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ELEVENTH YEAR. TUESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 2, 1890. ONE CENT.

THE NICKEL MEN EXCITED.

A FIDGETY DAY AMONG THE SUDBURY SPECULATORS.

The Commissioner of Crown Lands Has a Little Talk About the Matter—Some of the Big Properties in Which Torontonians are Interested—Hardships on Poor Men That the Government Ought to Consider.

The action of the Ontario Government in withdrawing from the market the now famous nickel lands of the Sudbury country, which hitherto under the mining laws were offered to all comers at a simple $2 per acre, was the talk of the whole town yesterday. So much so was this a fact that it seemed as if every man in the city owned, had an interest in, or expected to some day be the happy possessor of a nickel mine. The article in The World was eagerly scanned by the thousands of people who daily patronize its pages. But the most deeply interested men were those who had applications in and had not "put up the stuff" to close the transaction. They declared that the Government had acted very unfairly in thus shutting them out without a ghost of a chance to make their purchases good. Those of them who happened to be Conservatives declared that, while they had been pinched, the political allies of the Government had been given a timely hint to cover, and that in consequence very few Reformers were on the wrong side of the fence.

There was, however, nothing positive forthcoming to show that this was a fact, for it was freely alleged that many political friends of the Government were dumped as badly as the other fellows.

Thought it an Outrage.

Many of those who were shut out declared that due notice of the Government, without giving even a day's notice, was an outrage. Said one of them: "Why, if I only had a day's notice to pay up I certainly could and would have done so. The reason that I did not pay the money on my application was because I thought there was no hurry and that it was not absolutely necessary. Had I known of any such contemplated action I would have settled within an hour."

How the lands will be disposed of in future is unknown. The general opinion was that some such method would be adopted as now in the disposal of timber lands. It was held that the Government could realize a larger share of their value if it sent its own prospectors over the lands, opened them up sufficiently to give some idea of their value and then put them up to auction, subject to a royalty on the product.

This will undoubtedly be hard upon the prospectors and miners on a small scale who are unable to compete with the rich corporations. Many men have paid part of the cost of a few acres, built a cabin on the location, and spent what little they had and all their time for perhaps a year in developing the property under the impression that the old regulations would continue. "The Government will have to compensate them," said a gentleman who has just returned from Sudbury. "I am sure there will be blood shed if the claims of these men are not recognized. If the Government should send its prospectors there they would certainly be shot, for the holders look upon the property as their own."

A Case in Point.

The tall, well-clothed form of Mr. R. H. Ahn, the well-known mining-property owner and manager of the Algoma Gold Mining and Reduction Company, was encountered by The World last evening. Mr. Ahn had arrived from Sudbury in the morning. He was almost paralyzed when he read of the withdrawal order in The World at the breakfast table at his hotel. "It will not affect me in the slightest," said Mr. Ahn, "but I am sorry for a number of poor devils up in the district who will be caught badly." Mr. Ahn then related this story, illustrative of what he was driving at:

"There is a friend of mine, a poor man, who has two properties near Sudbury. One is 320 acres and the other 160. He has sunk a shaft 12 feet deep on one and 5 feet on the other. You can depend upon it that he has had some pretty tall scratching to get his properties into shape, and he expected very shortly to realize upon them, when he would probably have cleared $700 or $800. On Nov. 17 last, just 14 days ago, he was notified by the Crown Lands Department that he would have to pay the balance of his money within 20 days. That was all right. He raised the money, and as I was coming to town to-day he sent it with me to pay in at the department. When I went there this morning they would not accept the money. There was not the slightest hint around Sudbury when I left that any such order was to issue, and I know there are dozens of just such cases as I mention. This is the class of men that will be most seriously affected. You see the Department mentioned 20 days notice, but the order-in-council of Saturday absolutely voides out all previous notices and regulations of the department. Earnestly speaking, I think the Government ought to consider such cases as I have mentioned."

Mr. Ahn said further that the regulation will not affect his business much. They will not get the custom work they anticipated, but the company owns considerable properties of its own and will work them.

The withdrawal will undoubtedly lead to slow development of the present holdings. One firm has made a formal offer to the British Government of 100,000 tons of nickel free of charge if they will mine it. A representative of a London syndicate was endeavoring yesterday to obtain an option upon some properties in Craig held by a Torontonian. Another city gentleman was offered a very large sum for a lot in Creighton on Saturday by a broker representing S. J. Ritchie of Akron, Ohio, who was in town on Sunday.

Little Thunder Has a Laugh and a Talk.

Hon. A. S. Hardy, who returned from Brantford yesterday, was found in his office late in the afternoon. He laughed heartily as he read in The World the answer of Assistant Commissioner White to anxious enquiries on Saturday as to why the lands were withdrawn—"Oh, there is no reason!"

"There is no reason!" laughed Mr. Hardy. "Well, I don't know about that."

"What effect will the withdrawal have on the properties already sold?"

