

# Messenger and Visitor

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## Salmon Culture in France

According to the statements of a Paris correspondent of the New York Tribune, great quantities of salmon spawn are to be imported from Canada and the United States by the French Fish Commissioners. The sum of twenty thousand dollars has been expended annually in stocking the rivers of France with the spawn of salmon and trout obtained in Scotland and the United States. The revival of salmon culture in France is now regarded as an assured fact. The home supply had become so deficient that eight million pounds of this much sought for fish were purchased in Great Britain alone at an average price of fifty cents a pound. Now there is so large a supply of native French salmon in the Paris market that the retail price for the best cuts is only sixty cents a pound, a price ten per cent lower than has been known there for a quarter of a century. Recently a salmon was taken in the river Yonne, a tributary of the Seine, at a point a hundred miles southwest of Paris. The salmon found in the Yonne, it is said, must have found their way from the Atlantic up the Seine, passing through Paris and the innumerable locks and barrages of the rivers.

## The Brockton Horror.

An awful disaster, bringing instant death to some, and slow torturing death to many others, occurred in the city of Brockton, Mass., on Monday, of last week, caused by the bursting of a boiler in the shoe manufacturing establishment of the R. B. Grover Company. The explosion took place shortly after work had begun for the day. It was immediately followed by a collapse of a part of the building and by the outbreak of fire which rapidly reduced the factory to ruins. The boiler was carried up through the building by the force of the explosion, bringing immediate death to some. Then the floors collapsed, and many were carried down into what soon became a fiery furnace. Held down by broken timbers, escape or rescue for most of these was impossible. Those who were in parts of the building at a distance from the boiler room fared better. The exact number of persons in the building at the time of the explosion is not known. The number reported as having escaped is 283. Fifty-five bodies have been recovered of which only fourteen have been identified, and the number missing is forty-five. The accounts given of the agonies suffered by those who perished in the burning ruins in spite of the most heroic attempts to rescue them, is heart-rendering. The cause of the explosion has not so far been explained.

## Should the Tele- phone be Nation- alized?

A resolution moved by Sir William Mulock in the House of Commons, for a select committee to investigate the telephone problem with a view to recommending a means of securing the best service for the public was unanimously adopted. The committee named in the resolution is as follows:—Messrs. Burrows, Smith (Nanaimo), Johnston (Cape Breton South), Grant, Demers (St. John and Itherville), Monk, Maclean (York), Boyce, Roche (Marquette), Zimmerman, and the mover. In supporting his motion Sir William said:—In its inception the use of the telephone was confined chiefly to cities, towns, and large centres of population connected together with trunk lines. Of late years it has found its way into the rural districts, into comparatively sparsely settled districts, and the time has arrived when Parliament might study with propriety the question whether it is possible to make the telephone as widespread in its usefulness to the people as the postoffice itself. At present in Canada there is one great company. And there are many other smaller companies, and there also are telephone systems conducted as private enterprises. Of late years the subject has received attention at the hands of the Imperial Parliament. He did not intend at this stage to indicate what the recommendation of the committee should be—it would be premature for him to do so—but he did think a careful and thorough inquiry into the conditions in Canada compared with other countries might furnish useful and safe guides, and when that information is gathered by the committee the House would be in a position to make some substantial progress. In view of the conflicting opinions that prevail on the subject, it was right that the public should be put in possession of evidence and of the arguments collected after careful, thorough and im-

partial study to enable the House to reach the safest conclusion. While he held an open mind on the subject, the Postmaster General confessed that he could not see why it was not as much the duty of the state to take charge of the telephone system as it was to conduct the Post Office system. This statement was received with cheers and the resolution was adopted without opposition, but some members expressed regret that the telegraph system of the country had not been included also in the scope of the committee's inquiry.

## The Sleeping Sickness.

The mysterious and deadly sleeping sickness so prevalent in parts of Africa has been the subject of much investigation, and, according to the Scientific American, an important and valuable discovery in reference to the disease has been made by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. The causes of this disease, according to the results of elaborate diagnoses that have been made, is attributive to 'trypanosomiasis', i. e., the presence in the blood and in the fluids of the brain and spinal cord of some form of the microscopic parasite known as 'trypanosoma', which is propagated by the tsetse fly in South Africa. From the close observations that have been made upon the afflicted patients, the symptoms and the danger bear some relation to the greater or less abundance of the parasites, and develop seriously when they have entered the cerebro-spinal fluid. The parasite may be present in the blood of deeply seated organs, when they are not to be found in that which is drawn from a skin puncture, and their frequent temporary disappearance from this surface blood renders it difficult sometimes to be certain of their presence in the system. The expedition organized by the school also discovered a blood-sucking larva, which thrives in many parts of the Congo. During the daytime this larva conceals itself in the cracks of the native floors, and only attacks its victims during the night. When dug up they are found to be full of bright red blood, thereby testifying to the severity of their attack during the previous night. It is the larva of the Glossina fly which is apparently harmless in the imago state. This discovery is of great value and systematic measures to combat its injurious nature will at once be inaugurated.

