

THE ART OF PUBLIC SPEAKING

Mr. Balfour appears to have told the students of the Philomatic Society at Edinburgh that the art of public speaking was but the art of public conversation raised to a higher level. This reminds us of Bright's saying that the best House of Commons speaking was "pointed an eloquent conversation." And so it is, for ordinary occasions, and for the transaction of business, says the Saturday Review. But this "public conversation" is not oratory; it is debating—a very different thing. Mr. Balfour naturally praises the conversational style, in which he excels all his contemporaries. Twenty years ago Mr. Balfour was the most hesitating and awkward speaker on either of the front benches in the House of Commons. By daily and nightly practice, at the expense of his audience, he has made himself the most dexterous debater of the age. We do not disparage the qualities required for the attainment of this art. Perfect command of temper, unsleeping vigilance, a sense of humor, the habit of remembering points advanced by an adversary and instantly framing a reply, however bad, these are the requisites of a debater; and though they are not mental qualities, they can only be acquired by courage, and they are indispensable to the leader of a popular assembly. Mr. Balfour has wisely never attempted oratory, which is to debating what a picture is to a cartoon, prose to a leading article, or poetry to verse in society. Indeed, the combination of the power of oratory and the power of debating is very rarely found in the same speaker. Burke and Bright, the greatest orators of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries respectively, were no debaters. Of Pitt, Fox and Sheridan we know too little to say; if we were to judge of them by the highest order of their speeches, they were neither orators nor debaters. Brougham possessed in a high degree the art of weaving extemporaneous replies to previous speakers into a carefully prepared speech, as did Disraeli. Only once or twice in the Corn Laws did Sir Robert Peel attempt the perilous flights of oratory, and then, according to his hostile but judicial critic, he was only partly successful. Lord Derby (the Prime Minister) was reckoned the first debater of his day as he was only partially successful in the House of Commons, and in the House of Lords he once or twice delivered the power of impassioned rhetoric. But unquestionably the speaker who combined in the most superb manner the handling of details, the answering of opponents, and close ratiocination with appeals to the passions or the ethical imagination of his audience, was Gladstone. That is why he was equally successful in the House of Commons and on the platform—another very rare combination. Mr. Balfour expressed the hope that none of the students would try to learn gestures or tones of voice, as needless accessories in these artistic and impressive speeches. We remember once seeing his turn of mind in one of his Home Rule speeches, to warn his party that there was "danger in delay." He flung both his arms straight up in the air, and let his long, artistic hands droop, in the attitude of a denouncing prophet, or weird seer. Though it was mere rhetoric and was no danger, men held their breath. Gladstone emphatically the last of the orators. Randolph Churchill reserved his more elaborate rhetorical efforts for the platform; in the House of Commons he too made himself a debater at the expense of his audience. At public meetings Churchill delivered his speeches with marvellous memory and vivacity, thus effectually concealing the preparation. But his defective education caused him just to miss the true oratorical note, which has been defined as something between poetry and prose, and a better writer than either. There was a rigorous vulgarity about the Randolphian style which was anything but classical. The same remark applies to Mr. Chamberlain, who made speeches bearing obvious marks of preparation. Mr. Chamberlain's speeches are full of great apparent ease; and there is a pleasant piquancy about them, a general impression of "securi" all round, which excites admiration. But they are spoiled by bad quotations, by trite metaphors, and by hackneyed phrases. Commonplaceness of thought and expression removes them from the region of oratory. There was one speaker besides Gladstone who exhibited too rarely occasional flashes of oratory, Mr. David Plunket, now Lord Rathmore. He had a musical and flexible voice and a clear, deep laugh, or soothed at will, and when he employed a metaphor it was a poetical one. Unfortunately, he very seldom made a speech, and appeared content, as First Commissioner of Works, to supply dressing-rooms, where, as he said, with a stuffer, "politicians might be glad to change their coats." Mr. Joseph Coven, the member for Newcastle, had oratory in him, but his Northumbrian burr was so strong that he was almost unintelligible to the House of Commons.

