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LONDON, MONDAY, DEC. 31.

A LOST OPPORTUNITY.

At Woodstock on Friday, Mr. Beck declared that he was not satisfied with the rate quoted the hydro-electric commission by the Niagara power companies.

It is much to be regretted that in their anxiety to discredit the late Government, Mr. Whitney and his colleagues threw away a unique opportunity to control the price of Niagara power.

The Electric Development Company secured from the late Government the charter right to develop 125,000-horsepower at the Falls. During the progress of construction work, the engineers of the company discovered that an extra 125,000-horsepower could be developed at comparatively little extra expense, and that the water would be wasted if this were not done. The Ross Government agreed to enlarge the concession upon condition that 62,500-horsepower, or one-half the extra block of power, should be set aside for the municipalities at a price to be fixed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. The clause reads as follows:

"It is hereby expressly provided that one-half of the power to be generated hereunder shall from time to time be available for the use of any municipality or municipalities in the Province of Ontario for the purpose of operating a municipal system of heating, lighting, or other public utilities then owned or which may hereafter be owned by such municipality or municipalities. The price to be paid by such municipalities for the said power shall be fixed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, who may also fix the price every 15 years thereafter during the continuance of this agreement, and in determining the said price the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may inquire as to the price paid by other consumers receiving electrical energy from the said company in Ontario, the price paid by private consumers in the case of electrical energy produced by steampower or waterpower in Ontario, and the various conditions which, in the opinion of the said Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, might be necessary to determine the matter in issue."

The Whitney Government thought it would be smart politics to cancel the extra concession, giving a black eye to a power corporation was believed to be a popular stroke, but the Government, perhaps inadvertently, dealt a blow to public ownership. That block of 62,500-horsepower would have regulated the price of Niagara power and afforded an admirable leverage upon the power companies. Besides, it is altogether likely that through international agreement no further development of power will be permitted at Niagara, so that Ontario will lose the advantage which would accrue from the generation of an additional 125,000-horsepower upon the Canadian side of the Falls. If the Whitney Government had sanctioned the Ross Government's concession, Mr. Beck would not now be complaining that the companies at Niagara asked too high a price for power.

THE TRANSVAAL CONSTITUTION

The London Times comes to hand with the text of the letters patent establishing a constitution for the Transvaal. The parliament of the colony will consist of two houses, the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council. The Assembly, or lower house, will have 60 members, and will be based upon manhood suffrage. All white males who are 21 years of age, and who have resided in the colony for six months before registration, will be entitled to the franchise, excepting British soldiers. Registration is to be biennial, and every fourth year there is to be a redistribution of seats. The first distribution gives 34 seats to the Witwatersrand, or gold mining district, in which the British predominate; six seats to the Pretoria district, the urban stronghold of the Boers; and 24 seats to the country districts. It is probable that this arrangement will give the British a small majority in the first assembly, though this is not a certainty. The debates are to be in English or Dutch. The statutory term of the assembly is five years, but the governor may dissolve it when he thinks fit. There are to be six cabinet ministers, who may sit and speak in both houses, but may vote only in the chamber of which they are members.

The Legislative Council, or upper house, will consist of fifteen members. The first council will be appointed by the crown, but at the expiration of four years a law may be passed making it an elective body. Money bills must originate in the Assembly, following

the practice in all British self-governing countries, but the Council may reject them, though it cannot alter them. In case of disagreement between the two chambers upon any measure, a joint sitting of both may pass legislation by a majority. The governor must reserve for consideration by the home Government laws that propose to put disability on non-Europeans, or to permit the introduction of coolie labor, or to alter the constitution. The Chinese question is settled by provisions forbidding all importation of servile labor, and requiring that the famous ordinance of 1904, by which Chinese were brought under contract to work the mines, shall be repealed within one year.

The British Government has nobly redeemed the pledge given the Boers that self-government would be conferred upon the Transvaal as soon as there was reasonable expectation that it could be adopted with safety to British interests. The new constitution has met with surprisingly little opposition from either British or Boers in South Africa, and the Unionist leaders who assailed it so savagely are placed in a ridiculous position. Canadians will follow with sympathetic interest an experiment which finds its precedent in the history of their own country.

PARTYISM AND THE SCHOOL BOARD.

