

The Daily News

THE PEOPLES' PAPER

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AN UNREASONABLE DEMAND:

Judging by the emphatic assertion of District Superintendent Snider that those who would suggest at least two phone directories per year for Brandon do not know what they are talking about, there is little hope that those who patronize the telephone service of this city will cease to rely on scribbled walls, and the information bureau for the numbers of new installations, for some time to come. His explanation, while it may be very substantial, is rather discouraging.

Owing to the expense involved in the publication of the books, Mr. Snider declares, the Telephone Commission cannot afford to issue one any oftener; and the logical deduction is that subscribers outside Winnipeg may content themselves with one per year or avail themselves of the alternative of doing without phone service. Such is the virtue of incorporating the telephones of a city of eighteen thousand in a directory covering an entire province.

Even under these circumstances, it appears odd that a system with 20,000 subscribers cannot afford to render competent service by keeping their entries up to date. When so large a concern as the Manitoba Government Telephone Commission allows a subscriber to wait months before his number is available save through bothersome delay while "information" seeks it out, that concern is run too cheaply, or else it is incompetent hands.

Government ownership let us have, but not unless it involves a satisfactory return for the price we pay.

THE FIRST MAGISTRATES

To a mayor who has rendered good service to Brandon, the city bids good-bye. While the citizens have subjected Ex-Mayor Fleming to warm criticism at times, they realize, or should realize, that he has devoted much of his energy during past years to the interests of the Wheat City, and his efforts have done much to make it what it is. May he see fit to serve us again at some time.

The new mayor, Brandon welcomes, and its hope is that for him, and for the city he now represents, his year of office may be a happy one.

FOSTER OFF AGAIN

From every point of view it is to be regretted that Mr. Foster has found it expedient to be off once more for other climes. We had hoped, after his recent denial of the rumor that he was going to England, that at last, Government and Parliament were going to get the benefit of his presence and experience. But no sooner is another session of Parliament announced than Mr. Foster is up and off—this time to place the Atlantic Ocean, instead of the Pacific, between himself and the people's forum.

As on previous occasions, Mr. Foster's excuse is that he goes to talk Imperial trade. But we cannot help thinking that there are other reasons why he displays such eagerness to do abroad what another might easily do, instead of carrying out at home the work which the country naturally has a right to expect from a man holding his important position in the Cabinet. We suspect that in his heart, Mr. Foster is as fond of these "tours de luxe" on vague Empire affairs, as he is proud of his position as a Cabinet minister. But even if he is, that in itself is not sufficient to explain his absence every time Parliament is in session.

We remember, of course, that Mr. Foster, during the long period when he was in opposition, laid down his political principles in many a long speech and many a resolution now on record in Hansard. The action of the present Government in regard to many of the matters thus discussed by Mr. Foster must give him considerable misgiving at times—possibly he hardly likes to risk appeals to himself from his fellow members to be true to his principles or resent them. But Mr. Foster cannot continually shirk his responsibility in this manner. Not only is he the most experienced member of the present Cabinet, but he has by far the most acute political intellect, and he should, from his opportunities as a former Finance Minister, have the greatest financial knowledge. His guidance and counsel are imperatively necessary in a Cabinet composed of inexperienced and extravagant politicians—and more than ever necessary in the coming session of Parliament when so many matters of importance are coming up.

We are reluctant to believe that Mr. Foster can look with approval on the extravagant expenditures of the present Cabinet; we refuse to believe that he is a party to the proposed spending of some \$250,000,000, which is the sum commonly spoken of as the appropriation for the coming year. He is not the type of man to say "Let us eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die." Yet at every period when the Cabinet needs him—at every period when his presence might help materially in the councils of the nation—he packs his grip, and is off. This may be a way of intimating that he washes his hands of Cabinet doings. But it is not the way of a statesman, and it will hardly commend itself to thoughtful men in the Conservative ranks.—Montreal Telegraph.

IMPROVIDENCE

A Los Angeles dispatch says that 30,000 people in that city are out of employment; that \$500,000 is urgently needed for the relief of these people and their families, who probably aggregate 100,000; and that an additional \$5,000,000 at least will be needed, states the Victoria Colonist.