"I don't think it will increase their value. If there is as much nickel and other valuable ores in that district as reports say the Government will still own a large amount. There will be no corner in nickel and people will not be compelled to buy from the present owners only. There is an impression that the Government has had some special information as to the enormous value of the deposits of metal. Such is not the case. The Government never had any prospectors or mining staff. Heretofore its policy has been to throw the lands open to anyone at $2 an acre. But the newspaper reports of the extraordinary richness of the country, the action of the United States Government in devoting a million dollars to the purchase of nickel, and the visits of representatives of Krupp and other manufacturers there have convinced us that we ought to be more careful."

"How will the Government dispose of these lands in future?"

"That I can not say. The only thing I know is that the regulation withdrawing the lands will remain in force until after the opening of the Assembly, when the matter will probably be laid before the representatives."

"How much has been already sold?"

"I don't know. The department has not yet added it up."

"Can I obtain the names of those who have purchased lately?"

"I think I know what you mean. The rules of the department forbid that, or even giving the names of applicants. The only way and the proper way to get the information is by a return ordered by the House."

How the Change Will Operate.

Several gentlemen who have speculated in the lands were of a different opinion from Mr. Hardy and agreed that the change would largely increase the value of the present holdings. "That there is an enormous quantity of nickel," said one, "is beyond doubt, and of course the Government will demand more for the remaining locations. If a present holding cost $1000 and an adjoining property of equal value will only be sold by the Government for say $10,000, why the value of the first will be increased by $9000.

Another gentleman said: "I was not caught but had a narrow squeak. If I had known a few hours earlier, from my knowledge of the district I could have made $20,000 within 10 days, and if I had been able to raise $25,000 I could have made purchases which will realize $200,000 in a month. But most of the purchases made Saturday are worthless."

The "Closed" Country.

The "closed" district lies between the eastern limit of Awrey, in Nipissing, to the western limit of Esten and Spragge, a distance of about 115 miles, and extends from the French River and Georgian Bay north. It includes besides those townships, Proctor, Lewis, Shedden, Victoria, Salter, Tennyson, Gough, May, Hallam, Shakespeare, Baldwin, Merritt, Nairn, Lorne, Drury, Trill, Cascaden, Cartier, Hart, Ermatinger, Levack, Hyman, Dowling, Fairbank, Denison, Louise, Goschen, Clarke, Ryle, Humboldt, Graham, Creighton, Craig, Balfour, Morgan, Rayside, Snider, Waters, Broder, McKim, Blezard, Neelon, Dill, Dryden, Hawley and other townships not yet named. The nickel so far has been found principally in the townships immediately west of Sudbury.

All of Denison, most of McKim, about ⅔ of Hyman and of Drury, ⅓ of Nairn, all of Graham, and considerable parts of Blezard, Fairbank, Craig and Creighton have already been sold. No information could be obtained from the department as to the total acreage sold, but well-informed speculators place it at about 125,000 acres.

SOME SNUG PROPERTIES.

Torontonians Who Own Thousands of Dollars' Worth of It—Who They Are.

SAULT STE. MARIE, Dec. 1.—A search in the office of the master of titles here shows that a large number of Torontonians were lucky enough to have completed the purchase of their properties before the new regulation. A syndicate represented by J. M. Clark, barrister, has nearly 5000 acres. It owns part of lot 1 in the 4th concession and of lot 1 in the 5th concession of Craig, 3 miles from the C.P.R., which are held at $200,000. The Moore estate of Ottawa owns a location in the adjoining lot valued at $250,000. H. R. Fairclough owns lot 6 of the 4th concession of Craig, worth perhaps $50,000. J. Loughran, M.L.A., has a location in Craig worth about $40,000. Flett & Lowndes have a location in Denison worth about $50,000. W. D. McPherson has a half interest in 1200 acres in Creighton worth at least $250,000 and altogether in Creighton, Moncrief and Fairbank owns about 2500 acres. G. H. Watson, Q.C., has a gold location in Creighton valued at $120,000, and an interest in nickel location in Craig valued at $90,000. In Creighton, near Gordon Lake, the Clark syndicate has a location valued at $100,000. J. A. Proctor has properties in Hyman and Drury and one in Leback near a lot which is owned by James Stobie of Sudbury and valued at $200,000. M. G. Cameron and J. A. McAndrew hold properties in Drury. Alexander Manning has gold and silver properties near Wahnapitae. Most of these properties have been prospected by J. R. Gordon, and purchased on his report. Mr. Gordon, a graduate of the School of Science, Toronto, is the owner of the Gordon gold mine and is believed to have an interest in some of the nickel syndicates. Other very large holders are: S. J. Ritchie of Akron, Ohio, the Standard Oil Company, Duncan McIntyre of Montreal, James Worthington of Montreal, James Stobie and W. J. Skinner of Sudbury, W. Russell of Ottawa, the Canada Copper Company, the Fairbank Mining Company, Lt.-Col. G. A. Shaw of Toronto.

