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LONDON, FRIDAY, NOV. 20.

THE POWER LINE BEGUN.

The turning of the first sod of the Niagara power line is undoubtedly "an important event in the history of the province," as a score of newspapers and speakers have said. A project of such magnitude, involving the extension of public ownership and control into a new field, is necessarily important, no matter what the result may be. It is a great experiment, and those who pretend to be cocksure of its success are reasoning from their hopes and not from ascertained conditions.

The Advertiser has discussed the question with scores of manufacturers, merchants and businessmen. A number of them claim that the scheme is impracticable, but they decline to publish their opinions, for political and other reasons. In fact, some of Mr. Beck's leading supporters in this city say that they have no faith in the undertaking. The attitude of the business community as a whole is one of doubt and perplexity. Probably the majority of people argue that the benefits promised are so substantial that in the hope of securing them they should be willing to take a risk.

It is a pity the hydro-electric commission could not have proceeded in a regular and businesslike way. Because of its irregular methods the municipalities have been urged, and have consented, to petition the Legislature to validate contracts which have never been sanctioned by the ratepayers, thus brushing aside legal difficulties. It is a bad principle, but evidently the Government has decided to see the hydro-electric commission through, and it may now be taken for granted that the work will proceed.

Considering the enormous financial obligations they have assumed, the ratepayers of London and other municipalities in the same boat may well pray for the success of the enterprise. If disaster follows, they will have a moral claim for redress upon the Government which has urged them into this policy and which should have assumed some responsibility.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
"CLAIMS."

The peculiar feature of the provincial campaign in Prince Edward Island, which has just closed, was that local issues were lost sight of, both parties relying for votes on their promises of demands upon the Dominion. In this respect the Opposition was apparently prepared to go much further than the Government. Premier Hazard contented himself with pledging to press vigorously for a settlement of the province's claims against the Federal Government, including its share of the Halifax fishery award; to urge for the establishment in the province of a Dominion model farm and to press for an amendment to the B. N. A. act, "restoring this province to its original representation in the House of Commons."

The "claims against Canada" which the Opposition leader, Mr. Matheson, promised, if elected, to press on the Dominion Government are:

- "1. The cost of the Prince Edward Island Railway, amounting to \$3,144,000 with interest since 1873.
- "2. Damages for non-fulfilment of the terms of union respecting continuous communication between this island and the mainland.
- "3. Fair transportation rates.
- "4. Our share of the fishery award. Thorough revision of laws relating to our fisheries and the protection of the rights of our fishermen.
- "5. Compensation in respect of the public lands of Canada which have been transferred to the larger provinces without any consideration for the interest of this province therein.
- "6. An equivalent for the increased subsidies granted the larger provinces to meet the increased cost of education, public works and agriculture.
- "7. The payment of the subsidies upon an assumed population of at least 150,000 as was done in the case of British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta in as much as the failure of this province to attain that population is owing to the default of the Dominion.
- "8. Restoration of original representation in the Federal Parliament.
- "9. The Tunnel."

The only really new "demand" in this list is that calling for "compensation in respect of the public lands," which is as refreshing as it is new. On the question of representation in the House of Commons both parties appear to be agreed. The last census showed a falling off in the province's population, necessitating a reduction of its representation at Ottawa from six to four members. Were the unit of representation restored to the old figure, the membership of the House of Commons would be increased from 221, as at present, to 332; so that with six members in such a House the representation of the province would be re-

actively unchanged. If, however, by the "restoration of the original representation" is meant the establishment of two units, one for the Maritime Provinces and the other for the rest of the Dominion, the claimants might just as well drop their claim at once, as it is too much to expect that the rest of the Dominion would consent to a constitutional change which would give a vote down by the sea greater power than one in the more rapidly growing sections of Canada.

"Better terms," is always a popular cry in the eastern provinces, but at this distance it looks as though at least one party leader in Prince Edward Island is making himself ridiculous.

THE HOSPITAL RATES.