What is the explanation of the vulgar prejudices against the "preparation" speeches? For Mr. Balfour was merely expressing a popular notion when he said that the signs of preparation were fatal to effect. No one who has ever studied a fine passage in one of the speeches of Grattan, or Burke, or Bright (whose every sentence was polished like the face of a diamond), can imagine that the words welled up out of a well-filled mind, or that they were not carefully written out and committed to memory. Most men shrink from the drudgery of writing their speeches; many men are so afraid of their memory deserting them at a critical moment that they dare not attempt to remember the words, even if they have written their speech out. Lord Lyndhurst declared that he was not equal to the feat of following the thread of an argument on his legs, and at the same time of thinking out the words of a manuscript, though he admitted that Lord Brougham's method

of writing was the better one. Bright used to write his great speeches out three or four times, without comparing them, so that if the words of one edition failed him, he might trust to the recurrence of the words of one of the other copies. Yet from time immemorial preparation has been a gibe against orators:

"Pitt has no heart, men say, but I deny it; He has a heart, and gets his speeches by it."

The root of the prejudice against preparation is, we think, the old puritanical idea that the speaker is a preacher, a man of God, inspired to deliver the words that are put into his mouth. Ever since Antony's speech in the forum, the popular orator always begins by assuring his listeners that he has no written speech to deliver. "I am a plain, blunt man, who speaks right on," etc. The ethical fallacy is obvious, for there is no reason why that which is meditated should be less sincere, less the offspring of conviction, than that which is spoken on the spur of the moment—quite the contrary. But the vulgar has an idea that, given enough time to prepare, anybody can make a good speech. Give a fool a year, and he will only produce a foolish speech. We cannot agree with Mr. Balfour that the best speeches are not those which read best. That is Lord Chesterfield's doctrine, that the voice, the manner, the arrangement are more than the matter. But seeing that for one man who hears a speech a thousand read it, it is well worth while to make one's speech good reading, which can only be done by putting good matter into good words. The art of debating is not a matter of the highest order, and it can only be acquired by courage, and they are indispensable to the leader of a popular assembly. Mr. Balfour has wisely never attempted oratory, which is to debating what a picture is to a cartoon, prose to a leading article, or poetry to verse in society. Indeed, the combination of the power of oratory and the power of debating is very rarely found in the same speaker. Burke and Bright, the greatest orators of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries respectively, were no debaters. Of Pitt, Fox and Sheridan we know too little to say; if we were to judge of them by the highest order of their speeches, they were neither orators nor debaters. Brougham possessed in a high degree the art of weaving extemporaneous replies to previous speakers into a carefully prepared speech, as did Disraeli. Only once or twice in the Corn Laws did Sir Robert Peel attempt the perilous flights of oratory, and then, according to his hostile but judicial critic, he was only partly successful. Lord Derby (the Prime Minister) was reckoned the first debater of his day as he was only partially successful in the House of Commons, and in the House of Lords he once or twice delivered the power of impassioned rhetoric. But unquestionably the speaker who combined in the most superb manner the handling of details, the answering of opponents, and close ratiocination with appeals to the passions or the ethical imagination of his audience, was Gladstone. That is why he was equally successful in the House of Commons and on the platform—another very rare combination. Mr. Balfour expressed the hope that none of the students would try to learn gestures or tones of voice, as needless accessories in these artistic and impressive speeches. We remember once seeing his turn of mind in one of his Home Rule speeches, to warn his party that there was "danger in delay." He flung both his arms straight up in the air, and let his long, artistic hands droop, in the attitude of a denouncing prophet, or weird seer. Though it was mere rhetoric and was no danger, men held their breath. Gladstone emphatically the last of the orators. Randolph Churchill reserved his more elaborate rhetorical efforts for the platform; in the House of Commons he too made himself a debater at the expense of his audience. At public meetings Churchill delivered his speeches with marvellous memory and vivacity, thus effectually concealing the preparation. But his defective education caused him just to miss the true oratorical note, which has been defined as something between poetry and prose, and a better writer than either. There was a rigorous vulgarity about the Randolphian style which was anything but classical. The same remark applies to Mr. Chamberlain, who made speeches bearing obvious marks of preparation. Mr. Chamberlain's speeches are full of great apparent ease; and there is a pleasant piquancy about them, a general impression of "securi" all round, which excites admiration. But they are spoiled by bad quotations, by trite metaphors, and by hackneyed phrases. Commonplaceness of thought and expression removes them from the region of oratory. There was one speaker besides Gladstone who exhibited too rarely occasional flashes of oratory, Mr. David Plunket, now Lord Rathmore. He had a musical and flexible voice and a clear, deep laugh, or soothed at will, and when he employed a metaphor it was a poetical one. Unfortunately, he very seldom made a speech, and appeared content, as First Commissioner of Works, to supply dressing-rooms, where, as he said, with a stuffer, "politicians might be glad to change their coats." Mr. Joseph Coven, the member for Newcastle, had oratory in him, but his Northumbrian burr was so strong that he was almost unintelligible to the House of Commons.

