

# The Weekly Monitor

AND

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# A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS

## COAL MANAGER GIVES PRICE

Of Coal, After Being Threatened with Commitment for Contempt of Court but not to the Public.

Halifax, Dec. 16.—The coal conspiracy case was resumed today before Stipendiary Fielding after a fortnight's intermission. General Manager Cantley, of the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company, was on the witness stand. When asked to divulge the price secured for coal in Montreal Mr. Cantley refused, giving as his reason the allegation that the American instigators of the case were seeking to get private information of this character in order to secure the St. Lawrence trade.

The magistrate ruled that Mr. Cantley had to answer. A commitment for contempt was asked for, and at last the issue was insisted upon.

Mr. Cantley said the standard price of the company's coal at North Sydney, f. o. b. was \$3. He was asked what the price was at Montreal.

Mr. Cantley declined to divulge the price unless ordered by his honor.

His honor said witness could write the price on a piece of paper and hand it to the court reporter.

Mr. Cantley said it was unfair to elicit the information regarding prices on the St. Lawrence, where the coal companies had to compete with American coal.

The witness left the stand to consult and returning wrote the answer on a piece of paper which he gave to the magistrate.

## NORTHCLIFFE PAPER MILLS

To a Sydney reporter Mr. Reid, of the Newfoundland railway, thus spoke of the great paper mills owned by Lord Northcliffe in Newfoundland: "The success of the mammoth pulp and paper plant of Northcliffe's is already assured. Last week these mills produced the first finished paper and after next week the output will become irregular."

"In reply to the question as to what he thought of the criticisms of this industry by the New York Herald Mr. Reid said that the facts were a complete reputation of the position taken by that paper."

"The company's water power is three times more than is required to operate the present plant. The pulp wood used by this company is among the best if not the best in the world. There is more pulp wood per acre on the areas of this company than upon any lands in the world. Wood is delivered at the mills of this company cheaper than at any other mill in the world. And as for the supply, Mr. Reid emphatically concluded, it is absolutely inexhaustible."

## DR. COOK'S RECORD DEBATED.

Copenhagen, Dec. 18.—The Consistory of the University at a secret session today received a preliminary report covering the first stage of the work of the Committee, which is examining the Polar records of Dr. Frederick Cook, and an excited discussion followed. The Committee has not yet completed its investigation.

## CHRISTMAS TIME

Once again this Christmas time The brightest day in all the year. When Christ our King from glory Came, each lonely heart to cheer. Oft in ages past has the story Of His wondrous birth been told; How angels came to earth from heaven.

Their sacred message to unfold. And how the watchful shepherds On those Judean plains afar First heard the joyful tidings, And followed the guiding star Which led them to the manger Where the little Christ child lay, Bringing Peace, Good-will to men Which resounds o'er earth today.

Tho' no room for the stranger could Be found, at the wayside inn; No kind friend to shelter Him from the world's noisy din. Yet God, who is love, was watching That no harm should His gift befall. While heavenly hosts an anthem sang, And peace reigned over all.

And that sweet angelic song Sung at midnight long ago Still rings through corridors of time. While our hearts responsive glow, And we repeat today the story Of the Heavenly King of Kings, Echoing the old-time glory While the joyful news still rings.

Della MacLean.

The Nova Scotia Legislature will meet for transaction of public business about the 10th of February.

## A CHRISTMAS WISH

A Christmas that puts first things first, spirit before symbol and Christ before Santa Claus; that hallows the home and transfigures the face and consecrates both self and pocket-book to the loving service of others; a Christmas that through its great good tidings brings strength to bear our burdens, balm to soothe our sorrow, inspiration to glorify our labor and poise for our sometimes harassed souls; a Christmas that reminds us of the beautiful old stories of the Magi and the shepherds and the choir of angels, and that transforms our hearts into living mangers cradling anew the eternal, inexhaustible, Christ-begetting, world-transforming love-spirit of the Father—may this Christmas, good friends—this merry, blessed, Christ-filled Christmas—be yours.—Henry Hallam Tweedy.

## A NEW FOE FOR THE ORCHARDIST

George Johnson, of Grand Pre, writes to the Acadian as follows:

At the last meeting of the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association I asked Professor Smith if the ants in our orchards did not play an important part in the production of the aphids, which, for the past season or two, infested our apple trees. His answer was that they did and that he had no use for ants. Neither have I, should enter upon an active crusade. More, I believe that our fruit growers for their destruction; because ants' nests are nurseries for aphids.

