nature of a revision of the plan of Confederation, the object being to place the Dominion in a position of marked inferiority to the Provinces. Such a scheme would be evidently fraught with great mischief. It moves on the lines of local supremacy, which by enfeebling the Dominion would diminish its opportunities and hazard its credit. So far the existing arrangement has [illegible] the Dominion exchequer is burdened with the payment of subsidies to the extent of $4 200,000 a year. How much more would Mr. Mowat wish to encumber it with? Though for reasons which it is not now necessary to discuss the provinces were made the recipients of large annual subsidies under the Federal compact, yet it would have been preferable if the U. S. plan had been adopted, and each province saddled with its own expenditures. If any change is to be made in relation to the financial basis it would be better that it should be made in that direction, rather than to increase the burden of the Dominion liability to the provinces. Not that there seems to be any intention on the part of the Dominion to move in that direction. Yet if the whole matter is to be re-opened, and an appeal made to the British Parliament to alter the basis of Confederation, it might be just as well to inquire if it might not be better to ordain that each province should pay for its own expenditures out of its own resources, and thus remove the temptation now so strong to make successive raids upon the Dominion treasury. The entire matter has been springing upon the people at the instance of the amalgamated local premiers. They had no authority from the legislative assemblies to get up any such scheme; no "grievances" seeking abatement had been formulated. The entire plan of campaign is little else than a scheme to make mischief in the hope of being able amid the trouble which is likely to arise to gain some political advantage of a party kind.

The ancient link and pin car coupling has caused more deaths than the car stove, and ought to go as rapidly as it can be replaced by an automatic coupler. The agitation for reform in car coupling should not cease until the death list is vacant altogether.

LABORING BY NIGHT.

In the early days of railways the idea of running trains at night was not thought of, but at the present time the greater part of the freight traffic and perhaps of the passenger traffic is handled in the hours of darkness. A similar change seems to have been begun in the work of railway building. The rush of competition between great lines to reach given points and the necessity sometimes imposed of building a certain distance before a fixed date in order to secure local aid have necessitated the employment of the night hours in numerous cases, and it is found that men and teams work fully as efficiently by night as by day. An American contractor who has been doing a large amount of grading on one of the western roads says that he finds that the men accomplish more between 7 p. m. and 7 a. m. in shovelling than in the same hours of daylight, because their attention is not detracted by other things at night, and in summer the air is cooler than in the daytime. Of course it takes the men some time to become accustomed to the unnatural inversion of the hours of work and sleep, and some of them are inclined to waste the daylight hours in drinking, and thus are unfitted for night toil; but these worthless fellows are gradually sifted out and the force engaged in the night work soon accomplishes fully as much as those who work only by daylight. The employment of the night hours has made possible some of the extraordinarily rapid railway construction which has characterized the last year or two.

THE FARMING SITUATION.

If we are to believe reports from the various parts of the world, there is not going to be a plethora of natural productions, in cereals and the general productions of the farm. Somehow or other there has been a general subsidence of farm productions on account of a kind of drought which has prevailed during the present season in this and several other countries. The agricultural situation may be summed up briefly:—That the general drought has diminished one of the natural sources of production, and on this account that feed has been and is scarce. This does not merely apply to farmers here, but if the majority of the United States be sifted, what with diseases (Texas fever, pleuro-pneumonia, &c.,) and scarcity of feed, it is not improbable that farm produce will look up. To get a true grasp you must look along the whole line of productions and compare, and the farmer who straightens his eyes to this telescopic view in the world's producers will win. Pork is going to be dearer in our markets; why? No hogs; no adequate feed. First class beef will be above the present quotations. Sh[illegible] favorably received throughout the province. The C. P. R. authorities will, it is hoped, see their way clear to arrange for it.

A set of salad dishes, recently imported from Italy, represents the various sized leaves of a cabbage, the center piece or bowl being a whole cabbage, with projecting leaves as handles. This set is as original and appropriate in design as one may desire, but is rather an expensive indulgence.

Writing in the Popular Science Monthly, H. Brooke Davies advocates the establishment of a college for educating servants, and thinks that the institution should be so managed that a woman would feel as proud of a degree from the "College for Domestic Servants" as from any other college open to women.

A German physician, in an article on the late Prof. Langenbeck, enumerates the many improvements which surgery owes to him. His methods were used during the last war with France, and thanks to this circumstance thousands of soldiers now possess their limbs in sound condition, which the doctors of the old school would have amputated.

The great scandal case of last year, in which Sir Charles Dilke was involved to an extent which did him great social and political injury, is not dead. The London correspondent of the Manchester Guardian writes:—"It is probable that the public will soon hear more of a celebrated case which has already occupied too much time and attention. The solicitors who have charge of the interests of Sir Charles Dilke in reference to the notorious proceedings of 1885 6 have secured some important evidence. Among other things, it may be mentioned that a witness who could not be examined at the last trial, and whose absence provoked a good deal of comment, has been unearthed, and that her evidence is likely to clear up several points which have hitherto been left in much obscurity."