The introduction of politics at the school board has not been at the instance of the Conservatives, and that they have determined to resent the uncalculated insult meted out to them by the Liberals when the latter took possession of every desired post of honor by the use of the double vote is not to be wondered at. The defeat of the Liberal candidates on this occasion would be an effective blow at mixing politics in educational affairs.—Free Press.

Our contemporary is not careful in its statement of facts. The Liberal members of the board this year offered to divide the posts of honor, but the Conservative members preferred open warfare, and refused the committee chairmanships which they might have had.

The chairmanship of the board was claimed by the Liberal trustees as a matter of fair play. The Conservative members during the years they controlled the board, monopolized this post as the record shows:

1898 James M. Logan
1899 Dr. W. J. Teasdale
1900 R. A. Bayly
1901 Dr. W. M. English
1902 C. J. McCormick
1903 W. T. Hamilton
1904 E. J. MacRobert
1905 William Yeates

The honors of the board should be passed around with some regard to seniority. The chairmanship belonged of right this year to Mr. W. T. Strong, who had served for seven years, a longer term than that of any member who had not already filled the chair. The reproach of introducing politics rests, therefore, upon the Conservative trustees, who for years treated all honorary posts as party perquisites.

With the principle that partisanship should have no place in the school board or in any branch of municipal government, The Advertiser is in thorough accord.

May it be a happy new year in spite of the weather.

Ald. Greenlee is as straight as a string, and there's no corporation at the end of the string either.

The election of Mr. Devlin in Nicolet by 500 majority is another sign that the anti-Liberal reaction in Quebec is mainly under Mr. Bourassa's hat.

Mr. Rockefeller predicts a commercial smash. This may well mean that the oil king's stomach is bothering him again.

The East Huron Conservatives accuse the Dominion Government of bleeding the country white. The Government, however, seems to have left the people a little money for Christmas shopping.

The death of the Baroness Burdett-Coutts is a loss to the United Kingdom. Her magnificent charities and humanitarian sympathies made her one of the great figures of the Victorian era.

By the way, Mr. Beck says that Mr. Judd's company, the London Electric, is one of the tentacles of the Niagara power octopus. And Mr. Beck's organ is yelling, 'Rah for Judd!'

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By the way, Mr. Beck says that Mr. Judd's company, the London Electric, is one of the tentacles of the Niagara power octopus. And Mr. Beck's organ is yelling, 'Rah for Judd!'

The manufacturers of the city are showing little interest in Niagara power. Upon them depends the success of the scheme. The public would like to hear from them.

The learned pastor of St. Andrew's, Dr. Ross, is a candidate for the school board. The Advertiser doesn't know what his party leanings are, but as he is opposed to partyism in school board affairs, and is an accomplished scholar and educationist, it hopes he will be elected. The citizens are privileged in having a man of Dr. Ross' caliber to vote for.

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SILENT REAPER'S HARVEST IN 1906

Death Takes Many of Foremost in Varied Callings.

PASS FOREVER BEHIND SCENES

List of the Losses to Royalty, Nobility, Politics, Diplomacy, Law, Church, Art, Literature, Stage.

New York, Dec. 31.—Death has reaped a notable harvest through the months of 1906. As week has followed week, now in one land, now in another, figures which for long have held the center of the world's wide stage have been called forever behind the scenes. Thus, in January, passed R. N. Stephens, the promising novelist, still in his thirties, and the venerable artist, H. W. Weir, who had more than passed his eightieth milestone, and between these two, in point of years, President Harper, of Chicago, and Gen. "Joe" Wheeler and William Cunard, the great ship owner, and C. T. Ritchie, chancellor of England's exchequer.

The spring of the twelve-month saw ended the good deeds of Bishops Seymour, McCabe and L. Camus, and put the final period to the splendid medical activities of Dr. Lappont, physician to the Pope. Not quite one day of the great of this world have passed across to the dim beyond—but figures count for little and depth of the loss of such as these:

HENRIK IBSEN—the great Norwegian dramatist, who exerted an almost world-wide influence, and became the most powerful and disturbing literary force in the past three decades.

RICHARD JOHN SEDDON—who, like Cecil Rhodes in Africa, had cast his shadow over the land of his adoption. He personified New Zealand, making that colony the typical experimental democracy.