Los Angeles has just completed a great system of water supply costing very many millions of dollars, nearly all of which was paid out for labor, and yet as soon as the pay-roll was closed appeals for help for men out of work had to be made. One of the most serious features of modern social conditions is the extreme improvidence of workmen. There seems to be a general idea abroad, and it is confined to no one class of workmen, that there will always be something to be done for which a good wage will be paid, and hence nearly everybody, whether he works with his coat on or off, spends freely as he goes. Consequently, when a great undertaking is completed and hundreds are thrown out of employment, they have little or no reserve to fall back upon. Another weakness of the social system is that a very large proportion of the community is dependent upon a very small

proportion for employment whereby to earn a living. Perhaps there is no use in saying anything more than this; but the lesson of it is that we all ought to become as self-sustaining as possible. That is, of course, an exceedingly difficult thing in a city, nevertheless it cannot be driven home too strongly or too often that the lure of high wages, which draws men to the cities, is as likely as not to bring them face to face with the distress resulting from unemployment. It may not be of much use to tell city people to get out on the land; but it may do some good to urge those who are already there to stay there.

A NEW DAMAGE SUIT

In the High Court of the King's Bench Division of England the first suit for damages growing out of a collision between aeroplanes has been tried. The case, which will serve as a precedent, is *Pashley and Another versus the British and Colonial Aeroplane Company, Limited*, says the *New York Sun*. There was a King's Counsel on each side, and Mr. Shakespeare also appeared for the defendant, who unavailingly set up that ancient extenuation contributory negligence.

The collision occurred at the Brooklands course. One of the plaintiffs on January 18, 1913, took out an aeroplane from his hangar for an experimental flight, and after going the circuit of the track several times he made a landing. About this time an aeroplane belonging to the defendant bore down in the direction of the machine at rest. Instead of passing to the right in the air it came straight on. It was apparent that the operator was flustered, for he shut off the power and then started it again. In the end the machine came suddenly to earth and collided with the plaintiff's aeroplane, turning it completely round and smashing the planes. Damages of £123 were awarded. From a report of the case it is apparent that the interest of the Lord Chief Justice and everybody else was listless because the collision had not occurred in mid-air. The judgment, however, was important as showing that aeroplanes had rights on the ground. It was also brought out that the rule of the air in England, unlike the rule of the road, requires that vehicles shall pass to the right; that is to say, the rule of the sea prevails.

In the aeroplane litigation of the future the law of the right of way and as to crossing a ship's bow and proceeding at a greater or lower elevation will probably figure. Obviously some form of signalling by whistle or horn will be necessary as aviation develops. But for the present *Pashley and Another versus the British and Colonial Aeroplane Company* may be regarded as a celebrated case.

STREET CORNERS

By JUNIUS JUNIOR

It is only fitting that before the new month is two days old one should consider the newness that surrounds us just now. We are so quick to apply the term old to the past, and at the moment in Brandon we have so many things that can be called new.

On New Year's morning the first arrival we encountered was the new snow, bringing to mind many months of bygone winters; snow that comes beautiful and fresh, and comes, one might almost say, as a novelty in this lovely specimen of a Canadian winter. To be snowed up long before January is not an uncommon experience in the west, and here we have been still able to see mother earth when we were right on the threshold of another date for the headings for our letters.

Though 1914 comes new to all the world, there are some special things for Brandon that are a change from the old regime of the months passed.

For instance, we have a new mayor, brand new and up to date; and that is said without disparagement to any former one who has filled the office. Without treading on any political or municipal corns it may safely be said that we hope to make the most of him, as he will, no doubt, of us. So if we pull together our strength should be very great.

Other very new things that are doing a great deal of work at present in the city, are the brooms sweeping so clean at the curling rink. They had quite the time of their lives yesterday, and were dancing about over the ice, and coaxing and pleading in fine style. Each one deserved to herald a winner, but as that cannot be, and as all cannot spin in the race to take first place, we still believe that the whole lot of curlers were the finest that have been seen in Brandon for quite a while.

