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LONDON, THURSDAY, MARCH 5.

ARE OUR SCHOOL CHILDREN SAFE?

The terrible holocaust at Collinwood, Ohio, in which nearly two hundred school children lost their lives, prompts the query, How would the pupils of any one of the public schools of this city fare under like circumstances? In this latest catastrophe, which recalls the Hochelaga horror of two years ago, the outbreak of fire was caused by an overheated furnace, and the unusually heavy death list appears to have been due to a lack of sufficient exits. Only two such means of escape were provided in a building occupied by four hundred children. These exits soon became choked with terror-stricken boys and girls, who struggled to reach the open air, until the floor gave way, and all were precipitated into the blazing basement.

In none of the schools of this city, with perhaps one exception, is an outbreak of fire from such a cause impossible. All except St. George's, and including the Collegiate Institute building, are heated by hot air furnaces, any one of which might become dangerous through inattention or some unsuspected defect. In many of these buildings there are no more exits than there were in the Collinwood school. Supposing that on some winter's day the pupils of one of these schools should be startled by flames bursting through the flooring. There is the fire drill, it is true, and in the tests that are constantly being made by the sounding of the familiar fire alarm, and, in some instances, the producing of smoke by burning a few scraps of paper, the pupils show a promptness and eagerness that is surprising. But the Collinwood school also had its fire drill, indeed a subject of special comment of the London teachers on the occasion of their visit to Cleveland, of which Collinwood is a suburb, on the 24th of May last, was the wonderful celerity in which this drill was carried out there. The fact is the pupils soon become accustomed to this feature of school life, and there is noticeable a tendency on the part of the older and larger scholars to treat it very much as a joke. But should there be a real outbreak of fire, there would be the risk of a panic and a stampede, the noise of which would alarm the pupils in the rooms upstairs, and when they reached the ground floor the scenes at Collinwood might easily be duplicated.

What is needed in most of the London schools, if the absolute safety of the children is to be insured, is more exits. St. George's school, now the largest in the city, with an average attendance of 600 pupils, has but two exits. If a fire and panic occurred there the results might be even worse than at Collinwood. In this school at least there should be fire escapes at the rear portion.

The substitution of hot water for not air heating in all the schools would be another step in the direction of safety. St. George's is the only school in the city so equipped. Here an up-to-date hot water heating system has been installed, the furnace being inclosed in masonry, so as to remove all danger from fire. The saving in fuel from the introduction of such a system in all the schools would in a few years pay the cost of the change. But whatever the expense, surely the safety of the children would justify it.

THE WATER QUESTION.

Because Stratford is going in for the filtration of river water, our local contemporary claims it is an argument for the adoption of the same system in London. It does not point out that Stratford gets most of its water from artesian wells, and if that supply were adequate would not think of resorting to the River Avon.

Formerly the whole supply was drawn from the river, but the water was so unfit for potable purposes that six artesian wells were sunk as an experiment. These yielded good water in a quantity sufficient for a time. Later the Grand Trunk Railway Company sank three wells, and by the air lift system so stimulated the flow of its own wells as to decrease the volume of water from the city's. The commissioners concluded that it would be a gamble to sink new wells, as the rock vein was evidently a thin one. Hence the decision to install a filtration plant and supplement the supply from the wells by drawing from the river.

Our local contemporary, in its anxiety to score a point for river water, misrepresents the situation by claiming that Stratford had recourse to

artesian wells only when the river supply became inadequate, and that river water gave satisfaction. Such was not the case. Even the small admixture of river water under the present system made it necessary last summer for Stratfordites to boil city water at periods. When the filtration plant is installed they expect to use river water only three months in the year. They realize the superiority of their well water.

London is under no such compulsion as Stratford to drink river water. That misfortune, if it must come, can be postponed for many years, and citizens of this generation will have themselves to blame if they do not keep their pure and palatable spring water unadulterated for domestic use.

THE PRESENT POSITION OF THE POWER PROBLEM.

The Niagara power question is becoming more involved.

Two public ownership newspapers, the Toronto Telegram and Toronto World, which have been promoters of the Beck scheme, have turned their guns on the Government. The Telegram berates the administration for losing the opportunity to acquire the Electrical Development Company's plant, before it passed into the hands of William Mackenzie. The Premier admits that he received an offer from the company. His excuse for rejecting it is that the Government would have become liable for a ten-million-dollar bond issue of the Electrical Development Company, and would have got power no cheaper than under the proposed contract with the Ontario Power Company. The Telegram accuses the Premier of concealing the fact of the Electric Development Company's offer from the hydro-electric commission, and says the cause of public ownership has been betrayed. The Premier accuses the Telegram of "foul and filthy calumny," a truly Whitneysque expression.

