

The Planet

S. STEPHENSON - Proprietor.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19.

VISIT THE COLONIES.

An English writer says that hereafter no man will aspire to leadership in politics in Great Britain without having a personal acquaintance with the colonies. It is to be hoped that this is true. Hon. Mr. Chamberlain has set an admirable example in going to South Africa, and now, according to the Montreal Star, word as been received in Montreal from London that several important commercial bodies, in Montreal, Toronto, Halifax, St. John and Winnipeg, have under consideration an invitation to Hon. Austen Chamberlain, Postmaster-General of Great Britain, to visit Canada next autumn.

The idea has been tentatively laid before Mr. Chamberlain, and it is understood he will be pleased to accept on receipt of a formal invitation.

It was hoped that his father, the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, might be induced to come, but the South African trip which he is now taking makes a second period of absence from the seat of Government within a year quite impossible.

This is a great stride in the right direction. The British Colonial Secretary ought to visit the main colonial possessions regularly in order to keep in touch with colonial sentiment.

MR. GAMEY'S CASE.

Gamey still insists that he is a Conservative. Perhaps, then, he will accept this advice from that excellent Conservative paper, the Montreal Star:

The Ontario legislature will make a dangerous precedent if it permits Mr. Gamey to think that he has been guilty of no shocking offense. A house sensitive as to its honor would compel him to resign, and give the people of Manitoulin a chance to decide whether or not they now desire to be represented by him in his new character of a lightning convert to the party with the public purse. No British statesman would have thought of taking such a step without submitting his conduct first to his constituents. If Mr. Gamey did not think that Manitoulin's member should oppose "a sure thing" he could have resigned and asked for re-election of this new and remarkable change. But he did not resign. He did not take the only means of finding out whether his constituency approved of his proposed change of face. He simply deserted one army and crawled into the other. Public decency will suffer if he is permitted to keep his seat, and debase the standard of the legislature.

Mr. Williston's Toronto News, comments:

Mr. R. R. Gamey, M. P. P., is to honor Toronto with a visit; in fact, he is said to be in the city now. It is up to Mr. Gamey to do his manifest duty to the people of the metropolis of Ontario. We have all heard of Mr. Gamey; we have all seen his benign countenance photographed in the newspapers; we have all wondered how so mild-visaged a man could take such a revolutionary attitude. As a matter of the volte face, Mr. Gamey is easily first. Let him tell us why he made his dizzying reversal of opinion.

During these long winter evenings Toronto folk have plenty of time to spare. There are many halls in the city. Some of them are available every evening. Let Mr. Gamey hire a hall and invite the people of this good town to hear the reasons for deciding to support the Liberals after being elected to represent the Conservatives. If the member for Manitoulin does not care to assume the financial burden of hiring a hall, let him make a convention with one of our local entrepreneurs. We should think any of them would gladly give Mr. Gamey fifty per cent. of the gate. The citizens would flock in thousands to hear the gentleman who holds the Canadian record for rapid political conversion. They want to know how he did it; they want to know why he did it. It is not to be expected that the gentleman from the beautiful island in Huron's broad bosom will answer these impertinent questions; but he might make a bluff at it, anyhow. We would venture to guarantee him a full house.

Mr. Baer's tongue has the sweep of a whale's extremity.—Buffalo News.

"No rural mail delivery on toll-roads" will settle the toll-road nuisance in short order in Canada.—Brockville Times.

Toronto wants to control Ontario's water power and Ottawa asks to be placed in charge of the weather. Between these two grasping ordinary people won't have much left.—Brockville Recorder.

There is talk of making the Ottawa Fat Stock Show a permanent institution if the civil service continues to look as hearty.—Toronto Star.

There will be no difficulty next year. Experiments have brought the development of peat up to a high point and the coal agitation will be kept up during the warm months. The public must not forget past favors.—Ottawa Free Press.