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providing he is doing his best, the while to become self-supporting again.

When leaving in Ottawa, If, at the end of seven days he has not found work, he must leave the Asyl, but may go straight to the workhouse, an institution organized to provide a refuge for the destitute who are able and willing to work but have failed to find work to do. All who present themselves there are admitted at once. If they have a settlement in the city, they are comfortably lodged, well fed, and kindly treated, and they are allowed to leave the workhouse one day every week to look for work. In return they are required to do a fixed amount of work every day. If they choose to do more than their appointed task, they are paid for their extra work, and can thus earn money wherewith to start life afresh; while, if they persist in doing less, they are turned out of the workhouse, and are left to fend for themselves.

For those who in the workhouse will not work are regarded by the Vienna authorities as "lost souls," who must be punished, not helped. And punished they are as a rule speedily, for the police keep a sharp watch over all who have been expelled from the workhouse, and to Austria loafers whom one is destitute, is a crime. Whoever is convicted of wandering about without visible means of subsistence, of begging, or of allowing his wife or child to beg, may, unless he has some very good excuse to offer, be sent to a penal workhouse and detained there for three months, unless he can manage to change his ways.

To be sent to a penal workhouse is the very best thing that could happen, both for him and for the community. If he be a habitual loafer, for while there he is not only taught to work, but is forced to work, and to do so well, as he must earn his food every day before he eats it. Thus there is the chance, at least, that he may be the force of custom lose his old distaste of work, and develop into a decent, self-supporting member of society.



SORRY HE SPOKE.

Mrs. Cissie said she thought it must be very pleasant to be married to a clever man.

"And what did you say, wife?"

"I told her that of course I didn't know—I had only been married once!"

A JOLT TO A JINGO.

The Toronto Saturday Night has the following incident:

Some of those present asked Mr. MacDonald, editor of the Globe, Mr. Macdonald, who has been much in demand as a public speaker, was one of the leading orators at a big Y. M. C. A. gathering at the American capital a few weeks ago. The meeting was held in a big hall which accommodated about 8000 people. The Toronto editor was in the programme for the second night.

One of the speakers on the first night was the Governor of one of the Carolinas—a big, fat, clean-shaven man, seeming to be the personification of the being the illustrated papers are fond of portraying as the politician of the beef trust type. Even though it was an international occasion, and many of the ambassadors of foreign powers had seats on the platform, he came in loud tones he dilated on the magnificent resources of the country and reminded them that the United States supplied the world with fifty per cent. of this, eighty per cent. of that and ninety per cent. of something else. Among other things he said the United States supplied the world with ninety-seven per cent. of peanuts.

Amused at this inopportune jingoism, some of those present asked Mr. MacDonald to say something in his speech on the following night to offset it. Other facetiously dared him to use the word peanuts. He did both. As he rose to speak he was encouraged by three Canadians, who occupied seats at the front of the hall, who rose and sang "The Maple Leaf." His subject was "The Call of the Nation," and he pointed out that the greatness of a nation did not consist alone in the magnitude of its resources or the length of its railways. Then he warmed up with his robust eloquence.

"It may be true," he said, "as we were so beautifully, originally and told last night that you supply the world with ninety-seven per cent. of this peanuts, but it is also true that your mills are starving for the pulp from the forests of New Brunswick and Quebec. As the nations of the old world watch the growth and development of this North American continent, what a noble sight it will be to see on the northern half a nation built upon a pile of pulpwood and on the southern half a nation built on a pile of peanuts."

The point told, but the Americans took it as a matter of course and joined in the general cheer.

Earth's Treasures.

The total known production of coal throughout the world in 1906 is put at about 905,000,000 tons, the United Kingdom producing rather less than a third of the whole. In the United Kingdom, Germany, and the United States the production of coal in 1906 was greater than in any previous year. Despite the great increase in production last year the price of coal rose 4½ per cent. in the United Kingdom, 3½ in Germany, and 1½ in the United States. In 1905 there were 837,100 persons employed in coal mining, above and below ground, in the United Kingdom, average output per head 222 tons per annum. In U.S.A. there were 626,300 persons employed, average output 560 tons. Last year the United Kingdom exported 76,788,000 tons of coal, and Germany 25,807,000 tons. On the other hand, Germany imported 10,175,000 tons of which 7,500,000 tons were obtained from Great Britain. France and Italy are the other principal customers. Railway locomotives in the United Kingdom used 12,093,000 tons in the year, as compared with 11,543,000 tons in 1905, and 11,445,000 tons in 1904.