The World prods the Government for inaction. "The next thing we want to impress on Mr. Whitney," it says, "is that the sooner he gets busy on the job of building transmission lines and supplying the municipalities with power at cost, the sooner will he be doing what the people expect of him." Hon. Mr. Whitney's reply is that the Government and hydro-electric commission have done all they can, and that the next move must come from the municipalities. This means that the city of London is now thrown on its own resources in working out the local end of the scheme. So far it has not had a glimpse of the contract which it is required to make with the commission, and it is impossible for the city to make contracts with local consumers of power when it is not in a position to quote rates. The framing of a tariff schedule must be the preliminary step, and the commission should instruct the city how this is to be done.

London is being made a legal center. With a live university it will be an educational center, as it is already the wholesale and industrial center of Western Ontario.

The Toronto Telegram says the Ontario Government's power policy is more a prospectus than a performance. Well, a prospectus is good enough for a general election.

Earl Grey reproves Canadians who sleep with their windows closed tight on cold nights. Too many forget that in shutting out the cold they shut out nature's best medicine, fresh air.

The Ottawa Citizen gushes over Premier Whitney's reply to the temperance people, and says its frankness was as refreshing as the ocean breeze. Perhaps the Citizen will venture to explain the meaning of Mr. Whitney's reply. Did he say definitely "Yes" or "No"? If not, where does the refreshing frankness come in?

Mr. Ganey wants it understood that he did not stigmatize English immigrants as being "not worth a tinker's dam," an expression which he was reported as using in a speech at Toronto. He may be relieved to know that a tinker's "dam" is not a swear word, but a small coin used long ago. However, he is entitled in fair play to have his contradiction published.

WELL QUALIFIED.

[Philadelphia Record.]
Bobbie—See that messenger boy reading the dime novel. He hasn't moved for an hour.

Slobbs—What an ideal chess player he would make.

HIS OPINION.

[Chicago Record-Herald.]
"No man ever thoroughly understood a woman," said she.

"Well," the rude old bachelor answered, "the women ought to be mighty glad of that."

SOME MAIDEN SPEECHES.

[Westminster Gazette.]
By waiting 24 years before making his maiden speech Lord Laugford has exercised an oratorical restraint as rare as in some cases it would be commendable.

The Earl of Rochester, in the days of Charles II., was not equally modest, for he took an early opportunity of addressing the House of Lords, with disastrous results. "My lords," he began, "I rise this time for the first time, the very first time, my lords, and divide my speech into four branches." Here he paused for a few seconds grew purple and confused, and finally blurted out, "My lords, if ever I rise again in this House, you may cut me off, root and branches and all, for ever."

Lord Byron was more fortunate, for his

maiden effort was declared by Sir F. Burdett to be "the best speech by a lord since the Lord knows when."

Lord Rosebery's maiden speech, after three years of silence, was a model of modest oratory, opening with a plea for that favor and indulgence which the House always shows to those who address it for the first time. "Even in a larger measure," he said, "than in my extreme youth and inexperience."

THE OBSTRUCTIONISTS.

[Hamilton Times.]
The obstructionist tactics of the Ottawa Tories is costing the country a good deal. They apparently seek to serve no other purpose than the killing of time, and already well over 4000 columns of Hansard have been filled, mostly with this idle talk. As the production of Hansard alone costs about \$5.45 per column, and the expenses of the House \$3 a minute, it will be seen that talk is not cheap when indulged in by Tory obstructionists to hide their lack of policy and general incompetence.

THE OTTAWA RIOT.

[Toronto News.]
The difference between a riot and an all-night session of the House of Commons is known only to the police.

FOR OTHERS' SAKE.

[Life.]
Father—Why don't you study to be a doctor?
Johnny—I don't want to stir up class enmity.

RODOLPHE LEMIEUX.

[London Free Press.]
The labor conciliation measure, which is the fruit of Mr. Lemieux's effort, remains the greatest tribute to his skill as a statesman. With here and there an objection, as is natural, the labor act has indisputably been a power for good. The removal of friction between capital and labor is a cause worthy of keenest study and concern, and that the Minister of Labor has been able to do much to this end is to his everlasting credit.

And so it may be that some day Rodolphe Lemieux will be Premier of Canada.

GOING TOO FAR.

[Houston Chronicle.]
"Our talented subcommittee," announced the stage manager, "will now endeavor to entertain the audience with a few take-offs."
"Come along, paw," snorted Max Hopwood, "I hadn't a-goin' to stand for no undressin' scene."

