

prudence towards Canada during the rebellion of 1837-38. Authentic documents make the best history.

Gas from:  
street  
garbage.

Gas from street garbage for illuminating purposes has been produced by a Mr. Harris, of Toronto, who claims that by his process the garbage of a city may be made a source of profit by its conversion into gas for lighting and heating. The garbage is mixed with oil and chemicals, which are kept secret; the combustion of this mixture throws off a gas which is collected in a retort, and then purified with lime. It is claimed that the gas so produced can be made at a cost of a few cents per thousand feet. As an experiment in chemistry, this is a very interesting exhibit of the value of waste products upon the utilisation of which a number of important industries are based. If Mr. Harris can save cities the cost of cremating garbage his invention will be exceedingly valuable. Some time ago we recorded similar experiments being successfully conducted in the old country. We doubt the practicability of making gas by this process as a mercantile product. The requisite machinery and plant for making, purifying, storing and distributing such gas would require a considerable outlay, and its working day and night continuously would require a staff of workmen and officials. Taking such conditions into consideration, we fear that garbage gas will go no further than an experiment in chemistry.

Mistaken  
Morcy.

George E. Alger, of Whitevale, Ont., was sentenced in March last to seven years in the penitentiary for conspiring to defraud a life assurance company by securing a policy on the life of his dying wife. His associate in this crime was Dr. Francey. Justice Falconbridge, when imposing this sentence, condemned the crime as one from which society ought to be protected by fear of severe punishment. The Minister of Justice has seen fit to order this man's release on the plea that 19 months is a sufficient punishment for so serious a crime. If it is, then there are a large number of prisoners serving longer sentences for offences incomparably less deserving of condemnation, offences which were not planned and committed deliberately, as was the crime of Alger and Francey. The securing of a policy on the life of a sick person through a physician's false certificate has led to and is an easy road to murder. The opportunity to secure such a policy on an ebbing life is a powerful temptation to hasten its end, especially when the attendant physician has a direct money interest in the early death of his patient. The public welfare demands the sternest measures being taken to guard the defenceless, unsuspecting sick from a murderous conspiracy, or the using a sick person as an instrument of fraud. In making the term of imprisonment for this very grave crime less than for an act of petty larceny, or an ordinary assault, we fear the authorities have made

a mistake. There are only too many Algers and Franceys, who would find no restraining terror in 19 months' imprisonment when planning a fraud to secure a large sum of money on the death of some selected victim.

The rising  
in India.  
Another view

When the tribes along the Khyber Pass in India broke faith with the British by attacking our troops, their rising was generally attributed to the inspiration, more or less direct, of the Sultan. Although there has been found evidence to support this view to some extent, it is being argued with great force based upon the information of military officers who have served in that part of India that the tribes rose in revolt because their territory had been invaded without justification by British troops. One of the most prominent weekly journals of England declares, "If it had been the deliberate desire of the Indian Government to provoke tribal hostility, it could not have shaped its measures to that end more effectively." It appears that, for our troops to make as quick a trip up to Chitral as possible, they were sent through territory not under the British flag without the permission being asked of the native ruler. Having decided to pass troops through independent territory, the Indian Government is stated to have neglected to offer any clear explanations of this high-handed step in order to show the tribes that there was no intention to take possession of the district so unceremoniously invaded. It is true the territory was held by uncivilized tribes, but England has ever maintained that the territorial rights of even savages must be respected until an attack on them is provoked. If the contentions of a powerful section of the English Press are well founded, the Indian revolt was caused by a lack of courtesy on the part of the military leader, who directed the course of our troops who went to Chitral. A polite and formal, "By your leave," would have saved all the trouble, with the lamentable bloodshed and waste of treasure and life. This view is confirmed by a letter from General Neville Chamberlain, who lays the whole blame of the revolt on those who advised the passage of British troops over independent territory before leave had been obtained from the ruler.

The London Times  
on Preferential  
Trade.

The London Times on the 23rd ult. said:—"The sensation created in Canada by the Toronto Globe's statement regarding Mr. Chamberlain's proposals of preferential trade with the colonies will hardly be shared in England, where the proposals are recognized as identical with the Zollverein scheme already discussed and dismissed from the present range of practical politics." It proceeded to argue that England would not grant any tariff preferences to Canada, or other colonies, on the ground that their trade with the mother country was sufficiently large to justify discrimination in their favor, which would be inimical to those countries