WANTED TO DIE.

SEEKS OFFICIAL PERMIT TO END HIS YOUNG LIFE.

Detectives Intercept Foreigner Who Has Scrupulous Notion About Being Within the Law on the Suicide Act.

Buffalo, Dec. 27.—While on his way to police headquarters to ask for a permit to commit suicide, Paolo Defanti, 21 years old, of No. 21 Blossom Alley, was intercepted by Detective Sergeant O'Grady and Higgins and taken to the Pearl street station, where he is being held for examination by Police Surgeon Fowler. He said he wanted to take his own life, but wanted to "be on the side of the law."

In his pocket was found a letter containing a \$1 bill, accompanied by a note requesting that a mass be said for the repose of his soul. Another envelope contained a ten-cent piece and a note written in Italian directed the disposition of the sum.

Before starting for police headquarters, Defanti had purchased a revolver for which he paid \$6.50. It was in his pocket when the officers brought him to the station.

After investigating the money, he consulted a friend, whose name the detectives withheld, and asked him the code of procedure for procuring a permit to end his life. The friend told him that the Superintendent of Police was the only person who could accommodate him, and that he would be required to see the chief, the friend notified O'Grady and Higgins of the incident.

Though he has no reason for wanting to take his life, Defanti seemed determined to do so yesterday. At police headquarters he waited three days before the permit could be issued, so that he may have a chance to change his mind in the meantime. He told the officers that he would wait at the station until the permit was issued, and would make no attempt on his life until he secured the necessary determination of the man, the officers handed him some rope, but he refused to use it. They asked him if he would take liquid to kill himself, and he said yes. When they wanted him to take a glass of beer to kill himself he offered to take the beer and then used it.

His father, Giuseppe Defanti, is said to live in this city, and he told the police that his mother was in an asylum for the insane in Italy.

WHY HE KILLED HIMSELF.

Toronto Furrier Could Not Stand Blackmail and Slander.

Toronto, Dec. 27.—"Can't stand the slander and blackmail and worry any longer. Have always dealt square and honest. Have been used mean and shabby by the press. What I have belongs to my brother, Alec Hobrecker."

This communication was found by the side of Gustave Hobrecker, who was found dead in his room at 5 Ann street last night. The thirty-two-calibre revolver with which he had shot himself in the right temple, was still clasped in his hand. The note, which was legibly written in pencil upon a bill head bearing the dead man's business address as a dealer in and manufacturer of fine furs, at 49 King street west, was addressed to an intimate friend.

Mr. A. James McMill, the keeper of the rooming house at 5 Ann street, last saw Hobrecker on Christmas night. He was always a taciturn man, who never but of necessity during the whole fourteen months' stay at the house spoke to his fellow-lodgers or anyone. At half past 10 one of the lodgers thought he heard a noise, and went to see. Over a year ago Hobrecker failed in his business as a furrier, and he lived in retirement at Ann street. He was of Hebrew extraction, but had lived for years in Canada. He was about fifty years of age, and it is believed has no relatives in the city.

NO CONTRACTS.

Many Tomato Growers Will Refuse to Sign Them.

St. Catharines, Dec. 26.—A well known tomato grower, discussing the tomato situation around here, said: "The canning factory representatives will be around again pretty soon trying to make contracts with tomato growers for their next year's crop of tomatoes, but, judging from what I hear, they'll have a pretty hard job making any contracts with any of the growers. I don't think the growers will have to stand out very long for thirty cents a bushel for their tomatoes, for I'm pretty certain that, after this year's experience, twenty-five cent tomatoes are a thing of the past. For my part," remarked the grower, "I wouldn't make a contract again with any factory, and I guess there are a good many more like me." He went on to say that the factories do not act fairly with the growers. Some factories get tomato growers to sign contracts with them for tomatoes at twenty-five cents a bushel, though there is a verbal addition to the contract that the grower will get thirty cents. The printed contract is merely to show to other growers.

"THAW HER COAT."