MINOR POET.

[Philadelphia Record.]
He—What did your father say when you told him I was a poet?
She—Oh, he raved about it, of course; but, after several hours, I finally convinced him that you weren't much of a poet, after all.

ASSISTING NATURE.

[Chicago Daily News.]
Stella—But you don't seem to grasp my meaning. I'll try to make myself a little more plain.
Mabel—Don't do anything rash, dear. One is foolish to interfere with the work of nature.

THE CHECK REIN.

[Kansas City Journal.]
All taut! Tighten the rein.
Draw it in with might and main.
True, the brutes may feel some pain,
But
Horses must be stylish.

All taut! Tighten the rein.
There! A full half-inch we gain.
Dumb appeals are all in vain.
For
Horses must be stylish.

All taut! Tighten the rein.
Necks must arch, though muscles strain.
And to meddlers just explain.
That
Horses must be stylish.

THE ROAD TO RICHES.

[Louisville Courier-Journal.]
"I've never had any great luck," declared the pessimist.
"Neither have I," admitted the optimist. "Made my money by hard work and advertising."

AT THE MUSICAL.

[Chicago News.]
Tom—Don't you think Miss Screecher sings with considerable feeling?
Jack—Not so I can notice it. If she had any feeling for the rest of us she would not sing at all.

COMPENSATION.

[Philadelphia Press.]
Miss Howells—Since I had typhoid fever I haven't been able to sing at all. I seem to have lost my voice entirely.
Miss Kunningham—Typhoid is a queer disease. I've often heard that if you recover from it, it improves you in every way.

HER ONLY WAY.

[Philadelphia Press.]
"I don't see," remarked Miss Gaddie, "why she should go and marry that old man for his money."
"Who said Miss Gidday, 'how else could she get it?'"

FIGURED OUT.

[Washington Star.]
"Did you ever figure out how much a few hundred dollars mean every year will amount to in time?"
"Yes," answered Mr. Ploddan A. Long, "but the man with whom I invested it figured it out before I did and never gave me a chance at it."

DOUBLY WORTHLESS.

[Philadelphia Press.]
Miss Ascum—But when she accepted the count didn't she know he was worthless?
Miss Gausp—Yes, but he proved to be twice as worthless as she thought.
Miss Ascum—Why, how was that?
Miss Gausp—She thought she was going to get him for a million, but he cost her two.

ENVIRONMENT.

[Chicago Tribune.]
"Madame, your husband does not seem to have any organic trouble," said the physician.
"Land sakes, no!" exclaimed Mrs. Pneumonia. "Not in this neighborhood. But the folks that live next door to us have a graphophone that worries him nearly to death."

POSTMASTER DEAD.

Death of Mr. Wm. Regan, Formerly of Glenworth.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Bothwell, March 5. — Mr. William Regan, for many years postmaster of this village, died here yesterday. Mr. Regan was one of the best-known citizens of this place. He came here from Glenworth.

His wife predeceased him some years ago. He is survived by five children.

"REDS" PLOT TO KILL FARLEY

The Catholic Archbishop of New York in Peril of Assassination.

New York, March 4.—Police Commissioner Bingham yesterday stated that anarchistic threats against Archbishop Farley and against one of the deputy commissioners have kept the New York police on the alert for four months against any such outbreak as the murder of Father Leo Heinrichs in Denver or the attack upon Chief of Police Shippy in Chicago.

According to the commissioner, there was a threatening outbreak of anarchism some time ago, which included, in addition to the threats mentioned, the circulation of thousands of handbills advising men out of work to march upon Wall street and help themselves. General Bingham states that the Denver and Chicago crimes appear to be a part of the original plan.

"We did receive at police headquarters, an unsigned letter containing threats against the Archbishop and several other men of prominence," says the commissioner.

"Scores of these letters are received by the police every week. We call them 'bug house' letters and seldom pay any attention to them."

"There was never any actual guard placed about the Cathedral house, but any one can imagine that the police would not entirely overlook such a matter, or fail to see that protection was given."

"It was about this time that some Chicago anarchists procured the circulation here of thousands of handbills in which it was stated that every man who could work could blame Wall street, and advising the workmen to march upon that street and get redress."

"About the same time a letter was received at headquarters threatening one of the deputy commissioners with assassination. I wish it distinctly understood that they were matters of several months ago, rather than of the present time."

"There was some slight addition to the Wall street force, to guard against possible outbreaks. It was one of the cases which made it evident to me that this city needs a secret service force. I needed men to mix with the anarchists and find out their plans as regards this or other cities."

