

The Planet

DAILY AND WEEKLY
Chatham, Ont.

THE STORY OF A HAY CONTRACT.

When the Imperial Government asked the Government of Canada to purchase 3,000 tons of hay for use in South Africa The Planet, as well as many other journals, found fault with the fact that the authorities at Ottawa very generously let the contract for 2,000 tons of this to an American contractor to be pressed and loaded at Boston. The reply to this was that the American contractor controlled the latest and best apparatus for pressing hay and that the contract had to be given to him. This now turns out to have been all deception.

As all the facts in connection with this hay contract given to Mr. Bloomingdale, of Boston, are made public one can realize what a narrow escape Canada has had from a scandal in connection with the first shipment of Canadian hay to South Africa. Prof. Robertson's alertness alone has saved the country from, so far as its influence on Canadian trade and the good name of the country are concerned, what would have been little short of a calamity.

Mr. Fitter, the experimental farm foreman at Ottawa, had been sent to Boston to watch the shipments, and when he found that Bloomingdale's manager was endeavoring to put hay on board which any respectable horse would not be down upon, much less eat, he at once protested, and telegraphed the facts to Prof. Robertson. Within 12 hours the Agricultural Commissioner was on the spot, and the interview between the professor and the smart Yankee was, as it is said, a stormy one. Bloomingdale's manager used language not quite up to a Sunday school standard, and threatened to block the whole thing if he were not permitted to load hay of the quality that he might select. He claimed that Mr. Bloomingdale controlled the presses, and could stop the entire shipment.

It then occurred to the commissioner to make inquiries about the Lowry presses, and soon he ascertained that Bloomingdale neither owned nor controlled them; that he had simply leased them from the Farmers Press Association, of New York, on the strength of representations that he had a contract from the Canadian Government to press 3,000 tons of hay for them. These representations were made to the New York concern before Bloomingdale had got the order from the Department of Agriculture, and, being unfounded, the Farmers Press Association agreed to cancel the lease to Bloomingdale and give a direct lease of them to the Agricultural Commissioner.

Thereupon, the department immediately undertook the work of pressing the hay with its own staff. Those of the Canadian contractors who had received orders for hay were asked to double their supplies, and purchases were also made from other dealers in Canada, including "Clover" Brothers, of Chrysler, and O. Newberry, of St. Hilare. The work of pressing and loading the hay is now going on rapidly and satisfactorily, and it is expected that the Montauk will sail from Boston next Tuesday. The difficulties with Bloomingdale have caused probably a week's delay, but the hay will arrive in Cape Town about the 15th of January.

W. B. Scarth, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, will go to Cape Town on the Montauk to make the formal transfer of the cargo to the Imperial authorities.

CHOICE OF

Gifts

T gift buyer who usually puts off till a day or two before Christmas knows how scarce the prettiest are. We have just opened out the best selection of

Christmas
NoveltiesHoliday
Perfumes

all the leading lines, including new colors in handsome packages. A portion of our "Ebony Wood" Sterling Silver novelties will sell you, whether you buy or not.

Central Drug Store

H. Gunn &

THE COST OF MARRIAGE LICENSES.

In a speech in West Elgin Premier Ross said to the electors:

Ten years ago a marriage license cost \$6, and now the price is \$2; but when the state of the provincial exchequer warranted it the Government would give a marriage license for nothing.

Commenting on this the Hamilton Spectator says: It is quite possible that Mr. Ross does not know that the Government now gives marriage licenses for nothing. The price to the consumer is \$2; but that all goes into the pocket of the vendor, who is appointed by the Government to sell the license, as a reward for party service. In other words, the Government, in order to reward a partisan worker, empowers him to levy a tax of \$2 upon every man who desires to get married. The Government gains nothing by it; it all goes to the license seller. To tax people to put money into the pockets of private individuals, while none of it goes to the state, is a piece of villainy highly characteristic of the Ontario Government.

An interesting fact that both Mr. Ross and the Spectator appear unaware of is that the former's statement about \$6 licenses is incorrect; marriage licenses cost no more ten or fifteen years ago than they do now. The Spectator is right about the provincial exchequer receiving no revenue from this source, and it seems incredible that the premier, holding the treasury portfolio as he does, is not posted on that fact. Another point that has always puzzled this great family journal is, why these licenses should not be issued by the municipal clerks instead of by Government proteges?