A Short Prayer in a Hamilton Presbyterian Church.

It was during my first visit to Canada, in the early nineties, that in company with a Scotch friend—then minister of a Baptist church in Ontario—I attended the mid-week prayer meeting of a well known Presbyterian Church not a hundred miles from the city of Hamilton. The minister had just returned from a visit to his native Scotland, and over three hundred of his congregation had come out to welcome him home. Among the speakers was the Mayor of the city, who told of having met a lady in Detroit who had formerly been a member of the church. Her husband, a member of the church, had been killed in a battle about Detroit chills religious atmosphere having frozen her completely up. A little later in the evening my friend and I were invited to address the gathering. He elected to pray, and those who heard his prayer will always remember it for its brevity, originality and practicality. Here it is in full: "O God, will ye no' thaw out that young lady that's got frozen up over in Detroit, an' send her home to her ain kirk whaur she'll be kept warm? Amen."—Stancraigs.

COLCHESTER ELECTION.

Liberals File a Petition Against Election of Mr. Stanfield.

Halifax, Dec. 26.—The method by which the Conservatives won the recent by-election in Colchester will be ventilated in the election courts. A petition against the return of Mr. John Stanfield was filed at the Prothonotary's office, Halifax, to-day, and will be served on Mr. Stanfield at Truro at once.

The petition makes the usual allegations of improper practices on the part of the Conservatives in the election.

Mr. R. L. Borden boasted in the House of Commons that the Conservatives conducted a clean election. They will be given the opportunity presently to prove that the leader of the Opposition rose by such authority when he claimed credit for the Colchester victory. The Liberals are determined to push the petition to a finish. The petitioner is Mr. A. B. Fletcher, a prominent temperance worker of Truro.

JOHN SUMMERS KILLED.

Remains of an Indian Found on the Railway Near St. Thomas.

St. Thomas, Dec. 26.—The body of an Indian found on the Michigan Central tracks, has been identified as that of John Summers, of Ononda. Summers' body was found terribly mangled and strewn along the track for nearly six hundred feet, he having been struck by a train while walking home on Christmas Day.

ARCHIBALD-PALMER.

Hamilton Man Takes a Bride in St. Thomas.

A quiet Christmas wedding was solemnized on Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock at St. Thomas, the contracting parties being Miss Maybell Palmer, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Palmer, Yarmouth Centre, and Walter Ashford of this city. Rev. Dr. Gundy, of Grace Church, St. Thomas, officiated. The only witnesses present were Miss Marguerite Palmer, eldest sister of the bride, and Gutherie Archibald, of Hamilton, youngest brother of the groom. A novel feature of the wedding was that it was held on the silver wedding anniversary of the bride's parents. The numerous beautiful and costly presents testified to the high esteem in which the young couple are held. The bride wore a travelling suit of navy blue vicuña with neat velvet pansy hat to match. The happy young couple left on the 2.15 p. m. G. R. train for their new home in Hamilton amid showers of rice and the best wishes of their host of friends, who join in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Archibald a long and happy wedded life.

SMITHVILLE.

An entertainment under the auspices of the Smithville Public School, of which any teacher might be proud, was given in Brant's Hall here on Thursday evening last. Every pupil endeavored to excel. The following was the programme: School Chorus, "Maple Land;" short address from the chairman, Robt. Murgatroyd; violin solo, Mr. Geo. Copeland; recitation, Fred. Murgatroyd; solo, "School Days," Miss E. Baker; recitation, Allan Collins; recitation, Roy Bartlett; solo, Edna Bruch; recitation, Frank Day; reading, Helen Davis; solo, Francis Town; recitation, "Christmas" by nine little girls; recitation, Eliza Fisher; Scotch duple, Miss Annie Moffat and Mr. E. Taylor; reading, Howard Walsh; wreath drill, by 10 school girls; negro selection, "Shame on You," by Messrs. Zimmer, Zimmerman and Snider; solo, Rev. F. D. Roxburgh; reading, Eric Baldwin; recitation, Stanley McPherson; trio, Miss Baker, Miss Brant and Miss Fox; recitation, Clayton Bartlett; selection by the orchestra; school chorus, "God Save the King." Proceeds, \$35, to purchase organ for the use of the school.

Mrs. Geo. W. Hart, of Hamilton, spent Xmas with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Shipman, here.

Miss Blanche Hutt, of Toronto, was home for the holiday.