Grant Allen, in his charming book, 'Flashlights on Nature' has, for his initial chapter, a paper entitled 'The Cows that Ants Milk.' In it he describes the plant-lice which do so much damage to rose bushes. These plant-lice belong to the same family as those which make their home on the apple tree, though there are many apple tree aphids, the cherry tree aphid, the peach tree aphid, etc., differing in many respects but agreeing in almost every species in secreting the well-known substance called honey-dew, which bees, wasps and ants love to swallow. If one examines an aphid with the aid of a microscope or a common magnifying glass he will see two spikes sticking out from the behind part of its back. While you watch, a fair sized bubble is seen to come out of each spike, which, therefore, is in fact a hollow tube through which the animal blows out the sugar forming substances it collects while obtaining from the leaf on which it feeds the nitrogenous material it needs to keep life going. The ants are so fond of this honey-dew that you may be absolutely positive in making the statement that wherever the aphids are, there will be the ants tickling the 'cows' with their antennae and greedily devouring the honey-dew as the aphid, thus excited, casts it out to the end of its tube. That would not matter much if their attention to the aphid ceased there, as it does in the case of the honey bee and the wasp. But it does not. The ant is a more provident animal than even the bee. It looks forward to future wants; has a keener and longer foresight than that of the honey-bee; and just because it has, comes the danger to us apple growers.

Towards the end of October the winged aphides make their appearance and provide for next season's supply by laying fertilized eggs. When the ants see these eggs they forthwith carry them off to their hills and put them away with great care. Practically they stow them away on shelves in the lower part of their nests where they have their nurseries and bring up their baby ants, protected from the pelting rain and the penetrating frosts. When in the spring the leaf buds of the apple tree begin to show signs of life, then the ants march through their many galleried nests

bearing the aphid's eggs with them and carefully put them alongside of the leafbuds, leaving them to hatch out and keep time with the unfolding tender leaf upon which they fasten and feed.

Reaumur has proved that in five generations one aphid may be the progenitor of 5, 404, 900,000 descendants, and it is supposed that in one year there may be twenty generations. Later observers think that nine or ten generations can be safely attributed to one ancestress.

Then comes a curious condition of things. Every one of those eggs produces female which at once begins to feed and to breed live youngsters. These in turn begin at once to feed and to breed and so, as Grant Allen says, a single aphid which devotes itself with a quiet mind to eating and reproduction may easily within its own lifetime become the ancestor of some billions of great grand children.

How important, then, to destroy those fertilized eggs (which the ants have watched over) before the ants can bring them out of the sheds in which they have stored them for the winter.

The ants do even more than this for the aphids. The aphids have many enemies as for instance the lady-bugs and the aphid lion, which, if left alone, would destroy the honey-giving insect almost as rapidly as they bud. But the ants drive them away whenever they can, and give these eating and breeding friends every possible chance to perform those two functions for which they seem solely to exist.

That the ants look after the aphid eggs in the winter and guard the aphid while gathering honey dew during the summer is no mere fancy, no flight of the scientific imagination, is a fact that cannot be disputed. Cornstock, whose work on insects is a text-book in the Agricultural College at Truro, says 'writers long ago showed that ants protect plant lice by driving away from them lady-bugs and other enemies.'

Lubbock, the greatest authority we have on ants, says 'The eggs (aphide) are laid early in October on the food plant of the insect. They are of no direct use to the ants, yet they are not left where they are laid, exposed to the severity of the weather and to innumerable dangers, but are brought into the nests and tended with the utmost care through the long winter months till the following March, when,' says Grant Allen, 'they are brought out again and placed on their special food plant.'

All this points to one practical conclusion. 1. Let us destroy the ants in their nests by the use of some life-destroying substance of which there are several. 2. Let every fruit grower take part in this crusade against the ant. One may do it. His next door neighbor may not. The winged aphid of October will find its way over both orchards and deposit her fertilized eggs. Co-operation is, therefore, necessary.

GEORGE JOHNSON, Grand Pre, N. S.

## GOLDEN WEDDING AT PORT LORNE

On Monday evening, Dec. 13th, 1909, a large number of friends gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arod Grant Port Lorne, to celebrate their fiftieth anniversary of their marriage. A bounteous tea was served which all seemed to enjoy. The presents were very nice, a neat sum of money from here and in Mass., was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Grant. A very pleasant evening was spent. Among the guests were Mr. D. Long from Clementsvale and Rev. Nowlin from Wolfville College. At a late hour all dispersed to their homes after wishing Mr. and Mrs. Grant many more years of married life, hoping they might have the pleasure of celebrating their next anniversary.

One Present.

## PARTICULARS ABOUT KING LEOPOLD

Brussels, Dec. 17.—All Brussels mourns today. Flags on public buildings are at half mast, and private houses are draped with crepe. The body of King Leopold, clothed in the uniform of Lieut. General, remains in the chamber of 'The Palms' where death entered last night. The expression on the dead monarch's face is peaceful, and it is now known that the end was painless. The body will be placed in a casket this evening when the period of mourning began. Telegrams of condolence have been received from King Edward and other rulers, and Pope Pius, the latter has ordered a requiem mass for the repose of Leopold's soul.