THE BUTCHERS' BARGAIN DAY.

It Will Hereafter Be on Wednesday Instead of Tuesday.

The butchers and produce dealers of St. Lawrence Market were visited by crowds of citizens on Tuesday last, the inaugural bargain day of this extensive market. The business, in connection with the usual business of Tuesday, which is largely a farmers' day, was found to be too much. On that account it has been decided that Wednesday be the bargain day hereafter.

People who visit the market to-morrow for purchasing will make money, as meats and vegetables are marked down in price from 10 to 15 per cent. for that day. See the St. Lawrence Market announcement on page three.

Drink Winterine, the hot temperance beverage; at all grocers, confectioners and restaurants.

$5.00 Excursion to New York via Picturesque Erie Ry. on Dec. 6, '90.

Take the good old reliable double track road to New York. Magnificent Pullman sleepers from Toronto, a dining car attached for meals, and you have four trains daily to choose from, which leave Suspension Bridge as follows: 8¼ a.m., 9 a.m., 3¼ p.m. and 8.10 p.m., and will only cost you the small sum of $5. Suspension Bridge to New York and return. Tickets can be purchased from agents or at Suspension Bridge. For full particulars apply to G. T. R., or to S. J. Sharp, 19 Wellington-street East, Toronto.

A SAW IN A ROLL OF BUTTER.

Friends of a Toronto Convict Come to His Aid.

MONTREAL, Dec. 1.—Yesterday the officers of the jail discovered a steel saw of about 6 inches in a roll of butter, which had been sent to a prisoner named Graham, who is now in jail for obtaining money under false pretences.

Hot Air Furnaces; Steel Plate estimates given; satisfaction guaranteed. Wheeler & Bain, King east.

Grant & Co., 246
77 King-street east, for fine furs and stylish perfect fitting sealskins at old prices, having purchased their season's supply in skins previous to the advance. The latest in ladies' capes and storm collars; dress and mantle trimmings cut to order at moderate prices. See our ladies' storm collars, the latest out, and only to be had at 77 King-street east.

Cooking ranges, 25 per cent. cheaper than any place in city. Wheeler & Bain, King east

THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP SEA.

THE PEERLESS PARNELL STILL BETWEEN THE TWO.

He Makes a Passionate Appeal to Postpone His Political Demise and Indulges in Impious Rant and Other Hollow, Meaningless and Insincere Rhodomontade—Violent Attack on the Liberals.

LONDON, Dec. 1.—The meeting of the Irish members of the House of Commons, called to consider what action the Nationalist party shall take in regard to the leadership of the party, took place at noon to-day. Mr. Parnell and his private secretary were the first to arrive. After the members had assembled Mr. Parnell took the chair. Telegrams from the delegates of the party in the United States and from Archbishop Croke were read. About 75 Irish members of the House were present. The meeting remained in session until 6 o'clock.

The proceedings were of the stormiest character. Parnell's supporters strove hard to secure another adjournment, urging that the meeting to decide the question of the leadership of the Irish party should be held in Dublin.

Mr. Sexton hotly protested against an adjournment. A majority of the party, he declared, desired to keep the leadership unsullied and unstained.

Parnell's Friends Outnumbered.

Sexton's remarks were frequently interrupted by tremendous cheering from Parnell's opponents, who comprised a majority of those present.

Mr. Redmond replied to Mr. Sexton. He made a passionate appeal to the members to pause before they depose from his rightful position as leader of the Irish nation, the statesman who by his unparalleled services had earned the gratitude of the Irish people. He declared that those who by their voice or vote indicated a sacrifice of the man who had sacrificed so much for Ireland would have to account to the Irish people. Mr. Redmond, continuing, said that the facts of the divorce case were fully known when Parnell was re-elected leader of the Irish party. This assertion was greeted with cries of "No, no; Gladstone's letter was withheld." Mr. Redmond was unmoved by this interruption, and went on to say that, notwithstanding their previous action, taken with a full knowledge of Parnell's position, a section of the party at the polling of the Liberals now wanted to sacrifice their leader and with him the national cause. Let them go to the world over, would ask where was the consistency in such a course? The Irish tenants, said Mr. Redmond, would reprobate the action that the anti-Parnell section proposed to take, and those American friends whose bounty had sustained them and their cause for many years would demand a reckoning from Parnell's foes. That reckoning could not long be delayed, judging from the testimony expressions of sympathy and promises of continued support which Parnell was receiving from America. In conclusion he invited his hearers to give their votes for Ireland. He resumed amid great cheering.

To Death, But Not Dishonor.

T. P. Gill, one of the delegates now in America, sent a despatch expressing his personal grief at the action that his conscience forced him to take toward a leader whom he loved and to defend whom he would give up his life. "I would gladly follow him to death," says Mr. Gill, "but I cannot follow him to what seems to me to be dishonor." He concluded with a request that the despatch be read to Mr. Parnell.