What new hopes there were at the dog races! And there were the new conditions under which everything was run, with an up-to-date course, thanks to our new friends, the street cars. Many a spectator was new to Canada, and was at this time last year far away over the blue ocean not dreaming of coming here to be laughed at. But the laugh will be on the other side some day when the newness is scraped off, and the surroundings of the new land have lost their strangeness through an adaptability that is necessary for all the races attracted to new homes in the vast Dominion.

If we could only have a new era of winters inaugurated, meting out to us only such weather as we had yesterday; then we might think that Canada was a perfect country. With all her newness she is not that, nor must we imagine that such a country exists. Still the biggest grump will admit that we have had wintry weather that is almost perfection so far.

The dog races were a fresh triumph both in management and location; the friendly rope that restrained the crowd was quite a success. As to enthusiasm, nothing could beat the high spirits of the dogs, who enjoyed the excitement as much as their admirers. The little Benjamin of the races with his bull dog, (who proved a sturdy lady with a strong will of her own) will win many a prize in life if he keeps up his enthusiasm.

Another unusual note was touched when the first of January permitted a lady to witness the races on a balcony without even a coat or a wrap over her house gown. This is another triumph of the season, and shows that, for once at least, Jack Frost has not won his usual prize for severity on the day of the dog races.

NOTE AND COMMENT

Now, then, people will have a chance to think over those New Year resolutions.

A federal bankruptcy act is about due now that our international trade is growing. We cannot expect outsiders to become acquainted with nine different bankruptcy laws. Outsiders will do business with us with more confidence if they know that throughout Canada the same bankruptcy law prevails.

AT THE SIGN OF THE PASTE POT

There is a queer, exotic corner of Limehouse where London seems suddenly to draw aside to right and left, and leave space for the intrusion of a slice of Canton.

East of the West India Dock-road runs Pennyfields, and west of it is Limehouse Causeway, and Pennyfields and the Causeway are Chinese from front door to back. Over at least four shops is a significant announcement that, stripped of the Chinese idiom (the verbal equivalent is "Foreign drug open lamp"), may be roughly rendered "Opium may be smoked here." In other pipes and lamps in the window tell their own tale, or heavy fumes drifting out through the doorway bear their invitation to the passerby.

If you are anxious for a souvenir of Chinatown, go in and ask the price of one of those little earthenware bowls through which the fumes are drawn into the pipe as the lamp flame plays on the brown paste smeared round the pinhole in its flat base. Eightpence, the smiling Oriental behind the counter tells you—eightpence, or a shilling or two shillings.

As you turn to go, a soft voice solicitously inquires: "You want opium, too?" Opium at what? you inquire, and find that "four shilling house" is the current market figure. But the obliging purveyor is delighted to make up quarters in little round tins.

While he weighs out in a delicate balance about a teaspoonful of a dark mixture like the thickest treacle with a cloying and penetrating smell, you have leisure to survey his stock-in-trade as a general dealer. Literature is represented by a string of Chinese romances in pamphlets and by a fierce little Republican broadsheet celebrating "the return to heaven of Sung-Chiao-jen," whose murder is still fresh in memory.

But the substance available is more for the body than the mind. Dried fish and strange compositions of which flour is obviously the basic constituent are ranged in boxes on the floor, while the walls are lined with tins of ly-chee fruit and bitter melons and bamboo shoots and water-lily powder.

For further acquaintance with the floating population of the colony—all of them sailors, and almost all Cantonese, though a few Shantung men turn up now and then—you cannot do better than drop in for an hour at one of the Causeway eating houses. South China customs rule here, which means that light refreshments are the order of the day till three o'clock, when more substantial fare—duck and omelettes and noodle—is ready.

A cormorant sat watching the ebbing tide; but he seemed bent on matters of greater importance. He did not, like the idle gulls, wheel round the air, nor pace about the ebbing shore, mixing business and amusement together. With eager attention he took his stand on some solitary post, set up to point the channel of the river, and from that eminence observed, from the dimpling of the waters, where some poor wandering fish had gotten himself entangled in the shallows whom he marked for certain destruction. A similar scene may be witnessed almost any day at several places in Christchurch Harbor. We have in mind just such a post by Wick Hams, which is the cormorant's tower of observation. With a glass he can be seen watching the shallows, but it is impossible to get close. Directly a pedestrian gets so near as to be risky to the fowl, he is off with long powerful strokes across the harbor, to return when the coast is clear.