CHRISTIAN IX. OF DENMARK—an honest gentleman, a good king, and the most successful parent of modern times.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY—"Beginning in weakness and obscurity, pressing forward over obstacles that seemed insurmountable, and in the face of hostility entrenched in social sentiment, never halting, never compromising, this heroic woman came at last, beloved and honored, to receive from all civilized lands the grateful acknowledgment of splendid services in the cause of humanity."

MARSHALL FIELD—who made the long step from a boy on a New England farm to the post of merchant prince of the world, without losing one shred of honor, or clean dealing, or self-respect, either in his private or public life.

CARL SCHURZ—of whom Joseph Choate has lately said: "A fearless foe of every wrong, an independent champion of every wise reform, setting personal consequences at defiance, he has left to young America an example of honesty, courage and patriotism."

ADELAIDE RISTORI—the great Italian tragic actress; one of the stars of the stage. Few women have been more richly endowed by nature, or come more by personal character and artistic endeavor, to give the drama standing among the great arts.

RUSSELL SAGE—the multi-millionaire, one of the world's financial center, who was none the less a philosopher, because mankind could so seldom see anything save his business shrewdness and consistent thrift.

MICHAEL DAVITT—the patriot of human freedom, who, alike in a British prison and the House of Commons, on Irish hillside and on the battlefield, was ever the fearless champion of the weak and oppressed.

ALFRED BEIT—probably the greatest business man in the world at the close of his death. His interests included copper mines in this country, gold mines in South Africa, Siberia and Korea, steam and electric railway interests in all parts of the globe, besides enormous investments in South African mines, land and industrial and traction enterprises.

RICHARD GARNETT—who had spent a long life among books and had an unequalled knowledge of their contents; one of the most accomplished literary figures of the times.

BARONESS BURDETT-COUTTS—Noted for her works of charity and philanthropy during a long life.

Other notable deaths in the fields of politics, art, science, literature, and among royalty and nobility were: Gen. Dmitri Trepot.

Major-Gen. W. F. Gatacre.

Major-Gen. W. R. Shafter.

Sir Edward Reed, chief naval constructor.

Brigadier-Gen. Joseph Wheeler.

Vice-Admiral Henry Grenfell.

Rear-Admiral Charles J. Train.

Gov. J. M. Pattison, Ohio.

Ex-Gov. A. T. Ellis, Michigan.

Ex-Gov. James S. Hogg, Texas.

Ex-Gov. Sir Hugh Nelson, Queensland.

Senator Arthur P. Gorman.

Ex-Speaker David B. Henderson.

R. J. Seddon, Premier, New Zealand.

Manuel Quintana, president Argentina.

Sir Robert Thorburn.

Baroness Currie.

Sir Wilfrid Lawson.

Sir Edward Thornton.

Congressman Richard Hoar, Massachusetts.

Carl Schurz.

Michael Davitt.

Elliott Danforth.

Sir Halliday Macartney.

Col. E. J. Sanderson.

Eugen Richter.

Baron von Richtofen.

Count Houdenhove.

Marquis Visconti-Venosta.

Prince Carati.

Duke of Almodovar.

Don Romero Robledo.

Wong Kai Kah, Chinese imperial trade commissioner.

Cardinal Callegaris (Padua).

Cardinal Gossens (Mechlin).

J. H. CHAPMAN & CO

Store Open Tonight Until 10 o'Clock.

New Year's Gift Suggestions

If you enjoy looking at pretty things, come to our China Room on the 3rd floor and roam at will through the aisles of China, Bric-a-Brac and other articles that come in for general attention as New Year's gifts. You will not long remain in doubt about what to give. And no matter what you decide you may be certain that your selection will be received with delight.

CHATTERBOX ONLY 44c.

The annual that every boy and girl loves and prizes dearly. We are making a clean sweep of 1905 and 1906 editions this week at only each44c

A large size Nelson's Reference Bible for students and teachers, limp leather cover, lapped edges red under gilt edges. Complete with maps, atlas and references. Were \$1 25, on sale at 95c

Handsome Half-leather Bound Books, for library use and gifts, each one complete in a case, splendid works of leading authors, not great many left. These books are unusual values at 50c. To clear at35c

CASHMERE HOSE

All Wool Black Cashmere Hose, seamless feet, with double heel, toe and sole, a splendid value at 35c pair, or 3 pairs\$1

Silk and Chiffon Scarfs, in delicate colorings. Were 75c; tonight38c

Sale of Black Astrachan Coats continues.