## Machnow the Giant.

The London Daily News tells of the arrival in the British metropolis of Machnow, the Russian giant, almost ten feet in height, and now one of the attractions of the Hippodrome. When the giant appeared on the streets after landing, such crowds gathered round him that traffic was obstructed. At the railway station the Russian entered an ordinary compartment almost on his hands and knees, and sat on a seat which had carefully been shored up to support him. As the giant was being conducted to the Hippodrome a call was made at a tailor on the Strand where he was measured for a dress suit. Following are the measurements which the tailor secured with the help of a step ladder:—

Neck to waist	32 in.
Total length of coat	66 in.
Across the shoulders (behind)	31 in.
Shoulder to elbow	36 in.
Total length of sleeve	56 in.
Across chest	30 in.
Around chest	60 in.
Waist	55 in.
Trousers (outside leg)	72 in.
Trousers (inside leg)	50 in.
Trousers (around bottom)	30 in.
Thigh	40 in.

The tailor said the cloth required would amount to fifteen yards double width, which is between four and five times that necessary for an ordinary adult suit. The giant's hand measures 1 ft. 7 1/2 in. from the point of the fingers to wrist, his foot is 24 in. long. It is stated that his breakfast consists of two quarts of milk, 12 eggs, and two loaves. For his lunch he has from two to three pounds of meat, five pounds of potatoes and a quart of beer; his dinner consists of soup, from three to five pounds of meat, with bread, potatoes, and two quarts of beer; and for supper he has 10 or 15 eggs, bread and butter, and a quart of tea. Machnow is 24 years of age and weighs 450 pounds. When he reached the Hippodrome he complained of being very tired. Before going to lie down he took a little light refreshment in the shape of five pints of milk, in which were beaten up 13 eggs. His bed was composed of four ordinary bedsteads placed side by side on which were six pairs of sheets sewn together. According to certain famous juvenile literature and the Pil-

grim's Progress, it seems to be the correct thing for a giant to have a wife. Machnow at all events has a wife, though whether or not she is a daughter of Anak we are not informed, and they have a "tiny" baby.

## Educational Clauses of the Autonomy Bill.

Following is the Educational clause and sub-clauses of the Autonomy Bill as first drafted, and also the clauses as amended by the Government and announced in connection with the second reading of the Bill:

### As First Drafted

Clause 16 of the autonomy bill, in its original form, was as follows:—

- (1) The provisions of section 93 of the B. N. A. Act, 1867, shall apply to the said Province as if, at the date upon which this act comes into force, the territory comprised therein were already a Province, the expression "the union" in the said section being taken to mean the said date.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of the said section 93, and in continuance of the principles heretofore sanctioned under the N. W. Territories Act, it is enacted that the Legislature of the said Province shall pass all necessary laws in respect of education, and that it shall therein always be provided (a) that a majority of the ratepayers of any district or portion of the said Province, or of any less portion of sub-division thereof, by whatever name it is known, may establish such schools therein as they think fit, and make the necessary assessments and collection of rates therefore, and (b) that the minority of the ratepayers therein, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic, may establish separate schools therein, and make the necessary assessment and collection of rates thereof, and (c) that in such case the ratepayers establishing such Protestant or Roman Catholic separate schools shall be liable only to assessment of such rates as they impose upon themselves with respect thereto.
- (3) In the appropriation of public moneys by the Legislature in aid of education, and in the distribution of any moneys paid to the Government of the said Province arising from the school fund established by the Dominion Lands Act, there shall be no discrimination between the public schools and the separate schools, and such moneys shall be applied to the support of the public and separate schools in equitable shares or proportion.

### As Amended.

The proposed amendment is as follows:—

Section 93 of the B. N. A. Act, 1867, shall apply to the said Province, with a substitution for sub section 1 of said section 93 of the following sub-section:—

- (1) Nothing in any such law shall prejudicially affect any right or privilege with respect to separate schools which any class of persons have at the date of the passing of this act, under the terms of chapters 29 and 30 of the ordinances of the Northwest Territories, passed in the year 1901.

(2) In the appropriation by the Legislature or distribution by the Government of the Province of any money for the support of schools organized and carried on in accordance with said chapter 29 or any act passed in amendment thereof or in substitution therefor, there shall be no discrimination against schools of any class described in the said chapter 29.

(3) Where the expression "by law" is employed in sub-section 3 of the said section 93, it shall be held to mean the law as set out in the said chapters 29 and 30, and where the expression "at the union" is employed in said sub-section 3 it shall be held to mean the date at which this act comes into force.

It is contended by Hon. Mr. Sifton and others, and no doubt correctly, that the amended form of the clauses is very much to be preferred to the original. The difference is greater than would appear to the casual reader. The amended form makes it clear, we are told, that the school system to be perpetuated is not in accordance with the provisions enacted in 1873 but in accordance with amendments introduced afterward. This the original form did not do. The amended form also, according to Mr. Sifton, guards against the danger, present in the original draft, that if a Provincial College, a Technical school, etc., were established in Alberta or Saskatchewan, Roman Catholics would be able under the constitution to claim a like expenditure of public funds for education in their interest. If such improvements have been made in the Bill they are of course entitled to recognition, but these amendments do not remove what we must regard as the vicious principle of the Bill. It still remains an invasion of Provincial rights, which no considerations of expediency can justify.