Loud cheers were given by both sections of the party when telegrams or letters were read endorsing or opposing the attitude of the respective sides. Telegrams were read from Messrs. Harrington, Pierce, Mahoney, Laior and Leany, all of whom supported Parnell.

Parnell Turns On His Allies.

Parnell addressed the meeting. He said in effect: The time has come when I must speak out against the opposition within our party, which has been created by Mr. Gladstone's letter. Those responsible for the division in the party appear to forget what is due to themselves and to their country and to me. The men whose ability has been so most conspicuously exercised against me—Messrs. Healy and Sexton—will have to bear their responsibility in all these proceedings. Mr. Healy has been trained in this warfare. Who trained him? Who was my colleague? Who telegraphed to him in America to come back? Who gave him his first chance to enter public life and get him a seat in Parliament, prompting, rebuking and restraining him? That Mr. Healy is here to-day to destroy me is due to myself. But I am glad he is here even to destroy me, if he understands the meaning and effect of his proceedings. Mr. Healy reminds me of his services. He has not been slow to remind me of them at any time. I understand he attended the recent meeting in Dublin calling on me not to retire. [Cheers.] Who asked him to do so? Did I? [Cheers.] Who asked Mr. McCarthy to travel to Dublin and say he would be able to give information which would throw a different complexion on hidden events? Did I? [Cheers.] Where was Sexton at this same meeting? Where were you all?

Accused of Treachery.

Why did you encourage me to take my position on the bridge if they were going to act as traitors and hand me over to another commander-in-chief. [Cheers.] I did not ask them for the certificate of character given at the Dublin meeting. Our position is awkward, but the whole blame for the creation of this position does not rest with me—a leader. Killer Barry has been put up to stab me as he stabbed that old lion, Isaac Butt, in days gone by. I remember well that though Butt arraigned me I never, by word or deed, counselled attacks upon him. I allowed the old man to go down honored to his grave rather than seek to step into the shoes of a politician who, however grave his faults, created a great movement, and has given me and many others power to participate therein. [Cheers.] What is now to be said about the request for my temporary retirement? Mr. Sexton at a recent meeting here told me I could resume the leadership, and that the leaders were with me. Ten minutes afterwards he astonished me by saying he believed I would reject the leadership. [Laughter and cheers.] I have been asked about the conference at Hawarden. I am told there that Gladstone's communication is not to be divulged to any of my colleagues, yet because I did not denounce his proposals at once I am accused of deceiving the party. Mr. Gladstone told me that none of the proposals were final. The chief proposal of all, the retention of 30 members in Westminster, was subject to revision. For me it was a question of drafting a bill. It was a question of weak judgment on the part of an English politician.

Gladstone a Garrulous Old Gentleman.

It was a question of dealing with a garrulous old gentleman who monopolized the conversation, and with whom, as everybody who knows him knows, it is difficult to get in a word edgeways. Before you vote for my deposition be sure you are getting value for it. On Saturday we were all agreed that we would not have this Gladstone bill. [Cries of "Hear, hear" and cheers.] Not a man here has said a word in favor of it. Are you sure you will be able to get anything better? If Healy or McCarthy or Sexton see the way to get anything better for God's sake let them say it. I won't stand a moment in their way. On Saturday I made this proposal to Mr. McCarthy: Let Gladstone, Harcourt and Morley give him letters declaring that in the event of the return of the Liberals to power a Home Rule bill would be proposed by which the control of the constabulary would be vested in an Irish executive who would be responsible to an Irish parliament empowered to settle the land question. Mr. McCarthy went to Mr. Gladstone with these proposals, with my assurance that these concessions made I would retire from public life. Mr. Gladstone has replied that he will not hold any communication with me as the leader of the party.

Mr. McCarthy, interrupting: No, no!

Mr. Parnell: He is perfectly welcome. The same proposals were placed before Sir William Vernon Harcourt, who replies that under no circumstances will he give any promise whatever now or hereafter to any Irish party. Remember, Harcourt will be your leader when Gladstone dies.

Mr. Condon: Not our leader.

Mr. Parnell: It will not be Morley—you will not deny that. This great man Harcourt, whose chain you are going to put on your necks, has the reversion of the Liberal leadership. This same man has declared that his limits to Home Rule are in Mr. Chamberlain's scheme of local government. If Harcourt ever comes into power he will give you local government with plenty of coercion. [Cries of "Hear, hear."]

Not One to Be Trusted.

I know what Harcourt will do for you and what Gladstone and Morley will do. I know there isn't a single one of the lot to be trusted unless you trust yourselves.

Be to your own selves true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.

If I am to leave you to-night I should like to leave you in security. It is not an unfair thing for me to ask to see you within sight of the promised land, or that I should come with you, having come so far, until you are absolutely sure of Ireland and I can go no further.

Justin McCarthy's Rejoinder.

