

What the World is Saying

A Chuckle from Lethbridge.

In the east hockey players find the weather so cold that they feel like wearing fur-lined sweaters. Out here baseball players have to wear the summer costume in order to be comfortable. Quite a difference, isn't it?—*Lethbridge Daily Herald*.

A Road to Wealth.

Sir Joshua Reynolds once said that the greatest man was he who created a public taste, and that the next greatest was he who marred it. It has also been noticed that he who quenches the public thirst is frequently wealthy.—*Moose Jaw News*.

Disposing of the Opposition.

Twenty-seven members of the Duma have been exiled to the mines or to Siberia. One of the advantages of representative government in Russia is that the short way can always be taken with the Opposition.—*Toronto Star*.

Few Farmers in Parliament.

Out of 209 members of the House of Commons there are only 20 farmers, of whom two are merely owners, not cultivators, of farms. The composition of our House of Commons is a question to which little attention is paid, but which is exceedingly important. What is to be done? How can we get an adequate representation of great interests like that of the farm?—*Weekly Sun*.

Confidence the Can-Opener.

It is hard to have patience with the man who looks to the future with misgiving, who is "holding back till he sees how things open up." For him it is not likely that the year holds much good. We must ourselves do the "opening up," and faith in ourselves and in our district and confidence in our country is the can-opener that will find us the plum of prosperity in 1908.—*Estevan Mercury*.

It Would Be a Fine Thing for Montreal.

If Earl Grey would accept an amendment to have the whole of Quebec city preserved as a sort of national historical park, and kept free of grain elevators, sky scrapers and other modern disfigurements, the public would hold up both hands.—*Montreal Herald*.

A Meddler's Job.

Some people are never happy unless they are butting into other people's business and trying to "reform" things. Their latest scheme is an agitation to abolish "Now I lay me down to sleep," on the ground that the third line is calculated to inspire fear of death in the child's mind. There is always an excuse for every "reform," no matter how preposterous.—*Calgary Herald*.

Optimistic Improvidence.

The American people is characterized by a queer mixture of improvidence and optimism. Gifford Pinchot tells us that twenty years from now we shall have a lumber famine, and everybody goes on chopping trees and says: "Oh, well, by that time somebody will invent something to take the place of lumber."—*Boston Globe*.

A Needed Parliamentary Reform.

One of the things that the Commons should have done, but did not do, when the chance offered, was to make provision for the shortening of the session. This could be done by cutting out the night-hawking. The length of speeches may be abolished only by some form of closure for which we in Canada are not quite ready. But the House itself, quite apart from the conventions, has means of discountenancing the bore, and the member who

insists upon his right to talk, at so much per minute at the country's expense, when he has little or nothing to say, might be silenced by the clamor of public opinion, if his fault were made known by some concerted action of Parliament.—*Ottawa*

Scots Wha Hae.

Macaulay observes that after James VI. of Scotland became James I. of England "Scottish adventurers poured southward and obtained in all the walks of life a prosperity which excited much envy, but which was in general only the just reward of prudence and industry." Judging from the fact that Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman and his predecessor in the Premiership are both of Scottish origin, the Caledonians are still fairly prudent and industrious. Moreover, their success in other parts of the world excites envy even to this day. Take, for instance, the fact that Scotch Presbyterians are said to own two-thirds of the private property in Montreal—a city in which they constitute only a small fraction of the population. Then, again, the heads of the four leading Canadian universities are all of the same race and the same religion.—*Montreal Gazette*.

Labor in Japan.

The correspondent of The Manchester Guardian in Japan throws some light upon the industrial disquiet due to Japan's sudden leap from the simple arts and handicrafts to the employment of the most elaborate machinery in her workshops. The sudden change has proved extremely disastrous to the old artisan class, and the people have not yet adjusted themselves to the new era of machinery and wholesale production. The consequent social discontent is widespread. But added to this is the heartlessness of Japan's labor system; in fact, here is where the emigration movement gains its chief impetus. The worker is ground down to a degree that would not be tolerated in a western nation. The wage system is oppressive and bears particularly hard upon the women. Starvation wages are the rule even in Tokio, whose artisans are the best paid in the whole empire. The smallness of the wage has been recently intensified by the advance in the cost of living. Another thing is that the law does not control the hours of labor, and the condition of the toilers is said to be pitiable in the extreme. Factory operatives work eleven hours a day, and railway men often are on duty twenty-four hours consecutively. Employers in Japan attach little value to the lives of their employees, and foreigners are shocked at the unnecessary risk and exposure to which operatives are constantly exposed.—*Toronto News*.

The "Harmless" Continental Drinking.