Mr. H. B. Robertson, of the Union Bank, here, visited his home in Pakenham, for Christmas.

At the annual meeting of the Smithville public school held on Thursday, Mr. Roland Balfour was re-elected trustee for the next three years.

Mr. Palmer, Merritt, of Hamilton, spent his holiday with friends here.

Wedding bells will ring shortly here. Mr. Frank Page, of the Union Bank, Barrie, paid a visit to his home, and old friends, returning to his duties on Friday.

Camps School Literary Society met in the school house on Saturday evening. Mr. Nelson, of Fulton, occupied the chair, and Mr. Novils acted as critic. The debate was "Resolved: That Agents are Beneficial." The affirmative speakers were Mr. E. Hoffman, Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Milburn; the negative, Mr. Midwell, Mr. Friesen spoke twice. The decision was given in favor of the affirmative. The following programme was given: Speech, by the Chairman; recitation, Howard Walsh; recitation, Mr. Joslin; speech, Mr. Milburn; recitation, Samuel Simpson. The next meeting will be held on Friday evening next.

ANCASTER WEDDING.

Happy Christmas Event at Home of Wm. Goodwin.

On Christmas Day the home of Mr. and Mrs. William David Goodwin, Ancaster, was the scene of a happy gathering to witness the marriage of their youngest daughter, Mary Knight, and Mr. Edward James Tyner, of this city. The bride was charmingly attired in lawn silk with white satin bodice and lace, and carried a shower bouquet of white carnations. She was attended by her cousin, Miss Katie McVittie, while Mr. George Whitfield Tyner, brother of the groom, was best man. Rev. James Bracken, of Ferguson avenue Baptist church, this city, officiated. The groom's gift to the bride was a beautiful ring, and to the bridesmaid, a gold stick pin. After the ceremony the wedding party partook of an elegant repast, and a toast to the bride and groom was honored.

Mr. and Mrs. Tyner will reside at 17 Case street, this city.

EXPENSE AND INGRATITUDE CONDITIONS OF THE LORD LIEUTENANCY OF IRELAND.

Accompanying the new lord lieutenant, we took part in the state entry into Dublin, which was conducted with the usual military display and viceregal etiquette. The duke in uniform rode with glittering staff out of the city. The rest of the family in civilian dress, with positions and outriders, drove through the crowded streets to the black and grimy castle, which for centuries has witnessed these processions come and go. In view of the repeated attacks made in the last hundred years on the Irish viceregalty, it is strange that it still exists, and is apparently flourishing. But in the old days of slow travel and no telegraph, when it took a week to get to Dublin, things were very different, and one can understand the pomp and circumstance with which the representative of the sovereign necessarily surrounded himself.

In India, the viceregal position was impressed with the glamor of royalty. In the distant colonies, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and others, government house can be offered for the Dublin court, which is within a few hours of London and in direct communication by telegraph and telephone with Downing street. The lord lieutenant, who is not in the cabinet, is but a figure-head, a purveyor of amusements for the Irish officials and the Dublin tradespeople, on whom he is obliged to lavish his hospitality and his money, with no return and no thanks. The wives of the viceroys labor in social work, each of them with the other in charitable work. By these philanthropic works could be carried on just as well if they did not emanate from the castle. The ingratitude of the people must be very disheartening to each successive viceroy. However popular the lord lieutenant and his wife may be, however successful the attempts to cajole, conciliate and entertain—though out of their private means they may have spent money like water—in a week all is forgotten. The new regime is paramount: Le roi est mort; vive le roi!

If the lord lieutenant carries out with tact and success the policy of the government, the credit is taken by the minister. If, on the other hand, the policy is a failure, he gets the blame, or, worse, still, is repudiated publicly and told that the lord lieutenant is of no account. I have seen a good many vice-regal courts, and it is a marvel to me that any one can be found to accept the ungrateful post.—From "The Reminiscences of Lady Randolph Churchill" in the January Century.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

The Department of Labor Report for November.

Ottawa, Dec. 26.—Industrial accidents occurring to 372 individual work people in Canada during the month of November were reported to the Department of Labor. Of these 142 were fatal and 230 resulted in serious injuries. In addition, three fatal accidents were reported as having taken place prior to the beginning of the month. Information not having been received by the department before November. The number of fatal accidents reported in November, 1907, was two more than for the previous month, and 25 more than for November, 1906. Of 195 returns received during the month giving the age of the victims of three fatal accidents were reported as persons under 21 years of age, 44 to persons between 21 and 45, 12 to persons over 45; 116 persons were over 21 years of age, but their exact ages were not specified.