The conference between the city and county representatives yesterday on the hospital question brought out some interesting information. The claim was made by the city men that the cost of maintaining a county patient was \$1.35 per day, toward which the county contributed 75 cents and the Government 20 cents. On this showing the city has been out of pocket 40 cents per day for each county patient, and in some cases more, as the Government bounty is limited to 120 days for each patient, whereas one county patient was in the hospital over 300 days.

The county representatives disputed the figures as to the cost of maintenance, and tried to show that the city men were tangled in their bookkeeping. An adjournment was made so that in the meantime exact information may be obtained.

Victoria Hospital has become a very expensive institution, and its managers should make every effort, consistent with efficiency, to lighten a burden which the ratepayers feel has increased out of proportion to the benefits derived by this community. It is a public duty to provide hospital treatment for city patients who cannot afford to pay for it, but citizens of London should not be called upon to contribute to the cost of caring for non-residents. The city must insist on a higher rate for county patients in the public wards, if it can be shown that the figures furnished by the Hospital Trust are correct, and in the rates for private rooms the trust ought also to discriminate in favor of residents. A physician tells The Advertiser that there ought to be a minimum rate of \$2 per day for paying patients from outside the city. Under present circumstances, city patients are often unable to get admission because of the presence of non-residents in the hospital, who enjoy the same privileges as citizens.

"Doctors disagree" is a proverb. The Bradford Medical Association is urging the erection of a consumption hospital for local use. In this city the Medical Association is opposed to such a course. In the meantime something ought to be done for the consumptives.

Dr. Falconer, the distinguished president of Toronto University, is a welcome visitor to the city today. He is one of the big men given to the public life of the country by the Maritime Provinces, for the position he now holds makes him a public figure.

The Canadian iron and steel industry has gone into the markets of the world and underbid old-established firms in Germany and Great Britain. It has plainly passed the "infant industry" stage, and can get along with less aid.

For years there was a popular fiction that John D. Rockefeller had offered his fortune for a new stomach. The oil king does testify that he has had always a good stomach, and is in excellent shape at 70, thanks to a careful diet and plenty of fresh air. He is not open to the reproach of the cynic who said: "We over-eat and we under-breathe, and then we go to the hospital to have our pocketbooks cut out."

SOME SCOTTISH JOKES.

(W. E. Curtis, in Chicago Record-Herald.)
A minister approached his congregation for falling asleep, and emphasized his remarks by calling attention to the fact that Jimmy, "the natural," had always remained awake throughout the sermon.
"An' I had na been an idiot, I wud have been asleep, too," was Jimmy's unexpected comment.
Wilson, the poet, better known as "Christopher North," is the author of many of the wittiest things now current in Scotland, and many things he did not say are attributed to him. One morning after a "gran" night, with a group of his cronies and an abundance of "whisky" and wit, he awoke with a throat like a linekin, and called out for the landlady of the little inn on the shore of Loch Lomond, where he was spending his holidays.
"Betty, guid dame, I'm unco' dry. Fetch in the loch."

A Dundee minister was caught in a shower Sunday morning, and consulted with an unsympathetic sexton as to whether he'd better not delay the service a little while until he got dry. "Just get up and besein preaching, and you'll soon be dry enough," was the unkind reply.

An enterprising commercial traveller attempted to bribe a country merchant in Scotland with a box of cigars.
"No, na," said the merchant, shaking his head gravely, "I canna tak' 'em; I naer dae business thaway."
"Nonsense," said the drummer; "but if you have any conscientious scruples you may pay me a shilling for the box."
"Weel, weel," said the honest shopman, "I'll tak' two boxes."
"If you feel inclined to sleep in church take a pinch of snuff," said the minister to a member of his congregation.
"Wad it no be better to put the snuff into the sermon?"
There's an abiding prejudice in Scotland against "paper moonshiners"—those who

read their sermons from manuscript—and a critic once summed up his objections to a certain sermon as follows: "First it was read; second, it wasna weel read; and, third, it was no worth reading."
A visitor at an insane asylum asked if the clock was right.
"If it war, dae you think it wad be here?" retorted a patient.