An enthusiastic outburst of cheering followed Parnell's remarks.

Mr. McCarthy spoke next. He explained how he went to Mr. Gladstone Saturday to reopen negotiations, although he was unwilling to undertake the mission, believing it would do no good. He thought the party ought to settle quarrels among themselves without reference to English statesmen. Mr. Gladstone told him he regretted the disorganization of the Irish party, but could not regard him as representing the party and therefore could not treat with him. He would offer no suggestion, nor would he sign any document or give any message to be conveyed to the party.

Mr. Parnell: I did not want any document, only your word if Mr. Gladstone assented.

Mr. McCarthy, continuing, said: Mr. Gladstone informed him that he could not give any document with any certainty that it might not be printed by some of those concerned. He (McCarthy) also saw Harcourt, who did not say he would not make any promise of any kind to any Irish member, but simply said that in view of the disclosures made in the manifesto he would not give anybody verbally or in writing assurances which were to be brought to the notice of Parnell. As to the general question of Parnell's retiring, Mr. McCarthy said, Parnell's leading error had been his keeping private until now the Hawarden conversation.

Mr. Parnell: I am perfectly willing to admit the blame, but I am glad I have told all now before the full mischief has been done."

The Motion for Retirement.

The motion for the retirement of Parnell was made by John Barry, member for South Wexford, who aided the late Isaac Butt in founding the Home Rule Confederation of Great Britain in 1872.

Joseph Nolan, member for North Louth, submitted an amendment to the effect that the question of the retirement of Parnell should be postponed until the members had personally ascertained the views of their constituents on the subject, the party then to meet in Dublin and decide the matter.

Parnell ruled out of order any reference to his conduct in the O'Shea case, and this brought him into frequent collision with the different speakers, especially Healy, with whom Parnell exchanged hot words. Parnell displayed great passion throughout.

At 11½ p.m. the meeting adjourned until noon to-morrow.

The Tories claim six additional seats in parliament as a result of the split in the ranks of the Opposition on the Parnell question.

THREE MINUTES AND A HALF

Required to Dismiss the Petition Against Farmer-General Dryden.

WHITBY, Dec. 1.—The election court held here to-day resulted in dismissal with costs of the petition against the return of Mr. John Dryden. Justices McLennan and Falconbridge presided. Hon. John, who was present at the close of the proceedings, which only lasted three minutes and a half, was heartily congratulated by his friends.

A Terrible Risk.

There are thousands who do not earn enough to be able to lay by any considerable sum against the contingency of their death. And it has been observed that death to all such usually comes with fearful suddenness. You may have every reasonable expectation of thirty years of life—*you may not live thirty days.* Can you afford to run this risk when you remember what the consequences may be to those nearest and dearest to you? The Manufacturers Accident Insurance Co. of Toronto will take all this responsibility off your shoulders, and for a small yearly sum will assume all the risk. If disaster should come, your family would then be provided for, not by charity, but by the fruit of your own prudence and foresthought.

Amongst the many modes now attracting the attention of investors of annual sums, either large or small, it is difficult to find one likely to yield more satisfactory results than the compound investment plan of the 7 per cent. guaranteed income bond of the North American Life Assurance Company. These plans are well worthy of serious consideration, as they combine the beneficent scheme of life insurance with that of investment. 246

Jottings About Town.

The debate on capital punishment by the Osgoode L. and L. Society will be resumed on Saturday next.

Saturday was hard traveling for horses. See that they are properly shod, and give the farriers a chance.

John Ryan and Andrew Simpson were yesterday committed for trial charged with stealing 24 pairs of shoes from Greer's store at the Humber.

Richard Bennet was arrested at St. Lawrence Market yesterday on a charge of aggravated assault on Sarah Evans, who keeps a stall on the east side.

A special meeting of the Stonecutters' Union was held in Richmond Hall last night. The object was to relieve the congested state of the union's ordinary business.

The Toronto Shoe Company claim to own a pair of boots found in possession of Patrick Kelley of 51 Sherbourne-street. Mr. Kelly will endeavor to explain matters to the Colonel this morning.

The funeral of Edward C. Coates of Trinity Medical College was largely attended yesterday from the General Hospital to the City Hall Station. Nearly 400 students showed their respect for their late class-mate.

The attention of our lady readers is directed to the advertisement of McKendry & Co., the well-known drygoods house. They are to have a big sale to-day (Tuesday) and to-morrow (Wednesday).

The annual tea meeting of the Gerrard-street Methodist Church, held last night, was a success. After tea had been served an interesting musical program was presented by the choir. Speeches were made by E. P. Roden (chairman), Revs. W. F. Wilson, Maxwell, C. Langford, Mathewson.

The Young Men's Association of St. James' Cathedral last night debated the subject, "Resolved, that the McKinley bill will not injure Canada." Frank Ford and Fred. G. Anderson spoke on the affirmative and C. Bell and C. A. E. Colwell on the negative. The affirmative was declared carried.