For wondrous plumage the woodcock is without a peer. Alive, he is the delight of every naturalist and birdlover; dead, he is the last word in the gourmet's list of delicacies; and to the sportsman the bird's appearance on the western migration is one of the few redeeming features of November. It is interesting to note that of recent years the woodcock is nesting on British soil more generally than heretofore, and within the last few seasons the species has been met with in much larger numbers than formerly in the South of England. Time was when it was only known to breed in half-a-dozen English counties, but now it has become a nesting species in practically every quarter of the kingdom. The experiments carried out during the past twenty years on the Duke of Northumberland's estate, Alnwick Park, by means of "ringing" home-bred birds have thrown a good deal of light on the movements of British "cock," not the least interesting of which is the trend of migratory habit, which is shown to be south and west rather than north and east. It is quite reasonable to assume that that tendency to enlarge the sphere of migration is one explanation why the bird is found to breed more freely in England; but whatever the cause the increase of the habit has been a surprising and pleasing fact in natural history. As birds themselves have started this habit, seems it is only necessary to spare large numbers of these natives to still further increase the strength of British breeding "cock."

If we are not responsible for the thoughts that pass our doors, we are at least responsible for those we admit and entertain.

LIFE OF PIONEERS IN THE FORESTS

First Settlers in Ontario Were Happy in Spite of Many Hardships

When the early settlers of this country first took up land and built their shanties, the country being all bush, they cleared the land with the use of an axe by chopping the timber down and cutting it into lengths and burning it, says a writer on pioneer life in Ontario. The ashes were gathered and put into leeches, water was put on them to run off the lye which was boiled down into what they called black salts and taken to market. That was the only way they had of obtaining money till they got their land cleared.

In reference to their houses, the roofs of the shanties were made of troughs, hewn out with an axe. The walls of the shanties were of course made of logs, the cracks being stuffed with moss. The chimney was built of sticks and mortar in a triangular shape; mortar was made of mud and straw tramped by the oxen. There were large flat stones at the bottom of the fire-place.

Bread was baked in a large iron pot with three legs and a lid. Hot coals were put under it and on the lid and it was turned around often. Meat was generally boiled. There were lots of potatoes and vegetables, such as cow cabbage, lamb's quarter, wild plums and currants. The only sugar they had was maple sugar, boiled in iron kettles and cooled in small, axe-hewn troughs.

Furniture in those days was made with nothing but an axe and an auger. The chairs were benches with four pegs for legs. The bedstead consisted of a pole at each side and two poles at each end driven into holes in the four upright posts. The bottom of the bed was made of slabs split with the axe, the same as the floor of the shanty.

The women would card wool, spin it and someone in the neighborhood would weave it into cloth, which made beautiful dresses and men's suits. They made their pens for writing out of wild bird's feathers, not having any geese or turkeys.

Through all the hardships the people were very happy. They had church service in their homes turn about. The preacher would come to have service once in three weeks. The women went to church with their aprons and sunbonnets on, and every body brought their babies. Later on they built churches out of logs and slabs.

People were very hospitable and any person travelling through the country, such as for flour, etc., would call in and stay where night overtook them. Some times at night the floor would be almost covered with men lying with their feet to the fire.

MAN'S RANGE OF SOUND

Tiny Galton Whistle Is Used to Determine Upper Limit of Sound

In the sense of hearing, numerous problems interest psychologists. Among these may be mentioned the range of sounds that can be heard by an individual—that is, the limit above and below which no sound can be heard.

The solution of these two problems, the determination of the upper and lower limits of sound, has occasioned a great deal of careful work and the construction of many forms of apparatus. For determining the upper limit of sound for any individual—the Galton whistle is generally used. It consists of a tiny pipe, which is lengthened or shortened by a piston adjusted by a micrometer screw. This little instrument can be regulated to make a tone which is too high for any human ear to hear, and which will finally produce only a painful sensation.