MONEY IN WHEAT.

(Ottawa Journal.)
James J. Hill makes the prediction that all the wheat grown in the United States will be needed for home consumption within a few years. If his prophecy has any basis of truth, a similar condition might rule in Canada some years hence. That might suggest to the man who is accustomed to look ahead and nowhere else the advisability of placing all his investments in wheat lands.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

(Chicago Record-Herald.)
Smiley-Love and measles are very much alike in one respect.
Hanks—How is that?
Smiley—The later in life one contracts either disease the harder he is apt to have it.

USE OF TUNNELS.

(Chicago Record-Herald.)
Teacher—Why do railroads have tunnels?
Observant Pupil—For the accommodation of the passengers.

THE CHORISTERS' COMPLAINT.

(Montreal Herald.)
The Sheffield choir did not get away without speaking its mind about our defects, as well as about our good qualities. They gave us credit for the fine crowds that turned out to hear them, for the appreciation of good singing shown by audiences and press, and then they said what they thought of our lack of common hospitality as applied to the human beings who composed the choir. They did not come over here, they said, to make money. Their good singing was but a vehicle for seeing Canada, getting into touch with Canadians, and sensing the Canadian atmosphere. Nobody seems to have dreamt of that, they say. So they were bundled out of their ship to the concert hall, from the hall to the special train, from the train to a hotel, from the hotel to the hall, and so forward until they were turned out of the train and into the ship again. They were compelled to herd seven or eight in a room in some places. They were served with evening dinners which they could not take lest their singing be spoiled, and left without supper when they came home hungry. They saw no Canadians except in the mass at the concerts, saving those few who broke through the arrangements and spoke up without leaving (probably most of them from Sheffield). And all this hurt the feelings of the Sheffield choir, and they can't be blamed for feeling that way about it.

POPULATION AND RACE.

(New York American.)
The white race numbers 600,000,000; the yellow, 700,000,000; the black, 25,000,000; the brown, or Malayan, 35,000,000; and the red, or American Indian stock, in North and South America, 15,000,000.

THE FEMININE SLAT.

(Cleveland Plaindealer.)
I've never seen a girl who looked like those queer French creations; I mean the girl who's laced and hooked in fashion illustrations. She's such a weak and pallid thing, inclined to peak and dwindle; I'd never put a wedding ring on such a human spindle.

NO CHANCE FOR A MIRACLE.

(London Globe.)
One day Dr. Norman McLeod, who was a large and healthy man, and one of his burly elders went to pay a visit to a certain Mrs. MacLaren of the congregation, who lived in the Scotch hills. She was a frugal woman, but determined that they should have the best in the house. So she piled the table with jellies and jam and preserves and shortbread, and they partook unsparingly. After the meal the elder said to her: "Mrs. MacLaren, were you at the Kirk on Sunday?" "Oh, aye," she said. "And what did you think of the treatment of the miracle?" (the sermon had been on the loaves and fishes). "I thought it was good," said Mrs. MacLaren. "And what is your idea on the subject, Mrs. MacLaren?" asked the minister.
"Losh," said their hostess, suddenly: "I'm thinkin' that if you and the elder had bin in the congregation there wadna bin twelve baskets of fragments for the disciples to gather up!"

MOST WONDERFUL OF ALL

(Punch.)
Mrs. Jenkins (returned from a visit to London)—Ay, that London's a wonderful place! What with the omnibuses and the motey buses, and the 'lectric underground railways! An' now I've comeed away, I expects it's all goin' on just the same!

WHEN HE SAT DOWN.

(Youth's Companion.)
"How was your speech received at the club?" asked one of Chumley's friends.
"Why, they congratulated me very heartily. In fact, one of the members came to me and told me that when I sat down he had said to himself it was the best thing I had ever done."

ADVICE FOR THE EARL.

