

THE HAMILTON TIMES

SATURDAY, MAY 22, 1909.

MONDAY "THE 24TH."

Canadians, having acquired the habit of celebrating the 24th of May as the birthday of the late Queen Victoria were so loath to give up the early summer holiday that they have found excuse for making its observance permanent, and it is probable that it will not soon be disregarded. The late Queen was as fortunate in the time of her birth as in many other matters. The 24th of May is in the blossom season of the year, when the trees and the fields invite the nature-lover to feast his sensibilities on nature at her loveliest of promise. It is an ideal time for a holiday, especially for urban dwellers. There has been no recent surfeit of holidays, and Dominion Day is yet more than a month off. The older folk look back in memory to a long succession of "24ths," and recall many pleasant reminiscences, while the younger ones find sufficient inspiration to enjoyment of the holiday in the hour and the occasion. And so we continue to keep the day as one apart. Call it by what name we will, however, the generation who grew up under Victoria will still associate it with the birth of that good Queen.

A SOUND VIEW.

The executive of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, at its meeting in Toronto yesterday, delivered itself of an exceedingly sensible pronouncement on the question of competition in naval armaments, Empire defence and international arbitration. The maintenance of British sea power is recognized as tending to preserve the peace of the world, and the duty of the various British states to bear their part in the defence of the widely scattered British possessions is fully recognized. But the Association has not lost its head and made an hysterical demand that Canadians present Dreadnoughts to the fleet. Like all British naval authorities and British statesmen generally, it feels that that is not the form Canada's contribution to British defence should take. The resolution passed expresses satisfaction with the unanimous decision of Parliament, and heartily approves of the course which the Government has adopted of acting with the consent and co-operation of the Imperial authorities, and formulating an Imperial conference a policy of concerted action in which all the units of the Empire may have a part, and the carrying out of which will not interfere with the local autonomy of each.

In taking this view of the matter the Association shows wise business judgment. It is in no small measure gratifying to find such a body of the manufacturing opinion of Canada assuming this position. It is the honorable and dignified, as well as the sound business, one. It is the inevitable view of the man of affairs, withdrawn from party politics. It makes for permanence and greater cohesion among the British peoples throughout the world. It preaches the spirit of defence, not defiance; and it is ample notice to the world that should occasion demand, the young whelps will gather about the old lion against any and all enemies.

But the Association adds to its pronouncement a paragraph which is still more creditable to its good sense and progressiveness. It places itself on record as deprecating the eager haste of the great powers in competing with one another in the matter of armaments. It is for peace, and for peaceful methods of adjusting international differences. It declares for the application of the methods of arbitration instead of resort to the international crime of war. It urges that our statesmen devote themselves to furthering the laudable work of The Hague Peace Conference, and to hastening the time when international differences of every kind "will be settled, not by right of might, but by the right of justice and equity through arbitration." That is a sentiment which does credit to the man or people entertaining it. The Manufacturers' Association honors itself by taking its stand on these principles. It can exercise much influence as an educative force. When manufacturers, financiers, and commercial men combine to teach the principles thus enunciated, the struggle for sane methods in dealing with international affairs is far from being a hopeless one.

BRITISH OLD AGE PENSIONS.

The United Kingdom had, on January 1, no fewer than 506,038 old age pensioners, male and female. Doubtless, by this time the number is many thousands greater. Already the cost of the scheme is probably well over \$40,000,000, and the item is one that will probably increase. Because it is inevitable that the taste of something for nothing furnished by the 5 shillings a week pension will grow by what it feeds upon, and not only will there be a demand for broadening of the qualifications to receive pensions, but steady pressure will be exerted to have the amount of the pension increased.