It will be admitted, I think, by the majority of those who are not abstainers that in five cases out of six people drink then there is absolutely no necessity for it. Nature does not want assistance very frequently. No, we meet and we treat, and having been treated we must, from some mistaken pride, treat again; and that is the secret of the whole thing. In time, of course, it becomes a habit, and habit turns into craving, and in turn craving becomes a disease. Now, if people drink only when eating, the evil must diminish; and I for one wish the new movement every success.—Newcastle (Eng.) Chronicle.

BLAMES THE REPORTER.

Mr. Cowan, M. P., denies that he is responsible for the interview in which Sir Wilfrid Laurier was represented as snapping his fingers at Mr. Tarte, and describing the ex-Minister as a political dead one. Was the good man personated, or has he become afraid of what he said himself?

WHERE TRAVELLING IS SAFE.

Not a single passenger was killed on a British railway in 1901. In the United States the number of passengers killed in that year was 24. The year was not an exceptional one, either. The loss of life on British railways is always small compared with what it is in America. Efficiency seems to be the point aimed at there rather than immediate profits. It would be well for the United States and Canadian railways to cease sneering at what they call the slow-going methods of the old country and adopt the working system which has accomplished such results in life-saving there.

BORN BLIND, NOW SEES

Cleveland, Feb. 18. — Through a wonderful operation performed by a city oculist, Dr. Byron B. Viets, God's sunlight has been admitted into the life of nine-year-old Ethel Boothby, of East Conneaut, which was thought to be hopelessly darkened. Before the skill of the oculist had swept away the barrier of darkness not a ray of light had ever penetrated the child's eyes. Dr. Viets has a summer home in Conneaut, and the pathetic case of the child, who is exceptionally bright in intellect, came to his notice about three years ago. The child, then six years old, was taken to the oculist by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. I. S. Boothby, to see whether or not something could be done for her. It was a case that touched the heart-strings.

For three years Dr. Viets worked patiently on the case. He performed seven of the most delicate operations known to modern surgery on her right eye. Little by little he opened the bony-like membrane until one day a gleam of light flashed into the little girl's consciousness, and she cried out with delight. Her parents were overwhelmed with joy, and Dr. Viets was jubilant, for he had accomplished what was supposed to be impossible. The sight of the child grew stronger, for the nerves of the eye developed little by little. Soon she became able to see objects before her, and for the first time looked eagerly into the big world, and her gaze fell upon the beloved features of her father and mother that hitherto had been known to her only by the sensitive touch of the blind. The entire nature of the little girl changed when sight came to her. She is happy the liveliest day, and romps and plays out under the open sky, for every day is a holiday to her. She is now learning the letters of the alphabet. Dr. Viets expects to operate on her left eye, so that she may see with both eyes. It was not from a financial point of view that Dr. Viets performed the operation, but the gratitude of the parents and the happy little child, as well as his triumph, have amply repaid the oculist. Dr. Viets will write a report of his wonderful operation for publication in one of the medical journals. Her left eye will be perfectly straight when the next operation is completed successfully.

GLENWOOD.

W. C. Estabrook is in Cobourg this week attending the Grand Council of R. T. of T.

Mrs. J. W. G. Winnett, of London, spent a few days this week in the village, the guest of Mrs. W. Vipond.

A. Dawson has exchanged his 50-acre farm in the village for the double building occupied in Merlin by W. Shaw and R. Jones. Mr. Dawson intends moving to Merlin next month. His sale of stock and implements is to be held on the 19th of this month.

On the 13th inst., the wife of John Collins, of a son.

Rev. Mr. Noble, of Louisville, occupied the pulpit in the Methodist Church on Sunday morning.

Miss Lulu Palmer spent Saturday and Sunday at R. Mason's, Merlin.

Fred Rollet and family moved to Merlin on Monday.

Miss Ruth May is visiting friends in Detroit this week.

200

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An Object Lesson.

A French reformer delivered a lecture at Lyons against corsets and lacing. In course of the lecture a woman fainted. It proved to be the lecturer's wife, who wore a corset and was too tightly laced.

Crust Coffee.