(Tit-Bits.)
The Earl of Aberdeen is one of the kindest-hearted of men, with a great sense of his responsibility as a landlord. He makes a point of knowing, as far as possible, what is taking place on his estate. As he owns some 58,000 acres, this is no light task. On one occasion some years since he was walking in a remote country district, and stopped at a cottage garden to watch an old man digging. "Is this good soil?" asked the peasant. "Aye," responded the peasant. "What is your next crop to be?" The old man leaned on his spade, looked severely at his questioner, and remarked: "You don't know nothin' about crops. You just hire a nice little bit of ground and try workin' it! You'll have summat better to do than to come worthin' busy folk."

DUNWOODIE—RYAN

Komoka Young Lady Becomes Bride of Gentleman From Clare, Mich.

A quiet but pretty wedding was solemnized at the home of Mr. Edward Ryan, 134 John street, Sarnia, on Wednesday, Nov. 18, at high noon, when Miss Bessie M. Ryan, of Komoka, and Mr. Lee E. Dunwoodie, of Clare, Mich., were united in marriage by Rev. Dr. Nixon, of Hyde Park.
The bride, who looked charming in a gown of pointed d'espirt, over white tulle, entered the parlor, leaning on the arm of her father, to the strains of the wedding march played by Mrs. Edward Ryan. The bride and groom were unattended.
After the ceremony a choice repast was partaken of. The happy couple left mid showers of rice and good wishes for Toronto, and other eastern points. The bride's travelling suit was of navy blue broadcloth, with hat to match. Owing to the recent death of the bride's brother, only the immediate relatives were present. Mr. and Mrs. Dunwoodie will reside in Clare, Mich.

CAUSES OF RAILWAY WRECKS

Employees Should Rest During Periods of Recreation.

New York, Nov. 19.—At the eighteenth annual meeting of the New York and New England Association of Railway Surgeons, Dr. R. W. Corwin, of Pueblo, Col., told of a young engineer who through jealousy neglected his work, with the result that his train was wrecked. He told of another engineer who while worrying over the fact that the night before he had gambled away his pay check, backed his train into an excursion train.
The speaker denied that railroads overwork their men by deliberate choice, and that it would be decidedly false economy for them to do so.

"Sometimes drink is mistaken for brain fog and overwork," said he. "The public has a right to demand from railway systems that employees be given sufficient rest, but that does not go far enough. The employees should take rest during the time allotted to them. The employee who uses his recreation for gambling, drinking and smoking to excess is no more fit for work than the man who has been on duty eighteen or twenty hours."

Change of the signal systems now in use by railroads was advocated in a paper by Prof. George M. Stratton, of the University of California.
"One hundred persons may be killed in an accident due to color blindness on the part of the engineer," declared the professor, "and it is a time that a change for greater safety be made. The examination of all employees should be mercifully conducted."

The United States navy system of signalling by night lights was urged for adoption by Prof. Stratton.



"Uncle Tom's Cabin."

The Grand will have tomorrow, matinee and night, Downie's mammoth production of the immortal American Drama, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," the most correct and expensive scenic production of the late Harriet Beecher Stowe's everlasting legacy to posterity ever seen in America. No such amount of money as Manager Downie has spent on this play this season has ever before been expended on this neglected and much-abused drama. Children will be admitted to any seat at the matinee for 15 cents.

Cook Stock Company.

The coming of the Carl W. Cook Stock Company for one week's engagement at the Grand, beginning on Monday, promises to be a treat to the patrons of popular-priced attractions. The plays are up-to-date, clean and clear, full of laughs and excitement, and never a dull moment from the rise till the fall of the curtain. The specialties are new and novel, among them the dainty comedienne, Miss Edith La Nora, the "Dresden Doll," the marvelous Vade, whose magic act is without equal, and others, all next week.

Bennett's Big Bill.

Tomorrow's matinee will be the final drawing for the beautiful sheath gown which the Bennett Theatre management are giving away to the woman holding the lucky coupon. The bill this week is very fine and consists of some of the very best known acts in vaudeville. The balance of the bill are making decided hits in this city.