As the act stands at present it is required that an applicant to succeed in obtaining a pension shall have reached 70 years of age, shall be a British subject, resident not less than 20 years in the United Kingdom, and that his income from all sources is not in excess of £31 10s a year. Those whose income does not exceed £21 a year are eligible to receive the full pension of 5s a week; those who have between £21 and £31 10s income may receive from 1s to 4s a week. Persons receiving outdoor relief under the Poor Law are not eligible for pensions. The operation of the law has already disclosed a good many difficulties, and there has been but little indication of that indisposition to accept State aid which some people thought would be discovered. The one cry heard everywhere among the recipients is for larger pensions. Those between the ages of 60 and 70 years of age are clamoring to be admitted, and it promises to be a matter of difficulty to resist the pressure. Should the age limit be reduced, the cost of the system will be enormously increased. The problem of finding the money with which to pay these pensions is one that will tax the ingenuity of British statesmen. The moral and economic effect of the system is a question of even greater importance to the nation.

SWINDLING UNCLE SAM.

The American Sugar Refining Company has just admitted and paid the penalty of one of the most arrant and deliberate swindles ever perpetrated upon a Government. The Sugar Trust has appeared as a common malefactor at the bar of public justice, has pleaded guilty, and offered to compromise by paying in addition to a fine of \$134,000, a penalty of \$2,269,897. This settlement the Government has accepted, but it has not yet been decided whether the criminal prosecution will be dropped. This was no case of fine technical hairsplitting to get ahead of the Government. It was a plain example of deliberate, coarse, open fraud. Raw sugar is subject to a duty upon importation, and at every refinery Government officials weigh it and calculate the duty. At the American Sugar Refinery in South Brooklyn, 17 great scales receive and weigh the sugar upon the dock. At each scale are a Government weigher and an employee of the trust, whose business it is to check the figures of the other. The sugar, in large ton lots, is placed on the scales, the official calls out the weight registered, records it in a book, and the checker looks to see that the amount entered corresponds with the figures indicated by the scales. There is in each of these seventeen scales a thick post which supports the shelf beneath the scale bar on the side upon which sits the company's checker. In each of these posts is a small hole; in each of the holes is a thin piece of metal. One end of the metal strip rests upon part of the mechanism of the scales, the other protrudes slightly outside. The company checker has only to slip his hand down and exert very slight pressure on the metal rod to entirely destroy the accuracy of the scales and to make them record only a fraction of the real weight upon them. A pressure not more than sufficient to kill a fly will make a difference of 25 per cent. That is to say, if four tons of sugar were placed on the scale, the recorded weight would be only three tons, if the checker pressed the little ring at the end of the metal bar. He has been doing that industriously for several years past with the result that the Trust has been getting ahead of the Government millions of dollars. Even after paying the enormous penalty, it is probably vastly the gainer by the fraud.

It might be supposed that it would be hard to carry out such a swindle where it was necessary to take hundreds of employees into the secret. Within twenty feet of the Government scales was another weighing apparatus operated by men who weighed the sugar accurately as it was sold to the refinery. These men must all have known of the fraud being practiced upon the Government. In the books of the company each cargo was twice entered, one entry giving the "landed weight," and the other the "duty weight." Everybody connected with the handling of these cargoes must have known of the fraud, even if he was not an assisting party. It takes a great deal of confidence in human nature to find excuses for the ignorance of the Government officials. There is no blinking the fact that the general public do not regard swindling the customs as an offence of the same category as robbing a neighbor's hen-roost. Indeed, there is always a very considerable element of the community which looks upon the exactions of the customs as a kind of tyranny which it is meritorious to foil. Perhaps the prevalence of that sentiment may have much to do with making possible the operation of such a wholesale fraud as that of the Sugar Trust.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Now who was behind the scheme to knife Chief Smith?

At Gowanda flour is selling at \$8.50 a cwt., bread is 20c a large loaf, and smoked meats 26c a pound. There is a considerable influx of prospectors.

To enable the staff to join in the celebration the Times will be issued early in the morning on Monday. You may thus get the news before setting out on the holiday pleasures.

Since 1820 the United States has received more than 26,000,000 immigrants. Last month the arrivals exceeded 116,000. It is a severe test of the absorptive power of the nation.

Parts Two and Three of the Ontario Law Reform Act will be brought into force on June 10. The delay in bringing the Act into force is explained to be due to the late printing of the statutes.