The Epworth League of Bathurst-street Methodist Church have arranged for a public debate for Thursday evening, Dec. 11, when gentlemen from Trinity, Euclid-avenue, Broadway and Queen-street Churches will be arrayed against each other to discuss the question, "Shall pew rents be abolished?"

Gough's great retiring sale of clothing must be closed out by 1st January. Purchasers should select their garments at once and get their choice of bargains. This week they offer the workmen a great bargain in suits, guaranteed all wool, worth $6.50 to $9, for $3.95. Don't forget Gough's, opposite St. Lawrence Market.

Jurgenson' Watches.

If you carry a "Jurgenson" don't risk a large depreciation in value by allowing it to run till it stops. Ed. Beeton, High Grade Watch Specialist, 25 Leader-lane.

Master Arlidge, Toronto's gifted soprano, will sing at Bengough's entertainment Friday evening. His first concert appearance.

THE POTTS COMPANY ASSIGN.

Toronto Creditors Likely to be Heavy Losers by the Failure.

DETROIT, Dec. 1.—The Potts Salt and Lumber Company made a voluntary assignment to-day to W. S. Waugh, one of the directors. The officers of the company are reticent concerning it. Mr. Lucking explains that the assignment was ordered last Friday by the directors, and is made to secure what is left of the assets of the company for the benefit of general creditors. Last January, according to the annual statement, there was over $850,000 on the right side of the ledger. A statement of present assets will exceed liabilities by a good figure. It is apparent, however, that the company must have run into debt heavily within 10 months. Some interesting developments are expected.

Failed for Half a Million.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—Arthur & Ketchum, stock brokers, have assigned to Charles A. Demerritt. The liabilities are said to be, $500,000. The firm suspended a year ago but resumed after making certain arrangements with creditors. Owing to poor business the arrangement could not be carried out.

BOSTON, Dec. 1.—Winslow, Rand & Watson, wholesale dealers in teas, coffees and spices, have assigned. Liabilities and assets unknown.

OPENING OF CONGRESS.

President Harrison's Message—The Behring Sea Question—The New McKinley Tariff to Continue in Force.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—The difference between the two Governments touching the fur seal question in the Behring Sea is not yet adjusted, as will be seen by the correspondence which will soon be laid before Congress. It is sincerely hoped that before the opening of another sealing season some arrangement may be effected.

While it has not been thought best to renew formally the suggestion of an international conference looking to an agreement touching the full use of silver for coinage at a uniform rate, no favorable opportunity will be lost to promote a result which it is confidently believed would confer very large benefits upon the commerce of the world.

The passage of the act to amend certain sections of the "Revised Statutes Relating to Lotteries" has received the earnest and deserved popular favor. The Postoffice Department and the Department of Justice at once entered upon the enforcement of the law with sympathetic vigor, and at the last public mail there had been almost freed from the fraudulent and demoralizing appeals and literature emanating from the lottery companies.

The general trade and industrial conditions throughout the country during the year have shown a marked improvement. For many years prior to 1888 the merchandise balances of foreign trade had been largely in our favor, but during that and the year following they turned against us. It is very gratifying to know that the last fiscal year again shows a balance in our favor of over sixty-eight millions, which has been in large part the result of labor is everywhere fully employed, and the reports for the last year show a smaller number of employes affected by strikes and lockouts than in any year since 1884.

The general tariff act has only partially gone into operation, some of its important provisions being limited to take effect at dates yet in the future. The general provisions of the law have been in force less than 60 days. Its permanent effects upon trade and prices still largely stand in conjecture. There is neither wisdom nor justice in the suggestion that the subject of tariff revision shall be again opened before this law has had a fair trial. The criticisms of the bill that have come to us from foreign sources may well be rejected for repugnancy. There is no disposition among any of our people to promote prohibitory or retaliatory legislation. I do not doubt that a largely increased foreign trade is accessible to us without bartering for it either our industrial market or our prosperous as our own people can supply or the wages of our working people.

If the tariff act wisely and effectively opens the way to secure a large reciprocal trade in exchange for the free admission to our ports of certain products, I desire to repeat with added urgency the recommendations contained in my last annual message in relation to development of American steamship lines. The recent cordial waves of the tariff bill will be largely limited and its benefits retarded and diminished if provision is not contemporaneously made to encourage the establishment of first-class steam communication between our ports and the ports of such nations as may meet our overtures.

The House, after receiving the President's message, adjourned until to-morrow.

The Senate, when the reading of the message was finished at 2¾, adjourned till to-morrow.

The House Committee on appropriations to-day completed the bill providing for payment of pensions. The bill appropriates $135,099,750. Its details have already been published.