J. H. Chapman & Co., 126, 128, 128 1/2 Dundas St.

BUY A DOLL TONIGHT

Rather than put these beautiful dolls away we break the price in two to clear them completely out; worth 75c, for 29c; large sleeping doll with natural curly hair, beautifully dressed. See them tonight29c

NEW WHITE LAWN WAISTS

There's a great demand for our White Lawn Waists; they're fresh and new. A special line for tonight is a waist made of good quality lawn, tucked front and back, a semi yoke of val insertion and embroidered insertion, buttoned in the back, three-quarter sleeves. Worth \$1 50 at\$1 25

FLANNELETTE GOWNS

Pink and White Flannelette Night Gowns, made with double yoke and frills of self, made as you would make them at home. Special tonight65c

NICE BLACK GOODS

Extra values in Black Venetians, Panamas, Henrietta, Poplin and Cheviot; also heavy Broadcloth for tailored suits, 54-inch; all at, a yard 75c

J. H. Chapman & Co., 126, 128, 128 1/2 Dundas St.

Cardinal Laboure (Rennes).

Cardinal Perraud (Autun).

Cardinal Cavagnis.

Archbishop Bond (Canada).

Archbishop O'Brien (Halifax).

Dr. Benjamin Lambek.

Dr. George Matheson.

Bishop Bickersteth (Exeter).

Rev. Judson Smith (Congregationalist).

Miss Susan B. Anthony.

Mrs. Lucy H. Boardman.

Father Capon.

Nations Now the Poorer.

Scarcely a land but has heard the cold

swish of the scythe of death, announcing

the erasure from the roll of the

living of some name, now ancient in

history, now new, although honorable

in the doings of today.

The woes of troubled Russia will no

longer be recorded by her historian

Tatishcheff, for the pen has fallen from

that able hand; and that beautiful

Princess Palayandoff has met horrible

death among the burning ruins of her

chateau. Austria may mourn for Prince

William of Schaumburg-Lippe and

Ferdinand von Saxe, poet and pessimist—

and suicide at 73.

France misses Louis Gustave Va-

pereau, the greatest of her lexicographers,

and Professor Curie, the discoverer of

radium, whose end befell the

crowded boulevards of the brilliant

capital. Belgium is no more to re-

ceive new canvases from Alfred

Stevens or new books from Albert

Sorel.

Germany has lost the services of

such as Von Richthofen, the diplomat,

and Von Hartmann, the philosopher.

Italy no longer will know in the flesh

the tactful Marquis Visconti-

Venosta; nor Spain Ramon Blanco or

Jose de Peredia; nor Japan that Vis-

count Kodama, who was called the

brains of the army of the flowery land.

In Egypt has died Felix Sauros, the

leading spirit of the banking life; in

Canada Honore Beaugrand, the fore-

most figure in Dominion journalism; in

Mexico, Alfredo Chacero, right-

bowed to Diaz himself; and in Argen-

tine, Carlos Calvo, so important to the

continent south of us.

In the United States there have been

at all 167 deaths of men and women

properly classified with "the great" of

modern times, with 56 in England, 21

in France and 18 in Germany. Italy

has lost 11, Spain 10, Russia 9, and

Austria 6.

The rest of the list, in ones, twos or

threes, is divided between Argentine,

Belgium, Canada, Norway, Denmark,

Hungary, Japan, China, Cuba, Guate-

malda and Mexico.

In All Fields of Endeavor.

Loss has come in every walk in life.

Literature is the poorer by 34 names

no longer on its roster of the living;

the allied fields of politics and diplo-

macy have lost 29, and the worldwide

fellowship of "Men of Affairs" 32.

Twenty-six artists have for all time

to come laid by brush or chisel or

graver's steel; 25 members of the na-

tions' armies and navies have received

their final orders, and an even two

dozen of the titled ones of the earth

have played their last roles in earthly

ceremonies. So runs the year's grim

record.

The church has lost 21, the bench

and bar 20, education 19, science 18,

journalism and philanthropy 16 each,

music 14, and the stage 12, with 3

others not accurately to be enrolled in

these conventional classes.

In the world's legislative bodies such

voices are silenced as those of David

B. Henderson, till last February