

A SNAKE STORY.

Here is a snake story from a Bechuanaland paper which we do not remember having seen before: A Barberton man who goes to church regularly was one day walking along the banks of Concession Creek eating a sandwich, and on account of the usual disparity between meat and bread, he threw the redundant piece into the water. Immediately a swarm of yellow fish bubbled round it fighting for the mouthful. The man searched his pockets for fishing tackle, but all in vain, and he was just beginning to die of despair when his eyes lighted on a big black snake. At that moment he remembered how his father used to tell him that black snakes were very expert in catching fish. He, therefore, grabbed the reptile by the tail, carried it to the river, and held it over the struggling fish. The snake proved itself a born angler, and in the course of an hour the man had captured forty fine fish. A few days later, as he was walking in the same place he felt something rubbing against his leg, and, looking down, he saw his friend the black snake, eager for more sport.—*Rangoon Times.*

A GERMAN JOKE.

The following fraud upon an insurance company, which we find in the *Deutsche Tabak-Zeitung*, is certainly just a little too good to be true: "A cunning fellow, who wanted to smoke the best cigars at the cheapest possible cost, bought 1,000 cigars of the highest quality and corresponding price, and immediately insured the whole stock. When he had smoked the last of them, he demanded 750 marks from the insurance company on the ground that the whole of his insured stock, ten boxes of cigars, had been consumed by fire? The Solomonian court decided in favor of the plaintiff. The company then brought an action of conspiracy against the smoker, accusing him of having intentionally put fire to his own cigars, and deliberately destroyed his property. Hereupon the same wise court condemned the insured smoker to three months' imprisonment.

CULTIVATION OF THE SUGAR-BEET IN AUSTRALIA.

The Belgian Consul-General at Melbourne, in a report dated the 12th February last, states that with a view to increasing their agricultural resources, several Australian colonists have been paying attention to the cultivation of the sugar-beet. In the province of Victoria, especially, some attempts now being made point to complete success. The climate is favorable, and, if the lands, their manuring, and the plants are satisfactory, it cannot be doubted that the final result will give satisfaction to the promoters. The Consul-General draws the attention of European manufacturers to the demand which will arise for the necessary machinery to carry on the industry. In regard to the question of persons seeking for orders, he points out that first the permanent agent, and then the special agent, may be considered as successful elements; failing them, it will be indispensable to utilize all the means of publicity possible.

—The population of India numbered in 1891, the date of the last census, 287,000,000. In 1881 it was 250,000,000. The population now is considered to be something like 300,000,000.

"Let me remind you," said Mr. Justice Hawkins in a talkative witness recently, "that the time of this court is worth half-a-crown a minute." On this basis his lordship's trip to Epsom recently cost something like £30.

IMPERIAL
Loan & Investment Co. of Canada(LIMITED)
DIVIDEND No. 49.

Notice is hereby given that a dividend at the rate of seven per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital stock of this institution, has been this day declared for the half-year ending 30th June inst., and the same will be payable on and after

Monday, 9th Day of July Next.

The Transfer Books will be closed from the 15th to the 30th inst., both days inclusive.

E. H. KERTLAND,
Managing Director.

Toronto, June 14th, 1894.

—If we reckon the population of France at 37,000,000, we find that for every individual in France one dozen eggs are exported to England, and, computing five persons to each family in France, the British public pays to every six French families an annual sum of over £1 for eggs.

—The returns made to the Bureau of Navigation, although not yet complete, show that of 146 ships in the trans-atlantic trade belonging to American citizens, 64 are under foreign flags. These are all steel or iron steamships, mostly tramps, having a capacity of 197,108 gross tons.

NIAGARA RIVER LINE

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(except Sunday)

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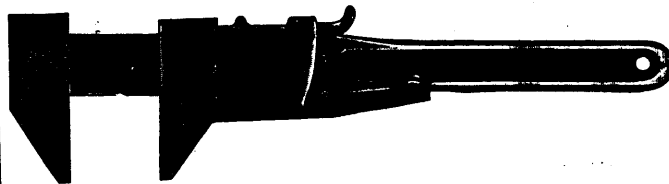
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FRED. ROPER, Sec'y-Treas.,
2 Toronto St., Toronto.

Figures do Lie

almost without provocation.

I have just seen a Partnership Statement wherein a little error in principle makes an actual loss appear a handsome gain.

Somebody was cheated, a reliable audit would have saved him.

A. C. NEFF, Chartered Accountant.
32 Church St. TORONTO.

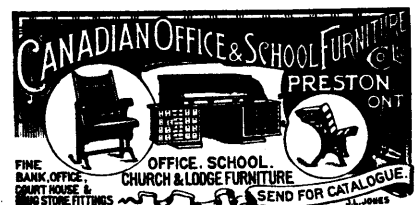
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