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

President McKinley's message to Congress this time is exceedingly lengthy. It opens with congratulations to Congress and the people upon the unprecedented prosperity of the country, and the satisfactory condition of the revenues, even when the government is carrying on a distant war.

The president abandons all his former hopes of bimetalism and declares positively for a gold standard.

Steps for the rehabilitation of Cuba under a civil government are urged upon Congress.

Much stress is laid upon the Philippine question, and on this the president is most positive. His suggestion, that the granting of complete autonomy under a protectorate of the United States is not to be thought of, has almost the tone of a command, although it is couched in diplomatic language and backed by strong argument.

The president hints that as soon as peace is restored, he will send another peace commission to confer with the natives and facilitate the restoration of order and civil government.

He also thinks it is in the power of Congress to crush out the trusts and combines evil. In this connection he says:

"It is universally conceded that combinations which engross or control the market of any particular kind of merchandise or commodity necessary to the general community, by suppressing natural and ordinary competition, are obnoxious not only to the common law, but also to the public welfare. There must be a remedy for the evils involved in such organizations. If the present law can be extended more certainly to control or check these monopolies or trusts, it should be done without delay. Whatever power the Congress possesses over this most important subject should be promptly ascertained and asserted."

VOTING MACHINES.

If voting machines had been used in the recent election in Kentucky the peace of that commonwealth would not now be menaced by the conflicting claims of the rival candidates for governor, says the Chicago Times-Herald. There is little doubt that General Taylor has received a plurality of the votes cast, but the counting is largely under the control of Goshel adherents. The people have registered their verdict in favor of Taylor. If Goshel is declared governor, it must be through a fraudulent count.

This is the feature of an election contest that emphasizes the value of the voting machine which not only registers the population, but makes falsification of the returns impossible. As it works with mechanical accuracy, and counts the votes as rapidly as they are received, there can be no holding back the returns in certain localities for needed alterations in tally sheets, or for manipulation of the ballots.

The practicability of voting machines has been repeatedly demonstrated in elections of recent years, but never so satisfactorily as in the election last week, in Buffalo, Brooklyn, Utica and Detroit. In all these cities the results were such as to greatly strengthen the faith of all honest seekers after ballot reform in machine voting. In the city of Buffalo the result of the election was known at six o'clock, and the last returns were at the city hall in 35 minutes after the polls closed. The test in that city was a particularly severe

one, because of the unusual number of "split" votes as shown by the fact that that part of the Republican ticket carried by 9,000 plurality, while one candidate received only a few hundred plurality. The number of election districts was reduced from 150 to 108 when the voting machines were purchased, and on election day some of the machines received votes at the rate of two a minute. In Brooklyn the vote was unusually heavy, but the vote was accurately recorded, and the result for the entire city was announced an hour after the polls closed.

The adoption of the Australian ballot system was a wonderful stride in ballot reform, but the present method of counting the ballots is slow, cumbersome, laborious and uncertain. Where the vote is close the possibility of error or fraud is so great that the public has little confidence in the returns, and the defeated candidates invariably appeal to the courts. The present system is also expensive. With voting machines in use it is possible to make a considerable reduction in the number of voting precincts or election districts in every locality. Moreover, a voting machine should last a number of years if properly handled.

Of course the hand of the party boss and the spoilsman is against the voting machine. It will not serve his nefarious purposes. But this constitutes the principal reason for the increasing public demand for the voting machine.

The weather is now proceeding to set the city council an example in street paving.

To-morrow Canada expects Manitoba to do its duty, but we don't know whether Manitoba will or not.

The St. Thomas Journal seems to have the political D. T.'s, these days in its frantic efforts to condone the crimes of the machine.

The Tartlet organ in Quebec highly disapproves of Hon. Joseph's Chamberlain's recent speech. When Joe learns this he will no doubt take it all back.

For the purpose of clearing Tart, a number of cheap journals are dining it into the ears of the Quebecers that their loyalty is being questioned. This is disreputable business, for it is untrue, and certainly calculated to stir up race troubles. Out of a very extensive exchange list we have yet to find one solitary journal that has even insinuated anything against French Canada.