GRANTS TO RAILWAYS ASKED IN ST. MARYS

A Twenty-Five-Year Franchise of Certain Streets Proposed.

St. Marys, March 5.—The town council, at its last meeting, made a grant of \$200 to the L. O. P. Band, and decided that they give weekly open-air concerts during the summer season. The council ordered the preparation of a by-law granting a 25-year franchise of certain streets in this town, with tax exemption for 21 years (except school taxes), to the North Midland Electric Railway, of London. The by-law comes up for a second reading on Monday next. The following motion was passed: That the request of the directors of the St. Marys and Western Ontario Railway Company that the \$2000 debentures to the said railway be handed over, be submitted to the ratepayers by by-law, the clerk to draw said by-law, subject to the approval of the council, the railway company to bear the cost of submitting the by-law. The following motion also passed in connection with the by-law: That the St. Marys and Western Ontario Railway Company be requested to present to this council, previous to March 8, a bona fide statement, showing amount of construction already done, amount paid thereon, amount still owing thereon, and the approximate amount required to complete the said railway.

The elevator being built by G. Carter, Son & Co., at the rear of their flour mill, is now roofed in. It is 35 feet high. Highland Mary Camp, Sons of Scotland, intend to hold a big celebration of Scotch games on Victoria Day in St. Marys. They have engaged the Kliffies Band, of Galt, for the occasion.

Mr. Embury, of North Dakota, is home for the balance of the winter, to visit his father, E. H. Brown, and other friends. Mr. W. H. Wood, of Brantford, is here this week, looking after his property interests.

Mr. Jacob D. Robinson, who was so severely injured by a fall from the new elevator, is making good progress toward recovery.

Charles Taylor, who had his left arm and shoulder badly crushed on the St. Marys and Western Ontario Railway several weeks ago, is progressing very slowly.

The Ladies' Aid of St. James' Church held a very successful bazaar for the sale of work on Tuesday.

The leap year ball held in the town hall on Friday was given by Mrs. F. W. Hutson and Miss Lily Andrews. Tony Vita's orchestra, of London, furnished the music.

The Misses McGeorge, of Stratford, were visitors last week with Mrs. S. Riddell, Wellington street south.

Mrs. J. Stoner, of Buffalo, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Vandenberg, Water street south.

Charles Taylor, painter, who has been several weeks in Hamilton, has returned home.

Mr. Fred Dagg, of Detroit, is a visitor with his brother, Mr. Joseph Dagg, King street north.

The one thousandth anniversary of the founding of St. Peter's Church, Chester, England, finds the structure in good condition, portions of it having been rebuilt in 1440 and 1873.

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Chapman's FRIDAY BARGAINS

Everybody knows what that means. Every section presents the most splendid underprice offerings that can be made. All the merchandise of Chapman character at the most stirring reductions. Read the items.

Dress Goods

CHEVIOTS from the west of England mills, pure wool, in browns, blues and greens, for tailored suits, 52 and 54 inches wide. Regularly \$1 00 and \$1 25. Friday bargain, a yard . . . 80c

ROXANES, 40 inches wide, in the shades of green, blue and brown most wanted. Regularly 50c. Friday bargain, a yard . . . 35c

Lace Curtains

50 pairs Nottingham Lace Curtains, floral patterns and lace-stitched edges, 2 1/2 yards long. Regularly \$1 15. Friday bargain, a pair . . . 85c

Underwear

Ladies' Heavy Ribbed Union Vests, fleece finished. Regularly 35c. Friday bargain . . . 30c

English Flannelette Nightgowns, good full size. Friday bargain . . . 85c

Infants' Long Sleeved Vests, sizes 1, 2 and 3 years. Bargain Day, each . . . 10c

Ladies' Coats

Twenty-five stylish 50 and 52 inch Tweed Coats, handsome winter garments, self strappings on front and back, velvet collars and upturned cuffs. Regularly \$14 00 and \$15 00. Friday bargain \$7 50

Misses' Fancy Tweed Coats, 42 to 45 inches long, in medium and dark colors, fly front and double-breasted. Price . . . \$2 98

Children's Fancy Tweed and Plain Cloth Coats, from 27 to 39 inches long, at half-price—\$3 50 for \$1 75, \$4 00 for \$2 00, \$5 00 for \$2 50, and \$6 00 for . . . \$3 00

Men's Overcoats

Men's Progress Brand Overcoats, of fancy tweeds, lined with heavy twills, finely tailored and finished. Regularly \$12 00. Friday bargain . . . \$5 00

JELL-O Demonstration

Stop at the counter and see the Jell-O demonstration all this week.