## ANOTHER "HORN" LOST

A few years ago there were four British vessels owned by Messrs. Chas DeWolfe & Co., Liverpool, G. B., named with a "horn", viz: Matterhorn, Silberhorn, Lyderhorn and Engelhorn. During the past two years two of them have been lost, the second—the Matterhorn being reported on Saturday as foundered at sea on the 24th November, 70 miles off Umanilla reef. She was only a few days out from Portland, Oregon, for Ipswich. The first mate, steward and four sailors were drowned. Capt. Salter and 27 men were saved. Capt. Salter belongs to Hantsport.

## APPLES AS LIQUOR CURE

Des Moines, Iowa.—Dr. Samuel Baily, of Mount Ayre, and a prominent member of the National Medical Society, on Wednesday before the State Horticultural Society declared that apple eating kills the taste for cocktails and other strong drinks. He says it is the meat eaters who become addicted to strong liquor, and that fruit-eating should be encouraged as a solution of the liquor problem. The society endorsed his theory.

## GOLD BRICKS FOR CANADIAN MINT

A Canadian Gold Coinage to Commence Next Year, as Announced by Finance Minister in Budget Speech.

Ottawa, Dec. 20.—The first consignment of gold from the Yukon was received today at the Royal Mint here. Joseph Boyle, now of Dawson City, and formerly of Ottawa, arrived today with a grip containing gold bricks worth \$50,000 which he has disposed of to the Mint to be coined into gold currency. It is probable that the first Canadian gold pieces will be coined from the bricks brought out by Mr. Boyle. A number of English sovereigns were coined last summer from Canadian gold, but so far no Canadian gold pieces have been coined.

Hon. Mr. Fielding announced in his Budget speech last week that ar-

rangements were being made to begin a Canadian gold coinage, and next year should see a considerable number of Canadian five and ten dollar gold pieces in circulation.

At present practically all the gold taken out of the Yukon is marketed at Seattle or in other United States cities. Efforts are made to secure the establishment of a Government purchasing office in Dawson, where the miners can get full market value for their gold. At present there is a discount of nearly two per cent. charged by the Banks, although it can be sent to the Mint at Ottawa by mail for less than one per cent. of its value.

## OBITUARY

### MRS. JAS. I. FOSTER

The *Yorkton, Sask. Times* says:—After bearing with Christian fortitude for some time the intense suffering occasioned from cancer of the breast, during which every effort has been made to save the lady's life, Mrs. Jas. I. Foster, wife of our esteemed station agent, passed away on Saturday morning, mourned by her husband and three children.

The deceased lady's name was Lillian Ludgate, her marriage to Mr. Foster taking place on Christmas Day 1899.

Mr. and Mrs. Foster resided at Birtle, Man., for some years, and the body was conveyed to that place on Monday morning after a short service at the home.

The pall-bearers consisted of Judge Gordon, J. T. Hall, J. B. Gibson, J. M. MacDonald, Dr. Caldwell and Dr. Simpson.

Genuine sympathy is felt for the husband and children who have been bereaved. A mother and sister reside in New Westminister, a sister and four brothers in New Alberni, and another sister in Peterborough.

Prof. Metchnikoff suggests that the hands should always be thoroughly washed before touching food intended for children; even adults who would escape enteritis should scrape cheese well and plunge fruits and salads into boiling water before eating them.

## HYMENEAL

### MULHALL-MILLER

A very pretty wedding took place in the Newport Methodist church Saturday, Dec. 11th, at 8 a. m., when Mr. S. C. Mulhall, of Digby, was united in marriage to Miss A. Blanche Miller, of Newport. Notwithstanding the early hour a large number of friends gathered to witness the ceremony which was performed by Rev. H. D. Townsend, pastor of the church. The bride was becomingly attired in a travelling suit of blue broadcloth with hat to match. The church was beautifully decorated for the occasion with ferns and potted plants by the members of the Epworth League and Sunday School, of which Miss Miller was an active member. The bride entered the church on the arm of her uncle, Mr. J. H. Walker, to the strains of Wagner's Wedding March, which was beautifully rendered by Miss Annie E. Chambers, of Acadia Seminary, cousin of the bride. Immediately after the ceremony the happy couple left for Digby where they will reside.—*Courier*.

The Canadian Farmer has had a great year. Agricultural exports were \$16,000,000 greater in the fiscal year 1909 than in 1908. Here are the figures: Animal produce—1908, \$53,112,403; 1909, \$53,944,809. Agricultural products, 1908, 158,061,903; 1909, \$74,133,017. Totals—1908, \$111,175,306; 1909, \$127,077,826.

## MONEY

at interest is a good silent partner, one that will work night and day, unflinching in its zeal for your welfare, one that the longer left alone the better work it will do.

Deposit in the  
Savings Department  
Union Bank of Halifax

BRIDGETOWN BRANCH, H. L. BENTLEY Manager.  
LAWRENCETOWN BRANCH, F. G. PALFREY Manager.  
ANNAPOLIS ROYAL BRANCH, E. B. McDANIEL Manager.