An old fashioned invalid drink is called crust coffee. Over the equivalent of two slices of bread toasted a golden brown in the oven pour one pint of boiling water. Steep gently for fifteen minutes, strain and serve, adding sugar and cream to taste.

Great Britain's Beer.

Great Britain brews annually \$345,000,000 worth of beer.

A Great Iron Mountain.

Near the city of Durango, Mexico, is an iron mountain 640 feet high, and the iron is from 60 to 70 per cent pure. The metallic mass spreads in all directions for a radius of three or four miles. The entire deposit is sufficient to supply all the iron required in the world for 1,000 years.

Acid Fruit Juice.

The juice of any acid fruit can be made into sirup by adding a pound of white sugar to every pint of juice and boiling ten minutes. Seal in pint cans.

Alcohol in Russia.

The Russian ministry of finance monopolizes the alcohol industry, and some idea of the value of the output may be gained by the fact that 6,000,000,000 corks are used annually, one-third of which are produced in government works.

Hat Tax.

In the reign of George III. hats were taxed. The last tax was 6 cents. Those above \$3 in value paid a tax of 50 cents.

Bark Shirts.

Shirts and hats that are never in need of ironing are worn by the Indians of the interior of Bolivia. They are made of the bark of a tree, which is softened and then beaten with stones to make it pliable.

Egyptian Specialists.

The ancient Egyptians had dentists as well as specialists for diseases of the eyes and ears.

European Marriages.

The average duration of marriages in England is twenty-eight years. Russia, with thirty years, is the only country to beat her. In France and Germany twenty-six years is the average duration.

Sappho.

The one poem most often translated into every language of the civilized and uncivilized world was written by a woman—"The Ode to Aphrodite," by Sappho. Shakespeare's works have borne the test of but three centuries. Sappho's have stood through twenty-five centuries.

Berlin Bridges.

After Venice, Berlin has more bridges than any other town in Europe.

Some people give out, some give in, and others give up.

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The Late Archbishop of Canterbury.

A peculiarity of the late Archbishop of Canterbury, which I have not seen referred to in any of his obituaries, was the extraordinary harshness and rasping character of his voice, a peculiarity of which he was well aware and concerning which he was wont to tell all sorts of amusing stories, among others one to the effect that on a Sunday evening, having slipped into a back pew of a popular church in the east end of London, and joined in the singing of a Moody and Sankey hymn from a hymn book which had been extended to him friendly fashion by a laboring man, the latter, at the end of the first verse, drew away the hymn book from him, gave him a dig in the ribs with his elbow and remarked in a loud whisper:

"Here, dry up, mister, you're spoiling the show."

Nor have I seen it mentioned that the late Archbishop was descended in a direct line from Lady Godiva, so famous in connection with her decollete ride through the streets of Coventry. The old Archbishop was proud of this ancestry, as well as of the fact that he was entitled to bear the same coat of arms as her husband, Leofric, Earl of Mercia.—Marquise de Fontenay.

The Bud of a Tree.

Among the curious things recently discovered by the students of plant life is the fact that a bud taken from one tree and grafted on another carries the age of the original tree with it. It has always been believed that the bud so transferred began a wholly new life, but this new theory—it may, after all, be more theory than fact as yet—shows the matter in an entirely different light.

For example, if a bud be taken from a tree that is twenty-five years old with a natural life of fifty years and grafted on another tree it will not live as long as its parent tree is entitled to live, the full fifty years, but only for the period of life then left to the tree, twenty-five years.

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Brick house, two stories, 7 rooms, lot 40 feet front by 208 feet deep, \$1100.00.

Frame house, 8 rooms and summer kitchen, lot 60 ft. by 208 ft., good stable, \$1100.00.

House and lot, 9 rooms, \$1050.00.

House and lot, 5 rooms, \$400.00.

Farm in Township of Raleigh, 50 acres. All cleared. Good house and barn, \$3100.00.

Farm in Township of Harwich, 200 acres. Large house, barn and out-buildings, \$12,000.00.

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Ten acres in suburbs of Chatham, \$1500.00.

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