In twelve years the United States people have been obliged to pay \$860,000,000 in sugar taxes. That is in addition to the artificially enhanced cost of sugar which this tax enables the Trust to collect for its own pockets.

Congratulations to Mrs. Fessenden! Yesterday Toronto heard Earl Grey credit Empire Day to her inspiration. Now let that old country earl who

sought to deprive her of her due credit go off and hide himself.

The Toronto Telegram announces in display type that "Laurier is Dragged In To Naval Conference." Mr. John Ross Robertson, the Telegram proprietor, is generally regarded as an honorable man. Does he think that his factotum's work as illustrated in this matter is a worthy one?

In the face of the concerted effort being made by our citizens to "Build Up Hamilton" a local contemporary shows an inclination to do its worst to knock our local electric invent, even after boasting the superior advantages of the local service! That's a loyal Hamiltonian for you!

"The Java Reptile Skin Company" is one of the oldest of the great corporations of the world. It offers to buy all kinds of live snakes. These are skinned alive, as the skins are said to be much superior to those taken from dead reptiles. A great trade is done in goods made from reptile skins.

What's this? Here's Lord Charles Beresford denouncing "our insane advertising of Dreadnoughts," as involving Europe in terribly expensive naval competition. Can it be that there's a yellow streak in Beresford, or have some of our Canadian mouth partiers been overdoing it?

The Paris strike has completely collapsed, and the leaders are now accusing each other of being the cause of the failure. The experience will not be too dearly purchased if it teaches the Government employees the much-needed lesson that strikes against a government by its servants are not to be tolerated under any circumstances.

The Austrian Reichsrath heard the Finance Minister yesterday announce a special tax on bachelors, widows and childless married couples. This might appear to be a joke were it less pitifully illustrative of modern "statesmanship." Think of imposing in addition to the natural deprivation of childlessness a penalty in the shape of taxation!

The Canadian Courier frankly declares that of all the land grants made by the present Dominion Government "the least defensible was that to the South African veterans, which was an unwarranted and foolish distribution," resulting in much of the land being sold to speculators. It compliments Hon. Mr. Oliver on his opposition to any more such grants. And yet what a howl would have been raised at the time against any who objected to "rewarding the South African patriots!"

Mr. Alfred Powis has been elected President of the Board of Directors of the Y. M. C. A. in succession to Mr. John E. Brown. The Y. M. C. A. is exceedingly fortunate in having so many prominent and capable citizens who give freely of their time and efforts to forward the cause of the Association. And they have their reward in the knowledge that they are contributing to a work which has an influence wide and beneficial beyond anything conveyed by the statistics of progress, gratifying as they are.

The gentlemen of the Trades and Labor Council still declare their willingness to stand by Adam Beck's power scheme, even at the cost of making Hamilton Council and private users of light and power pay at least 10 per cent. more than they would have to pay under the contract made with the local company. Of course to do this the ratepayers would have to assume a large financial obligation and bind the city in a monopoly for thirty years. Mr. Beck is doubtless proud of supporters like these!

Lord Charles Beresford says colonial offers to spend millions on Dreadnoughts to present to the British navy are unwise. That is not the way to help in empire defence. Lord Charles thinks the proper way is for the various British States to move toward their own defence. That was the Laurier policy, approved unanimously by Parliament. A local contemporary refuses to hear of that, however, and sneers at it as unpatriotic. Lord Charles will probably now be classed among the objects of its contempt.

The local power monopoly organ pretends to think that Adam Beck's threat against this city may have something in it, and that if we do not knuckle down and submit to make a bargain with Beck that will tie us up to a monopoly of power at prices at least 10 per cent. higher than those we have secured, five years hence the cost to get into the scheme to buy higher-priced power may be "prohibitive." Why should we worry so much about not being privileged to pay 10 per cent. higher prices for public and private power and light? Are we seeking to glorify Beck at such cost?