The British channel squadron is now scattered about the Mediterranean, and the Mediterranean squadron is at Gibraltar. The special service squadron has been ordered there, together with a further reinforcement of a battleship and three cruisers. With the Channel fleet, which is also rendezvousing at once at the Rock, Britain will have mobilized the strongest fleet that has ever been together in the world's history. There is some thing in the wind but nobody seems to know what. Such a concentration is most unusual.

THE FRENCH OF ONTARIO.

St. Thomas Times, Con.

All along the Detroit River and in various sections of the western peninsula of Ontario, there are remains of old French settlements. The people of French descent retain a fond remembrance of "la belle France. They love her flag, take an interest in her history, and the older ones even speak the language of France. But they are good, thrifty, industrious and generally speaking, prosperous citizens. The younger people read and speak English. The Times has many subscribers among them and will be glad to take some more. They coalesce with their English neighbors and give a very desirable and valuable element in the population. Nobody worries about the older ones speaking French or keeping up any old-time customs that remind them of the land of their origin. The motto of the English part of the population is: "Trouble your head with your own affairs, and leave others at liberty to do the same."

Sterling & Kovinsky

Wholesale and Retail Dealers in
Rags, Rubber, Iron
and Metal

HIGHEST CASH PRICES PAID.
MAGNOLIA HOUSE.
Chatham Ontario

Before After Wood's Phosphodine.
The Great English Remedy.
Sold and recommended by all
druggists in Canada. Only reliable
medicine discovered. Six
packages guaranteed to cure all
forms of Sexual Weakness, all effects of abuse
or excess, Mental Worry, Excessive use of
Tobacco, Opium or Stimulants. Mailed on receipt
of price, one package \$1.00, six \$5.00. One will please,
the rest will cure. Pamphlets free to any address.
The Wood Company, Windsor, Ont.

Wood's Phosphodine is sold in Chatham,
at Central Drug Store, C. H.
Gunn & Co's.

If you want a
Nobby

Fall
Overcoat
Stone
The Hatter

Who has just received
his Fall assortment.
GARNER HOUSE
BLOCK.

ELANDSLAAGTE.

The morning mists lift o'er the Transvaal plains.
Shrill bugle notes echo thro' valley and craig;
The boom of cannon gives vent to its rumbling strains,
And Majuba we remember as we hail to our flag.

Right well the gallant Devonshires and Manchesters form,
Flanked by the Gordons and Lancers ready for the fray;
Whilst the dashing artillery, as the heights they storm,
Cover the Irish Fusiliers, as they boldly dash away.
Over the plains swiftly, rush the brave Fusiliers,
Abreast of them, cheering, come the gallant King's Own;
At the bugle charge sounding, 'midst the Devonshires' cheers,
Follow after them quickly, the brave Gordons alone.

There's a flash and a clack, as the cold steel engages;
The honors and glories of war are at stake,
The Gordons are holding their prestige for ages,
As the Irish beside them, ne'er waver nor break.

The Imperial Light Horse, with their chargers are coming,
Brave Chisholm, he leads them well up the steep slope,
Watch them charge, comrades, they've got the foe running,
Though their colonel has fallen, forlorn in his hope.

In the heat of the battle, 'midst the fury and storm,
Over the kopjes, bayonet and sword wield the contest,
The Boers are retreating, they've lost their good fortune,
Majuba's reversed, Elandslaagte is won, our arms take a rest.

Alas! brave leader, though met the warrior's fate,
In the brunt of the battle, inspiring thy men;
To thy memory, gallant Symons, let thy victory, Elandslaagte,
Proclaim thee a hero, for country and Queen.

W. C. W.

Chatham, Dec. 4, '99.

LEHIGH VALLEY TRUNK LINE.

The Lehigh Valley Railroad has finally met with success in the long drawn out attempt to secure the right to lay its track across Communipaw Avenue, Jersey City.

An ordinance permitting the crossing was passed by the Jersey City authorities some time ago, but its operation was held up, owing to an objection from a technical legal standpoint, that was raised by its opposers. The legal objection was removed by the State Court of Errors and Appeals, the decision being handed down at 12:15 p.m. on November 20th. As soon as the decision was announced, the railroad people prepared to get started with the work of laying the tracks, which work was completed, four tracks being laid, by 12 o'clock midnight the same day. The street was cleared of all obstructions at 12:40 a.m., and the first train passed over the crossing at 12:50 a.m. A force of about 250 men was employed in doing the work.