Men's Shirts

10 dozen Men's Working Shirts, of Rockfast drills, in black and white stripes only, well made shirts, with double yokes, collars attached. Regular 75c shirts, Friday and Saturday . . . 65c

Flannelette

33-inch Striped Flannelette, Friday bargain, 15 yards for \$1 00. 36-inch Heavy English Flannelette, pink only. Regularly 18c yard. Friday bargain, a yard 15c

Boys' Stockings

Ribbed All-Wool Stockings, every size from 5 1/2 to 9 1/2. Regularly 25c. Bargain Day . . . 19c

Ladies' Hose

Fleece lined Black Cotton Hose, spliced heel and toe, all sizes. Regularly 25c. Bargain Day . . . 19c

Collars

White Embroidered Collar Turns, shaped. Regularly 25c. Bargain Day . . . 15c

J. H. CHAPMAN & CO., 126, 128, 128 1/2 Dundas St.

TOBACCO HAS NEW DEFENDER

Statistics Prepared To Show That Smokers Are Not "Stunted."

New York, March 4.—Dr. George L. Meylan, physical director of Columbia university, has just completed statistics showing the effect of the use of tobacco and alcoholic beverages upon 687 new students, mostly freshmen, who have entered Columbia during the last two years.

The results contradict to some extent the findings of Dr. W. W. Weaver, the Yale physical director, who in a recent series of similar tests discovered that the use of tobacco tended not only to stunt the growth of undergraduates, but also to retard their mental development.

Dr. Meylan has found that the physical condition of smokers—that is, their weight, height, lung capacity, and total strength—is, on the average, better than that of nonsmokers.

To some extent the superiority may be explained by the fact that smokers are older, their average age being twenty years and ten months, as against nineteen years and eight months for nonsmokers.

What Figures Show.

About 90 per cent of the students examined were freshmen in the Columbia college, schools of mines, engineering and chemistry. The remaining 10 per cent were new students in the law graduate schools of the university. Out of the 687 men examined 141 used alcoholic beverages, or nearly 26 per cent of the total number.

The number who answered the question as to the use of tobacco was 683, of whom 205 answered "yes" and 478 "no." This represents a proportion of three smokers out of every 10 in the freshmen class. Great care was taken in examining the men and the figures are said to be exceedingly accurate.

The two most significant facts brought out by the tests, according to Dr. Meylan, are that smoking does not affect the lung capacity, as generally supposed, nor does it seem to have any effect upon the height of the individual.

On the contrary, it was found that the measurements of smokers, as well as others, the smokers excelled.

Heart Shows Effect.

"When a man is short of breath he is said to have 'no wind' among athletes, but this, according to Dr. Meylan, has nothing to do with the capacity of the lungs, but with the condition of the heart, which he admits may be affected by tobacco."

The inference drawn by Dr. Meylan is that the popular belief concerning the impurities of tobacco is largely exaggerated. He makes no attempt to deny that smoking has a bad effect upon the heart and nervous system, but he does not maintain that smoking may be indulged in by the average healthy individual, in moderation, without appreciable damage.

LOOTER SENT TO PRISON

Six Years' Hard Labor for Robbing of Sacred Edifices.

Limoges, France, March 4.—The trial of Antoine Thomas came to an end today with the sentencing of Thomas to six years' imprisonment at hard labor.

Thomas is the cooper of Clermont-Ferrand who committed the series of sensational church robberies in France, the revelation of which last fall created a local sensation. The trial began here on Feb. 27. His son Francois, and his mother, together with three antiquaries, Michel, Faure and Dutay, were charged with complicity in the thefts.

The mother and Michel were acquitted. The son and the other two antiquaries were found guilty and sentenced each to two years at hard labor. Orders were

Great 3-Day Pant Sale

Just received from our manufactory in Hamilton

150 Pairs of Men's Pants

were travelers' samples, handsome patterns and perfect fitting. Were made to sell for \$2.50, \$3.00 and \$3.50. Your choice on

THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY FOR ONLY

\$1.95

Your trousers usually beat the coat and vest to a finish. Here's a splendid opportunity to replenish this important part of your wardrobe and scarcely touch your pocket.

A few samples in our west window.

OAK HALL

given that the stolen relics be turned over to the state.

Thomas was taken into custody in October of last year. He confessed to many robberies, including that of the famous cope of Orth from the church of Ambrase. It was his custom to abstract valuable antiquities from the churches of France and sell them to collectors. Some of his loot was found in London, while other pieces were believed to have been taken to the United States.

The value of his known thefts has been placed at \$1,000,000.

THONEY MAY MANAGE AN OUTLAWED TEAM