The Boston Traveller furnishes the following hints to those who want to sleep and cannot easily do so:—While physical conditions largely enter into perfect sleep, it is a result of both physical and spiritual conditions. The due value of proper food, exercise and bathing are more or less familiar to every one, and in all these no specific rule can be given. A warm bath just before retiring will be found to many persons conducive to sleep, and occasionally quite the reverse, and is therefore only something that each must decide for himself. Frequently a cup of hot water, or hot water with lemon juice in it, will banish a tendency to wakefulness. Another almost unfailing remedy for sleeplessness is to dip a fine linen handkerchief in hamamelis (witch-hazel), and bind it tightly over the eyes with a white silk handkerchief. The silk has an electric—an insulating quality—that renders it all-important. Linen or cotton will not answer the purpose nearly as well, as the one who tries it is will find. There is a magic about this that is truly wonderful. Many actresses use this simple aid, after returning from an exciting play, and the result can only be described as magical. That the sleeping apartment should be thoroughly ventilated, and also thoroughly dark, with blinds closed and shades carefully drawn, is an important essential to nervous people. If the victim of insomnia will combine the hygienic and the spiritual conditions, and will give a fair trial to a perfectly darkened room, and to the magic of the extract of witch hazel with the silk bandage outside, there are few cases of insomnia that may not be thus overcome.

The San Francisco Examiner enumerates some of the odd ways of the celestials: "Chinamen have a habit of storing forty or fifty cents in ten-cent pieces in their ears, to save, no doubt, the trouble of feeling in their pockets for such small change. Another curious thing in connection with the Chinese is their custom of putting coins of various denominations in the mouths of the dead. These coins fall into the hands of the coolies, who scrape the bones of the disinterred bodies, and through them pass into general circulation. It is said that a $50 gold slug was found in the mouth of a Chinese body disinterred at the Chinese cemetery recently, while it is a frequent occurrence to find gold $5 and $10 pieces. Taking into consideration the foregoing facts, it is, indeed, an unsafe habit to put money in one's mouth, especially when it is not known whether the Chinamen ever cleaned his ear or whether the deceased died of leprosy, smallpox or something else as bad. Some ladies have a bad habit of putting small change in their mouths previous to paying the car conductor, who, in turn, puts the money in his mouth while making change. To those who practice this habit this bit of information should be a warning."

"The Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia," say London Truth, "who has recently excited so much attention, is not the brother of the Emperor Alexander, as seems to be generally supposed, but a cousin of His Majesty, being the eldest of the six sons of the Grand Duke Michael Nicolaievitch, and his mother is the sister of the Grand Duke of Baden and the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, while his sister is married to the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. The Grand Duke's reported outburst was considered the more remarkable inasmuch as he belongs to a branch of the Romanoff family which has always been regarded as being most thoroughly saturated with German sympathy and prejudices."

One form of Japanese industry seems doomed to extinction—namely, the making of bamboo frames. Paragon wire is now imported as a substitute. The old Japanese bamboo frame and oil paper umbrella is fast going out of use, even in the country districts, and there is a brisk and growing manufacture of umbrellas and parasols of the European fashion, not only for home consumption in Japan, but also for export to China, the Straits Settlements and other places. The Japanese are shrewd enough to discover the things in which they cannot compete with Europe. They now import wire nails instead of rod iron.

Dr. Langer, primararzt, of the great Anna Hospital, after a somewhat unpleasant interview with Prof. Boehm, the newly appointed director of the hospital, took a large dose of morphia, with the intention apparently of committing suicide. He was, however, promptly treated by the performance of tracheotomy and the mechanical insufflation of the lungs through the opening. By this means his life was saved. Dr. Langer, who is greatly respected, has been for some time past subject to melancholia.

The severity of the weather in Germany during the middle of October is testified by the fact that at Carlsruhe, Crefeld, and other places, men sleeping in the open air have been frozen to death. Such a thing has never been known in Germany so early in the season in the memory of the oldest inhabitant. In the Rheingau almost all standing water was covered with ice, and the frost did a great deal of harm in the vineyards there, especially in the low lying grounds.

Constitutional Catarrh.

No single disease has entailed more suffering or hastened the breaking up of the constitution than Catarrh. The sense of smell, of taste, of sight, of hearing, the human voice, the mind—one or more, and sometimes all, yield to its destructive influence. The poison it distributes throughout the system attacks every vital force and breaks up the most robust of constitutions. Ignored, because but little understood, by most physicians, impotently assailed by quacks and charlatans, those suffering from it have little hope to be relieved of it this side of the grave. It is time, then, that the popular treatment of this terrible disease by remedies within the reach of all passed into hands at once competent and trustworthy. The new and hitherto untried method adopted by Dr Sanford in the preparation of his RADICAL CURE has won the hearty approval of thousands. It is instantaneous in affording relief in all head colds, sneezing, snuffling and obstructed breathing, and rapidly removes the most oppressive symptoms, clearing the head, sweetening the breath, restoring the senses of smell, taste and hearing, and neutralizing the constitutional tendency of the disease towards the lungs, liver and kidneys.

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