To Amend the McKinley Act.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—Mr. Wike of Illinois introduced in the House to-day a preamble and resolution on the subject of the tariff. The preamble recites that it is manifest that the people of this country have at the recent election most emphatically repudiated the policy and principles of taxation and protection embraced in the McKinley law, and have by an overwhelming majority at such election unmistakably demanded lower taxes and cheaper necessaries of life. The resolution instructs the Committee on Ways and Means to report bills to repeal all increases in the tariff duties occasioned by that enactment and to place upon the free list wool, lumber, salt, coal, ores of all kinds, dyestuffs, tin plates, agricultural and manufacturing machinery, binding twine and the materials of which it is manufactured, bagging, cotton ties and other articles of raw material as the committee may deem of like importance to manufacturers or the people, such bills to provide carefully for carrying the reduction occasioned by putting such articles upon the free list into and through the various manufactures into which such materials may enter, to the end that the ultimate consumers and not the manufacturers alone may get the benefit of such reductions.

Get your seats for Bengough to-day. There's going to be a crowd. Plan at Nordheimer's. 50c.

A Matricide Suicides.

LONDON, Dec. 1.—The wife of Major Gregg, an instructor in the Sandhurst Royal Military College in Berkshire, suddenly became insane to-day and murdered her mother. She then took her own life.

The largest stock of trusses, crutches, abdominal supporters, shoulder braces, is carried by the one-price firm, established twenty years, of Charles Clothe, 134 King-street west. Trusses in hard rubber, celluloid and leather, from 75c upward. 26

Amherstburg Will Have Waterworks.

AMHERSTBURG, Dec. 1.—The municipality of Amherstburg carried a bylaw to-day by 98 majority to raise $27,000 to construct waterworks.

Don't forget Foresters' concert at the Pavilion, Dec. 4.

Children's Grey Curly Lambskin Caps—A Choice Lot at Dineen's.

One hundred and fifty caps just made for the holidays in choice bright curly grey fur, suitable for boys and girls. Also several small shapes for children; just the proper cap for winter. Step into Dineen's and ask to see them.

St. Mary's Puts on Style.

ST. MARY'S, Dec. 1.—The bylaw to erect municipal buildings, at a cost of $9000, to replace those destroyed by fire recently, was carried to-day by 158 majority.

A New Home Treatment whereby the worst cases are permanently cured by a few simple applications made forsightly by the patient at home. Send stamp for descriptive circular. A. H. Dixon & Son, 345 West King-street, Toronto, Canada

NO MORE SECRET SITTINGS.

THE STREET RAILWAY COMMITTEE OPENS ITS DOORS

And Makes Public its Specifications Under Which the Tender for Operating the Road Will be Awarded—No Sunday Cars—Comfort for Smokers—Scollard-street Stables to Go.

The Secret Committee of the City Council on the Toronto Street Railway Franchise is secret no longer. It met in secret last night for an hour, and after an internal struggle of fully 30 minutes, in which the aldermen changed their minds twice, it was finally decided to admit the press and the public. The credit for this crowning mercy is due to Ald. Leslie and Gillespie and City Solicitor Biggar. Those present at the meeting were Chairman Vokes, Ald. Hewitt, Gibbs, Carlyle (St. Thos.), Score, Swait, Carlyle (St. And.), Gillespie, Lindsey, Hill, Brandon, Leslie, Moses, Hallam, City Solicitor Biggar, Engineer Jennings.

The business before the meeting was the consideration of a draft of the specifications, on which all and sundry are invited to tender for the leasing of the big Street Railway plant, which is to come into the possession of the city so sturdily. It sets forth, in the opening clause, that the privilege for sale is the operating of all street railways in Toronto, other than that of the Metropolitan, in Yonge-street, subject to conditions, which, as amended last night, are about as follows:

1. To take over the entire property of the company, tracks, etc., to which is added the rider that the city shall assume the $500,000 bonds of the road now held by certain individuals, and in future the company securing the lease shall not issue any bonds whose date of expiry is past that of the life of the lease.

2. The amount of purchase is to be paid in four quarterly instalments excepting the price of the horse plant, which is to be put up as soon as the contract is entered into.

3. At the termination of the lease (20 years) the city shall take over the real and personal property of the company at a valuation to be decided upon by arbitration, but this not to include the value of the privilege of operating the road.

4. The successful tenderer has to pay the city $80 per mile single track per year for maintenance of roadbed, and in addition a percentage of the receipts.

5. As soon as the company adopts electricity the city is pledged to lay a permanent pavement on the main streets, and later in such branches as the general government may recommend.

6. Electric, cable or other new system of motor, or a combined system, is to be introduced at once and used at least on the following main lines, within two years, viz.: Queen, the Woodbine to High Park; King, Dufferin to Roncesvalles; Yonge, from Queen to Frederick; Yonge, Front to C.P.R.; Frederick and George, Front to King; Sherbourne, King to North drive; Spadina, King to Bloor; Parliament, Front to Carlton; Carlton, Parliament to Yonge; College, Yonge to Jamieson; Bloor, Sherbourne to Roncesvalles; York, Front to Queen; McCaul, Queen to College, and eastern end of Gerrard-street.