BELEAGUERED BY KURDS.

The Town of Urumiah in State of Siege.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 26.—A despatch from Urumiah, in Persian Armenia, which was brought out by a detachment of Russian troops, states that for the last eight days that town has been entirely surrounded and isolated by bands of Kurdish raiders, who have attacked caravans and driven hundreds of loaded camels to the mountains. A caravan escorted by the guards of the Russian Consulate at Urumiah, which was the first to get through, was attacked by fifty bandits. The robbers were repulsed, many of them being killed or wounded. Complete anarchy prevails at Urumiah.

The Russians are planning to strengthen the Consulate guard there, but it is declared in St. Petersburg that the time for actual intervention has not yet come.

TOWN TREASURER ROBBED.

Port Dalhousie, Dec. 26.—The wreckers working to-day at the sunken tug Escort have just returned from the lake. They raised the tug and towed her about a quarter of a mile closer to port. They had to leave her on account of the heavy sea that was beginning to roll. They will return again the next favorable day and will probably land her in the harbor the next trip.

Mrs. Orford, an immigrant of several months standing at Kingston, took 12 capsules of morphine yesterday in an effort to end her life. Medical aid was summoned quickly, and she may recover. She was deserted some time ago by her husband and five children, and was keeping house for a man on Victoria street.

Nobles of the Mystic Shrine at Toronto have decided to establish a temple at London, Ontario.

Overcoats.

The question is, what's to be done with them? Quite a lot of them here to sell yet. Well, just watch our windows.

Oak Hall.

10 & 12 James Street North

BACK COMBS.

A Back Comb makes a finish to the hair dressing, and we have the largest assortment of Back Combs in the city to choose from. They would make nice Christmas presents, and are not dear. Prices from 50c to \$6.00 each.

F. CLARINGBOWL.

JEWELER.

12 MacNab St. North.

List of Agencies where the HAMILTON TIMES may be had:

G. J. MARTIN, Stationer, Rebecca St., 4 doors from James.

F. W. SCHWARTZ, Royal Hotel News Stand.

THOS. FRENCH, Stationer, 90 James Street North.

G. B. MIDDLEY, Printer, 282 James Street North.

A. F. HURST, Tobacconist, 294 James Street North.

A. A. THEOBALD, Tobacconist, 358 James Street North.

JAS. M'KENZIE, Newsdealer, 334 James Street North.

D. MOHRE, Grocer, James and Simcoe.

JOHN HILL, Tobacconist, 171 King Street East.

W. R. FLEMING, Barber and Tobacconist, 243 King Street East.

H. P. TETTER, Druggist, King and Ashley.

T. J. M'BRIDE, 666 King Street East.

A. W. SWAZIE, 647 Barton Street East.

LLOYD VANDUZEN, Crown Point.

J. A. ZIMMERMAN, Druggist, Barton and Wentworth, also Victoria Avenue and Cannon.

H. E. HAWKINS, Druggist, East Avenue and Barton.

WM. KNOX, Barton and Wellington Streets.

A. GREIG, Newsdealer, 10 York Street.

THOS. M'KEAN, Confectioner, 97 York Street.

A. NORMAN, 103 York Street.

MRS. SHOTTER, Confectioner, 244 York Street.

NEW TROY LAUNDRY, 357 York Street.

S. WOTTON, 376 York Street.

T. S. M'DONNELL, 374 King Street West.

M. WALSH, 244 King Street West.

D. T. DOW, 172 King Street West.

JOHN MORRISON, Druggist, 112 Main Street West.

A. F. HOUSER, Confectioner, 114 James Street South.

CANADA RAILWAY NEWS CO., G. T. R. Station.

H. BLACKBURN, News Agent, T., H. & B. Station.

It will pay you to use the Want Column of the Times. BUSINESS TELEPHONE 308.

Presented With New Altar.

Belleville, Dec. 26.—St. Michael's Church, this city, has been presented with a magnificent new altar by Rev. Father Twomey, parish priest, which takes the place of the altar destroyed by fire. The new altar was made in Bavaria to the order of Father Twomey, and is costly and magnificent, containing no less than six statues, which are works of art.

Officers of the New York Trust Companies claim that their institutions are in a better position to-day than they were before the panic.