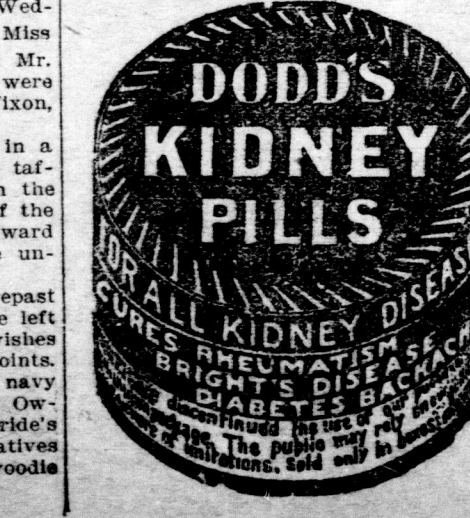
Chauncey Olcott.

It must be a source of great satisfaction to Chauncey Olcott, the Irish singer and actor, who appeared at the Grand last night, to observe the great success of his play, "Ragged Robin," which was written by his wife, Rita Olcott, in collaboration with that now famous writer, Rida Johnson Young.
Truly, the play is a success. It has deviated far from the "Brutal Saxon," had landlaid paths of the usual run-of-the-mill Irish drama, and follows a line at once new and pleasing. It is staged magnificently, is bright with witty dialogue, beautiful in sentiment, and portrayed in a manner which bespeaks are from every angle.

In brief, Ragged Robin is the son of a father who has been married twice. His father's second wife has a son, Martin, who serves as the villain of the play. One day Robin is wrestling with his own brother, and the brother is killed. Martin, to oust Robin from the home and secure his father's property, tells the old gentleman that Robin maliciously killed his brother. Robin is driven from home, Martin, in response, takes his place in the district, Miss Margaret, whose father's estates adjoin those of Martin's stepfather.

Just at this time Robin wanders around, and Margaret falls in love with him. It is the 16th of May, and both seal their fate unknowingly by drinking from the "loaves and fishes" bottle.
But Margaret's father insists upon her marrying Martin, and she does as he orders. Her heart is broken, and her married life very unhappy. Robin goes away, and is able to clear himself of the charge of killing his brother. He returns to Innishannon, to find that Martin is dead, leaving Margaret free to marry him. He also finds Margaret and her father in dire poverty, owing to the machinations of the late Martin, and Robin is able to rescue both from a life of misery and want.

Mr. Olcott was, as usual, very satisfying in his part. As the suffering Robin, compelled to lead a wanderer's life, he was splendid. His singing once



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21

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again proved a rare treat, and he was applauded repeatedly by one of the largest audiences of the season. Probably his best number was "Sweet Girl of My Dreams," a charming lyric. Miss Alma Belwin as Margaret, was charming. The others in the cast were very fair.

AN ADDRESS FOR MISS M'NAMARA

Who Recently Resigned From Position of Secretary of P. O. H. Board.

Miss McNamara, who recently resigned the position of secretary of the board of the Protestant Orphans' Home, was presented with an address, a beautiful amethyst and pearl necklace, and a pearl brooch yesterday afternoon by the board in appreciation of her faithful services. The presentation was made on behalf of the ladies

by Mr. J. H. Flock at the home of Mrs. G. W. Robinson, Sydenham street. Mr. Flock read the address and made the presentation, and in a brief speech assured Miss McNamara how deeply the board appreciated her services. Miss McNamara replied briefly, thanking the members of the board for their kind remembrance of her.

Good Cough Medicine for Children. The season for coughs and colds is now at hand, and too much care cannot be used to protect the children. A child is much more likely to contract diphtheria or scarlet fever when he has a cold. The quicker you cure his cold the less the risk. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is the sole reliance of many mothers, and a few of them who have tried it are willing to use any other. Mrs. F. F. Starcher, of Ripley, W. Va., says: "I have never used anything other than Chamberlain's Cough Remedy for my children, and it has always given good satisfaction. This remedy contains no opium or other narcotic, and may be given as confidently to a child as to an adult."