7. The uniform gauge is to be 4 feet 11 inches.

8. The cars must be run from 5½ a.m. to 12 p.m. and night cars at double ordinary fare as the council may direct.

9. A class of tickets must be sold at the rate of eight for 25 cents, the same only to be used between the time the daily runs commence and 8 a.m. and between 4 and 6½ p.m. Another class must be sold at the rate of 25 for $1, and still another class at the rate of 6 for 25 cents. Single fare, 5 cents. School children's tickets to be for 25 cents, and transfer tickets to be issued to any part of the city.

10. All cars are to be lighted and heated, not overcrowded, and conductors must wear a uniform.

11. There shall be no street cars on the Lord's Day.

12. Smoking to be permitted on the front platform of closed cars, and last seat of open cars.

13. Each tenderer to send in a marked check or negotiable security to the amount of $50,000 with the tender.

The specifications, stripped of their verbiage, are the points which corporations and companies will tender on for the street railway franchise. The committee adopted them after a battle royal, which lasted from 7½ until 11½ p.m. A great anti-tobacco man, fought hard for the continuance of the anti-smoking rules on the cars, but the smokers were in the majority. Then Ald. Lesle and Lindsey made a stubborn but futile fight for Sunday cars, being anxious that the people vote on the question. Ald. Globs got in an important addition to the specifications, to the effect that tenderers be permitted to add along their own specifications, which, if thought more favorable for the city, might be accepted, in preference to the one sent out by it.

It was also resolved to add another clause giving the city more power to deal with the Metropolitan road. Ald. Hallam, in defiance of the chairman's ruling, got a resolution through that the city have the benefit of the unearned increment in the value of the property at the expiration of the lease.

This conflicts with clause 1, which asks the tenderer to take over the entire property of the present company. In the evening the question of which cheap fares are to prevail was made from 5 to 7.

Ald. Hill, just before adjournment, made another attack on the Scollard-street stables and demanded their removal. The committee had laid this matter up at an early date.

The specifications are to be sent on to council to be considered at a special meeting to be called shortly.

Nationalists Favor the City.

A slimly attended meeting of the newly organized Nationalist Association was held at Yonge and Gerrard-streets last evening. Arnot Hepburn was chairman. The meeting was convened to discuss street railway matters, and sessions will be held weekly. Phillips Thompson was the principal speaker, and he claimed that the street railway corporation had been an oppression and degrader of labor. He also frowned upon the introduction of the religious question, and acquitted Frank Smith of the charge of bigotry, defended the aldermen from the charge of corruption, and urged the separation of the legislative affairs of the city from the administrative.

This resolution was adopted unanimously: That in view of the city having to acquire the plant, tracks, etc., of the Toronto Street Railway and that upon obtaining possession of the system they will have in their hands a thoroughly organized and equipped road, this meeting is of the opinion that the city should retain possession of it and operate the street railway in the interests of the people instead of handing it over to any private corporation for their own individual profit.

Mr. Jones gave notice that he intended at a future meeting to move that the council be petitioned in favor of Sunday street cars.

"All For Four Dollars."

Messrs. Hickman & Co., "Parkdale Cash Grocery," advertise an immense list of fine groceries "All for four dollars." It is well worth the attention of every economical housewife, and cannot be beaten by any grocery house in town. It is just the thing for the holiday season. Hickman & Co., 1424 Queen-street west, or telephone No. 5061. Housekeepers can save one dollar in every five by taking advantage of the chance offered by Hickman & Co.

The Colonel Not to be Bluffed.

Police Magistrate Denison, in a letter received by the Mayor yesterday, demands his six months salary due on Saturday last. It will be recollected that the council instructed the City Treasurer to deduct that portion of his salary due while he was absent in the Old Country. On his return he refused to accept the balance and informs His Worship that unless the full amount is forthcoming as provided by statute he will enter suit forthwith.

December Magazines—Harper's, Century, Scribner's, St. Nicholas, Review of Reviews, Hood's Comic Annual, Outing, New Review, Grip's Comic Almanac, &c., &c., at Winnifrith Bros., 6 and 8 Toronto-street. 624

Personal Mention.

Hon. David Mills, London, is at the Walker.

Mr. Fred Hayter of the Auditor-General's office, Ottawa, was in the city yesterday.

Rev. J. G. Lewis, late of St. Alban's Cathedral, has been appointed to a curacy in St. James' Cathedral. Mr. Lewis yesterday commenced the duties of his new position.

S. H. Clark, elocutionist, Pavilion Thursday.

THE ETHIOPIA MISSING.

An Anchor Line Steamship Overdue at Glasgow.

GLASGOW, Dec. 1.—Considerable uneasiness is felt over the non-arrival of the Anchor line steamship Ethiopia, Capt. Wilson, which left New York Nov. 16 for this port. The