The women of Montreal took possession of the Witness office last Saturday and edited and published the paper, and made such a success of it that the regular staff—the mere men—now wonder how it was done. It was a mammoth affair, and covered almost all the activities of life. Many original articles of much merit from the pen of the ladies graced its pages, news was not forgotten, and limerick and such light and amusing literature added their charm to what was a most creditable production. Let us hope that the ladies made a good thing out of it for their playground scheme and that the Witness was well paid in the advertising it received.

The Dominion Steel Company is said to be planning extensions to the Sydney works to cost five million dollars.

OUR EXCHANGES

MR. BURTON.

(Toronto News.)

A Hamilton chap has invented an aeroplane. He is such a scientific cuss that he calls the mountain an escarpment.

TELL JOHN.

(Galt Reporter.)

If you have a special route for the Galt end of the Hamilton & Galt Electric Railway, please communicate with John Patterson, Hamilton.

THE COAL OIL LAMP.

(London Free Press.)

The exploding lamp has a full share of tragedies to its discredit. Toronto furnishes the latest instance of the horribly fatal character of many of these explosions.

THE MORNING BELL.

(Stratford Beacon.)

Ingersoll Council in answer to a petition will have the ringing of the town bell every morning at 6 o'clock resumed in order to wake the people up. They must be a sleepy lot in Ingersoll.

NO FEAR.

(Kingston Whig.)

Hon. Mr. Beck is trying to scare the Hamilton people by saying that if it does not go into the Hydro-Electric deal now it may not get in by and bye. No fear. The municipalities that are financing the huge scheme now will be glad to get relief from any source later.

DOGS.

(Peterboro Review.)

The dog is man's most constant and intimate animal friend. Not that he exerts the horse in any of the nobler qualities. But since he can follow his master into the house and the horse cannot very well do so he is regarded as even more of a pal than the king of the fowls.

SAM AND THE RIFLE.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

Gee! the secret is out at last. The Hamilton Times points out that Col. Sam Hughes is the only Tory military critic left in the House, and recalls that he alone championed the floss rifle. So he goes back while all the others are left at home. The floss rifle is apparently as deadly in peace as in war. And what a mercy Teddy didn't take one with him into the African jungles!

SCOTCH WHISKY.

(Montreal Gazette.)

The London Times has printed its annual article on the Scotch whisky trade, and while there are some factors in the situation favorable to those who are interested in the production of the fashionable drink, there are others that are taken heed of which indicate that the average distiller in Scotland is not a good investment. The serious trouble with the Scotch distillers began about a dozen years ago.

THE BOY PROTESTS.

(Toronto Star.)

A modern boy called at the Star office yesterday to ask that this journal should take up a grievance on behalf of himself and others. "We have no place to play ball," he said. "We have been playing catch in Alexander Park, but a few nights ago a policeman came and put us off. We knew it was against the law to play catch there, but we had to go somewhere. There's a June up there and we went into it to play catch, and last night a policeman put us out of that. They won't let us play on Bathurst street, of course."

A CIVIC CLEANING UP.

(Brantford Expositor.)

During the entire week of May 23rd the entire city of St. Paul, Minn., will participate in what Mayor D. W. Lawler terms "a backyard reform," and city officers and departments, householders, and even women and children will join in raking up rubbish, cleaning vacant lots, cleaning alleys, and generally furnishing up the city for the approaching summer "Clean-up Week," an established institution now, and this year's campaign is the result of the marked success experienced a year ago when a similar week was designated by the Mayor of St. Paul in which to clean and brighten up the city.

CHILDREN MUST PLAY.

(Toronto World.)

No recent social propaganda is more worthy of support than that which has for its object the provision of playgrounds for children. It has caught on all over the world, and the popularity which it has attained is a testimony to the fact that it is a happy state of affairs which rules children's games out of public parks and prohibits them in the public streets without supplying a sufficiency of places to meet a natural inclination. Our civic authorities will fall woefully short of their responsibilities if they show themselves indifferent to the cry of the children. There has been too great a tendency in the past to multiply police offences which have nothing in them criminal or immoral, but merely involve a breach of some more or less reasonable regulation.