SAUGEEN

MAGNETIC MINERAL WATER—
Southampton.

Is highly recommended by Prof. Fyfe, Dominion Analyst, Toronto, for persons suffering from either rheumatic taints of constitution, or habits of constipation. It is a most palatable table water, and is absolutely pure. A trial will convince you that it has merit of a high order. For sale by Central Drug Store and F. A. Robert.

Blonde Bros.

CHATHAM

Builders and Contractors
Manufacturers and dealers in Lumber, Lath, Shingles, Flooring, Bl. Ing. Bill stuff, Mouldings, Frames, Sash Doors, Blinds etc.
We have a large quantity of Lumber, and Planed Lumber, 1 inch at price of 10¢, also 1 1/2 inch, 2 inch, 3 inch, 4 inch, 6 inch, 8 inch, 10 inch, 12 inch, 14 inch, 16 inch, 18 inch, 20 inch, 22 inch, 24 inch, 26 inch, 28 inch, 30 inch, 32 inch, 34 inch, 36 inch, 38 inch, 40 inch, 42 inch, 44 inch, 46 inch, 48 inch, 50 inch, 52 inch, 54 inch, 56 inch, 58 inch, 60 inch, 62 inch, 64 inch, 66 inch, 68 inch, 70 inch, 72 inch, 74 inch, 76 inch, 78 inch, 80 inch, 82 inch, 84 inch, 86 inch, 88 inch, 90 inch, 92 inch, 94 inch, 96 inch, 98 inch, 100 inch.

Minard's Liniment Cures Distemper.

WESTMAN BROS.

REMOVAL SALE

Will Inaugurate an Immense

Cash
Removal
Sale

REMOVAL SALE

Commencing DEC. 1st., Continuing for Two Months

Every Heating Stove Must be Sold.
Every Cook Stove Must be Sold.
Every Range Must be Sold.

ALL AT REDUCED PRICES. COME AND SEE US
FOR BARGAINS IN ALL LINES

WESTMAN BROS.

Fashionable
Furniture

If all Furniture was alike it wouldn't matter where you bought it. But it is not all alike. There is as much difference in the make of Furniture as there is in the people who use it.

Our Furniture consists of all grades, is properly designed and is made by the most skilled workmen. You should make your selections now.

Hugh McDonald

Dealer in Carpets, Furniture, etc.

1899 Autumn and Winter 1900

We make a specialty of EVENING DRESS SUITS, and are prepared to execute orders for this FORMAL EVENING ATTIRE in a manner to suit the most fastidious.
We have in stock some RICH AND ELEGANT MATERIALS embracing SUPERFINE BROADS and UNFINISHED WORSTEDS, also a line of trimmings, bought expressly for FULL DRESS. We invite INSPECTION and COMPARISON OF PRICES with other FIRST-CLASS houses.

ALBERT SHELDRICK

Importer and Merchant Tailor. Opposite Grand Opera House.
AGENT FOR PARKER'S DYE WORKS.

Wanted Immediately

...KENT MILLS...

LARGE QUANTITIES OF WHEAT, OATS, BARLEY, NEW AND OLD BEANS.

BUY KENT MILLS FLOUR

THE BEST IS THE CHEAPEST.

Flour made by the Gyrator System takes more water, and gives you a larger whiter and sweeter loaf, and makes more ovens to the Barrel than any other Flour. Stevens Breakfast Food and Family Cornmeal, freshly ground, always on hand. Farmer's Feed ground on quick notice by a three reduction roller process, much ahead of the old system of chopping.

Hay... and Oats

Tel. 209
Tennent & Burke
SCANE BLOCK

NOW IS THE TIME Eggs for Hatching

Horses and Cattle
TONIC AND BLOOD PURIFIER
To bring them into perfect condition for the coming season. Try
Radley's Condition Powder.

Price 25c per 3 lb. Bag.
For sale at all respectable drug stores.

From Barred Plymouth Rocks, and Black Minorcas, all from the best selected stock, good healthy birds. Received first prize at the Pomona Fair. Exhibited for several years. Price for setting of 12 eggs \$1.00. For large quantities All orders promptly filled.
W. W. Everitt,
A. S. S. C. C. C. C.