THE DEEP SEA.

The peculiar physical conditions of the deep seas, says Sidney J. Hickson in the Fauna of the Deep Sea, may be briefly stated to be these: It is absolutely dark so far as actual sunlight is concerned, the temperature is only a few degrees above freezing point, the pressure is enormous, there is little or no movement of the water, the bottom is composed of a uniform fine soft mud, and there is no plant life. All of these physical conditions we can appreciate except the enormous pressure. Absolute darkness we know, the temperature of the deep seas is not an extraordinary one, the absence of movement in the water and the fine soft mud are conditions that we can readily appreciate; but the pressure is far greater than anything we can realize. At a depth of 2,500 fathoms the pressure is, roughly speaking, two and half tons per square inch-that is to say, several times greater than the pressure exerted by the steam upon the piston of our most powerful engines. Or, to put the matter in other words, the pressure per square inch upon the body of every animal that lives at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean is about twenty five times greater than the pressure that will drive a railway train.

THE LATESIR JAS STEPHEN AS A JUDGE.

Sir James Fitzjames Stephen was a legislator, a jurist, a controversialist, rather than a lawyer. What practice he had at the bar, which was limited, lay largely outside the courts in banc, and of Nisi Prius. His mind was academic rather than practical, and, eminent as he was in many spheres of intellectual activity, he cannot be said to have been pre-eminent in any. He spread his labours over too wide an area to ensure mastery over such a study as the principles and practices of the law. This being so, it is not remarkable that his elevation to the bench of the Queen's Bench Division in 1879 should have been somewhat of a surprise to the profession. Perhaps the greatest blot upon our judicial system is the variety of motive which may actuate Ministers of the Crown in filling judicial vacancies. Promotion to the bench may be the reward of personal or political service, or a tribute to private friendship. It may be the price demanded for hack political service. It may be the sop given to an influential political ally whose friend is in want of place. We do not suggest that the elevation of Mr. Stephen was the outcome of any of these motives; but it is undoubtedly the fact that he did not possess that experience of common law practice, which many of his contemporaries did possess in large measure, and it is also the fact that his mental training and his habits of thought better adapted him to the study and the Senate than the bench. The irritating intricacies of our technical procedure annoyed him; the jargon of the middle ages in which is wrapped up the law of real property offended him, he refused to assimilate it. The arts of the advocate employed upon a common jury aroused his indignation which he was not slow to exprese, and in weightier matters he found it difficult to patiently endure the thrashing out of minute detail. To some this may appear disparagement of a distinguished man. We disclaim it as such. Our only function with regard to the dead, and with regard to the living, who have filled or now fill the sacred office of a judge, is to express our view not of the extent of intellectual accomplishments, the width of culture, or the brilliancy of mind, but of fitness for the position.—Law Times.

PUBLIC OPINION.

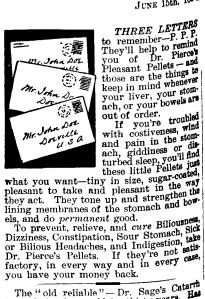
Hamilton Herald: The usual number of drowning accidents will have to be recorded this summer, and, as is generally the case, the fact that the parties concerned cannot swim is the chief cause of the trouble. In a country like Canada there is no excuse for people not learning to swim, and one of the first duties of parents should be to teach their children how to take care of themselves in the water. The necessity for this is all the greater by reason of the fact that boating and canoeing are so popular with the young folks.

Halifax Chronicle: There can be no doubt that, while the outlook seems entirely favorable to the Mowat administration, the presence in the battlefield of so many Patrons of Industry and P.P.A. candidates must greatly complicate the struggle and create a good deal of uncertainty for both the old parties. There are in the field in the ninety-four constituencies, 75 Liberals, 53 Conservatives, 45 Patrons of Industry (of whom 25 are Liberals, 12 Conservatives, 1 Labor and 7 unclassified), 27 P.P.A. candidates and 9 Independents. It is hardly necessary to say that this condition of affairs must necessarily complicate the struggle and introduce into it a large element of uncertainity as to the result.

Quebec Chronicle: The sad trials to which our friends in British Columbia are being subjected, owing to the floods, are drawing sympathy, and substantial aid from all sections of Canada. Quebec is respond-ing to the appeal nobly, we are glad to say, but much remains to be done. One living so far away from the scene of the disaster, cannot be expected to realize its full depth. All living near the trouble are very nearly ruined. The cattle have been drowned, houses and all their contents have been swept away, many lives have been lost. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company has done all in its power to soften down the loss and to assist the distressed. Even money from the Company has been sent forward. But the dire calamity calls for speedy aid from every part of Canada. Let everyone give what he can.

St. John Globe: A destructive freshet like that from which the Fraser Valley is now suffering not only destroys life and property, but it leaves the land, a great portion, useless for a year or two. This year's crops will be lost, and much of the land in the flooded district will scarcely be fit for the planter for another year, for the swollen streams which sweep down the sides of the mountains carry with them so much of gravel and soil that a little time must elapse before the fresh deposit upon the flats and farms is ready to become the home and birthplace of new grain or grass. The government of British Columbia is doing a great deal to relieve the actual distress. Committees upon the mainland like Van-couver, which has not suffered materially. and like Westminster, which has suffered somewhat, are giving a helping hand, but there is a question whether a general Canadian appeal will not be needed in order to secure sufficient money to at once cope with the distress which exists.

Every generous illusion of youth leaves a wrinkle as it departs. Experience is the successive disenchanting of the things of spoils; it is reason enriched with the heart's life. J. Petit-Senn.



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