IN THE DAYS OF SIR ALLAN MACNAB.

(Toronto Saturday Night.)

A Hamilton paper says the remains of Sir Allan MacNab will be removed from Dundurn Park to Holy Sepulchre cemetery, after resting in the former place for nearly seventy-five years.

Hardly so long. Sir Allan was still very much alive when the Toronto Examiner of June 16, 1847, said of him: "Sir Allan MacNab is a great man."

THE GREATER THE LIGHT THE BOLDER THE FACTS STAND OUT SHUR-ON

HOLD TIGHT BUT DO NOT FEEL TIGHT

You will be agreeably surprised to see that when we fit Shur-on's grasp is so soft and velvety you scarcely notice wearing them.

GLOBE OPTICAL CO.

I. B. Rouse, 111 King East.

Proprietor.



What the woman who has visited the Christie Factory says to her friends—

strongest advertisement they could have.

"You'd be surprised to see the staff that is

kept busy, day in and day out all the year round—cleaning, cleaning, cleaning.

"The windows, floors, walls, ceilings, machinery, etc.—all speak volumes for the sanitary conditions under which Christie's Biscuits are made.

"It's a picture to see the 'Christie Girls'—over three hundred of them—in spotless white. Each girl is supplied with two complete uniforms a week from the firm's private laundry.

"At every turn I found fresh

evidence of the unusual care which is taken to preserve absolute cleanliness.

"It was explained to me how every ounce of raw material is tested, and how, at each step throughout the process of mixing, baking and packing, the Christie quality is jealously guarded.

"I am convinced that if every woman in Canada could visit the Christie factory as I did, they would not think of using any but Christie's Biscuits in future."

The best Grocers everywhere in Canada have Christie's Biscuits. Sold in bulk, by the pound, or in moisture and dust-proof packages.

Christie, Brown & Co., Limited

ON HOLIDAY.

Maple Leaf Park Will be a Busy Place.

Final arrangements have been made for the opening of the Greater Hamilton Exposition at Maple Leaf Park on Monday, and if the weather is fine, the street cars will be filled on the Barton street line. There will be very little red tape about the opening ceremony. Mayor McLaren and J. Walter Gage, Warden of the County of Wentworth, will make the opening addresses, and the aldermen and township councillors will attend in a body. A special car for the Mayor and aldermen and County Councillors will leave the corner of York and James streets at 1:45 p. m. on Monday, and the official opening will take place at two o'clock. It means that a great deal of hustling will have to be done in order to have everything in shape, but a large staff of men will work to-night and on Monday morning and there is no doubt about things being in first class shape if the weather is good. The bad weather of the past month has been the cause of a great deal of delay, but the management was not to be discouraged and every rain caused more men to be taken on.

Kemp's big Wild West show which will exhibit at the park during the two weeks of the exposition, arrived in the city last night and the Indians caused considerable excitement on King street when they paraded to a restaurant for supper. Two policemen were necessary to keep the crowd back, but the redmen had no trouble in getting back to their private car. A special long train of cars brought the show to the city, and if the amount of horses and other animals is any criterion, the show will be a winner. The tents will be pitched in the south end of the field, and the Holstein and Sangster shows will occupy the north end where the baseball diamond is.

The booths for the exhibits were nearly all ready this morning and they have all been very tastefully arranged. Local and outside manufacturers have exhibits, although the majority of the space is occupied by local merchants and manufacturers. The park is certainly a beautiful spot and there is a great treat and a big surprise in store for Hamiltonians who have not seen the park since work was started early in the spring.

INTERNATIONAL I. O. G. T.

At the meeting of International Lodge held in the C. O. O. F. hall last evening one candidate was initiated. The programme called upon every member of the Lodge contributing to the evening's entertainment or incurring a fine. The result was the funds of the lodge were increased at the expense of the programme. Fraternal greetings were received from Excelsior Lodge, Toronto, and Hope of Welland Lodge, Welland. Next Friday the programme will be in the hands of the talented musical director, Miss Lily Boniface.