When a man dies from alcoholism, or when his death is hastened by the use of alcohol at some period of his life, it is always, except in too obvious cases, announced and recorded as due to something else. Only statistics gathered independently and in the scientific spirit can be counted on to give any approach to the truth. This has been attempted by the medical faculty in France with remarkable results. Those who travel in Europe continually tell us how harmless is the drinking in continental countries, and people who have been brought up strict abstainers regard residence in France or Italy as so greatly changing the conditions as to make the precautions necessary in America not only needless but unwise. Yet what is the result of the statistics gathered by the French physicians who are presumably not temperance fanatics? Out of fifteen hundred deaths in hospitals and asylums, alcohol played a known part in one-third of the cases. The asylums taken alone showed a worse result, the alcoholic deaths being, in the case of men, one-half. In the general community the figure would be much lower than in these institutions, but if it could be ascertained it would probably produce a very serious impression on all well-wishers of mankind.—*Montreal Witness*.

The Canada of 1789.

Few countries have, within modern times, been subjected to more sweeping changes in the matter of territory than has Canada. This fact is recalled to mind by the publication, through the Dominion Archives Department, of documents relating to the constitutional history of Canada—documents selected and edited by Prof. Shortt and the Dominion Archivist. Included in these papers is a report, prepared by Gen. Murray, for the information of the Home Government, in 1782—shortly after the acquisition of Canada by the British Crown. Gen. Murray says in this report that it was impossible to ascertain from the records which had fallen into his possession exactly what territories the French had claimed under the general name of Canada. Gen. Gage, however, in a statement submitted with that of Gen. Murray, declared that not only was the inclusion of the Great Lakes indisputable, but he believed the same was true of the whole course of the Mississippi from its head to the junction with the Illinois. This would take in, where the city of St. Louis in Missouri now stands and cover as well what are to-day the States of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. On the other hand, Canada at that time did not include the Maritime Provinces or the vast territories now forming the Western Provinces of the Confederation. These were under British control, but they were not then part of Canada. The marvel of it all is that the French, with a settled population of little more than that of the present city of Brantford, were able even to maintain even nominal jurisdiction over a country with a string of posts covering Quebec, Montreal, Toronto, Detroit, Mackinac, and the great rivers of the Middle West.—*Toronto Globe*.

Marconi's Triumph.

Less than six years ago a young Italian inventor successfully established wireless communication between the Isle of Wight and the Lizards, in Cornwall, England. The distance is 183 miles, and scientific experts marvelled at Signor Marconi's achievement. Now there have flashed across the Atlantic Ocean wireless messages proclaiming to all the world that the transmission of "airgrams" had begun in earnest; that the commercial value of the service now took precedence over the experiments of the past. Three thousand miles of space to cross, and not an arm's length of outstretched wire to speed along the words that will work a telegraphic revolution! And more than this, the epoch-making message sent eastward by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, from the Nova Scotia station, and which reached Clifden, on the Irish coast, produced no undue excitement in the public mind. The triumph of Guglielmo Marconi would be incomplete to-day were the world to overlook the energy and patience that made possible what he accomplished. Like Edison and Bell, in their respective spheres and generations, this young Italian wizard worked indefatigably until he reached his goal. Those uninitiated in the laboratory researches of the inventor can never fathom the periods of despair, the elusiveness of that of which he is in quest, the moments when all that has gone before seems so much nervous energy gone wrong. Sir Hiram Maxim was among the first to congratulate the young inventor, and a message sent President Roosevelt by the Daily Mail of London was couched in terms that bespoke the satisfaction of the British nation because of this further means to stretch forth friendly hands across the sea. Port Morien, bleak as it is, has written its name large on the page of history. The new era of telegraphic interchange will date from October 17, 1907.—*London Telegraph*.

Cows as Defenders Against Consumption.

The London Tribune has elicited some discussion of the relation of cows to consumption—an old notion, by the way. One writer asserts, on the authority of all the doctors he has known, that there is no instance of a cowman, a milker of cows, having died of this disease:—"Cowmen live in cowsheds during a great many hours of the night and day, and those cowsheds are said to be, of all places, the most crowded with tubercular germs. One would not wish to calculate the billions of these germs a cowman breathes on to his lungs in a year, if we accept the figures of those who deal in sensations. On the other hand, one can find in every district almost instances where grooms have died from consumption. The strange fact is that, whereas the cow can contract tuberculosis, the horse does not. Yet the man who is intimately associated with the immune animal yields to the disease, whilst the man who is with the most common host of tuberculosis escapes it." This theory, it should be noted, was very commonly held about eighty years ago. Balzac in one of his minor novels makes his hero a consumptive who is cured by sleeping in sheds, and readers not familiar with the old belief might easily take it for an anticipation of the open-air cure. It is a matter which it ought to be quite possible to test by statistics.—*New York Tribune*.