The Galton whistle was devised by Francis Galton for his study of individual differences. He had one of the whistles fastened on the end of his cane, and as he walked through the Zoological Gardens he would blow it near the ears of the various animals. He adjusted the whistle too high for his own ear to hear, and if the various animals responded to the sound he knew that their upper limit was greater than that of the human ear.

The ordinary human ear can detect a tone whose vibration rate is at least twenty-five thousand vibrations per second, while the whistle will produce fifty thousand per second. This upper limit varies with the age of the individual to such an extent that, if the upper limit at sixteen years was fifty thousand vibrations, at sixty years of age it would be about twenty-five thousand per second.

In 1888 Argentina had to import its flour. To-day it sells wheat to the world, the annual harvest value amounting to more than \$500,000,000.

Read The Daily News

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from

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" " "	250 " "	275.80
" " "	50 " "	55.15
" " "	50 " "	56.35
" " "	250 " "	298.70
" " "	1,000 " "	1,162.45
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SEEK WAGE SCALE

Edinburgh, Scotland, Jan. 2.—Fully 600 railway clerical workers attended the mass meeting held recently in Edinburgh to support the movement of the Railway Clerks' Association to secure a standard scale of salaries.

Mr. Campbell, president of the Edinburgh and District Trades Council, presiding, said that they realized today more than at any other time in the working-class history the absolute need for organization in their working life. The clerk had been backward in organizing. He had been a kind of Micawber in industry, always expecting something to turn up which would elevate him individually from the place he at present occupied. But the individual had not much chance in making bargains in present-day industry.

The demands of the railway clerks, he continued, were very humble. He urged them to accept the fact that they were workers, and as workers they should combine to demand better conditions and a living wage.

Mr. Walkden, general secretary of the Railway Clerks' Association, said that something very dramatic was going to happen in the railway world before they were very much older. Not only were the clerical employees making progress in their organization, and getting into a position to insist upon having what is only their due, but their colleagues among the outdoor grades were enrolling at the rate of 3000 per week.

On the motion of Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Manson, the meeting carried with enthusiasm a resolution supporting the Railway Clerks' Association national movement to secure a minimum scale rising to £150 (£160 in London) per annum by the age of 37, and proportionately higher salaries for those in positions of more than ordinary responsibilities; and further holding that the time was ripe for the nationalization of railways.

MINE OPERATIONS SHOWN

Adelaide, South Australia, Jan. 2.—Statistics which have recently been published show that operations in the mining industry in South Australia during the first six months of the present year were well maintained.

The area held under the mining acts on June 30 totalled 299,556 acres, an increase of approximately 7200 acres during the half year. The number of men employed in mining and minerals

works was 7160, being distributed as follows:
Copper.....4000
Gold.....800
Salt.....500
Silver-lead.....30
Other minerals.....45
Smelting, works, Port Pirie.....138

The production of copper, the chief mineral product of the state, was well above the average of recent half-yearly productions. Active work is being conducted on the radium mines of the state and increasing interest is evinced in the various radium companies' operations.

AWARD IS GRATIFYING

Calcutta, India, Jan. 2.—The award of the chief literary prize of the year to Robinranath dranath Tagore, Bengal's unowned laureate, has naturally been received with feelings of general gratification all over India.

To many people in the west the name of Robinranath was probably unknown two years ago, and from this point to view his sudden leap into fame at the height of the last London season had something extraordinary and dramatic about it. But for many years his name has been a household word in Bengal, whose mellifluous tongue he has made an instrument of a poetical philosophy which is universally admitted to be unique.

Mr. Tagore is a member of a most gifted family in India, a family which has within the past 20 years given poets, preachers, painters, musicians, judges and administrators to the country. His poetry may be divided into two kinds, the philosophical and the patriotic, the former belonging to his later period. The latter, by the way, is looked askance at by the government, as the national movement in Bengal has been so unfortunate as to become associated with the propaganda of violence.

Mr. Tagore returned from England not long ago, and those who know him declare that his wonderful success has made no difference in the simplicity of his outlook. His main interest in life is a little school which he conducts in his native village, and immediately upon his return from Europe he retired to this secluded spot, where those who wish to commune with him most go and seek him.

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