The speed mania never hits a boy very hard on his way to school.

BOLD PEEPER

Is Prowling Around Houses in Beamsville.

Beamsville, May 22.—It is quite evident there is a "Tom, the Peeper," at work here, and he came very near being caught on Thursday night as he was crawling up a ladder to the roof of Mr. James A. Hewitt's veranda on Ontario street. Hearing a noise about 12 o'clock, Mr. Hewitt went down stairs and saw the fellow going up the ladder. Slipping out of the front door in his night robe, he gave the ladder a push, and the night-hawker jumped and fell in the darkness. It is said that this is not the first home that has had a nocturnal visit from the prowler, and citizens are getting on their guns and revolvers now, preparatory to giving the fellow a warm reception on his next informal call.

MILITIA BANDS.

Trouble Between Military Bands and Musicians' Union.

(Special Despatch to the Times.)

London, May 21.—A prominent military staff officer in discussing the situation in regard to the bands said to-day, "It is certainly up to the Militia Department to decide once and for all whether it or the Musicians' Union is to have control of the military bands in the Dominion. The bands of the Toronto city regiments have refused to carry out their contracts and play at Toronto for if the bands of the permanent force at Halifax, Quebec and Kingston are engaged to play during the fair. The reason is that the latter bands do not belong to the union and of course being in the militia service they cannot do so. It is time that the military bands were made to realize that they are units of the organizations to which they belong and therefore subject to militia regulations and not to the Musicians' Union. This organization should be compelled to keep its nose out of military matters."

UNVEILING.

Impressive Ceremony at Victoria Avenue School Yesterday.

At the conclusion of the closing exercises in Victoria Avenue School yesterday, a very fine portrait of the late Mr. John Row, who was principal of this school for twenty-seven years, was unveiled at the request of Principal J. F. Ballard, by Trustee Booker, who paid a most eloquent tribute to the long and faithful services of the deceased in the cause of education in this city.

The picture is a striking likeness, and is the gift of the present staff of teachers at the school, all of whom served under Mr. Ross. Trustee Wilson, chairman of the Internal Management Committee, Board of Education, also spoke in very eulogistic terms of the late principal, whose motto was always, "Do right because it is right." On behalf of those present, Mr. G. Parry Jenkins thanked the school trustees for performing the interesting ceremony.

SATURDAY, NIGHT, MAY 22, 1909

SHEA'S

Best Corsets in Canada At \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00 and \$2.50

Saturday Night Sale Women's Suits

Store Closed All Day Monday Open Till 10 TO-NIGHT

The most stylish Suits ever shown in Hamilton; made of satin striped Prunella Cloths, French Serges, Panamas and Satin Cloths, long coats, silk lined, graceful gored skirts; on sale at actual 1/2 price.

\$30 and \$35 Suits for \$15.00 \$25.00 Suits for \$12.50

\$15.00 Suits for \$7.50

New Wash Suits—Very Elegant

Made of splendid materials in white and all the new shades; long coats, elegantly trimmed, full \$9.50 value, to-night for \$6.85 Smart Wash Suits, worth \$10.00, for \$8.50

Last Minute Bargains in Holiday Millinery

Swirl Trimmed Hats, worth \$8.50, for \$4.95

Pattern Hats, worth \$10, \$12, and \$13.50, going at \$6.95

Children's Hats, \$1.75; Sailor Hats \$1.50, \$1.75, \$1 and \$1.50

Waist Bargains

LAWN WAISTS \$1.50, for \$1

LAWN WAISTS, \$2.50, for \$1.50

LAWN WAISTS \$3 for \$1.95

NET WAISTS, \$1.50, for \$2.95

NET AND SILK WAISTS, \$6.50, for \$3.95

Fancy Parasols

White Parasols \$1.00

Silk Parasols \$1.50, \$2.50, \$4.00

Fancy Parasols \$1.50 and \$2.00