ON THE COUNTRY OF HURON'S SHORES,

What the Red Man Claims Under the Robinson Treaty.

From The Manitowaning (Algoma) Expositor.

A grand Indian council is to be held at Garden River next June. The objects of this council is to discuss and press certain claims against the Government which the Indians on the eastern and northern shores of Lake Huron profess to have under the Robinson Treaty.

What is the substance of this treaty; and what are the claims set up under it?

The Robinson Treaty is an agreement under which certain Indian lands were surrendered to the old Province of Canada. It was made at Sault Ste. Marie in 1850, the Government being represented by the Hon. William Benjamin Robinson.

Under that treaty the territory between Penetanguishene and Batchwaning Bay, extending as far north as the Height of Land, and including the islands opposite the shores, was given up, with the exception of certain specified reservations.

In return for this surrender the Indians received £2000 of provincial currency down and a promise of an annual payment of £600 more.

It was further agreed that the specified reservations might afterwards be sold or leased by the Government, at the request of the chiefs; the Indians were given the right to fish in the waters and hunt over the ceded territory, save such as should be sold or occupied; the latter bound themselves not to sell or lease their reserves without the consent of the Government; also not to interfere with explorations carried on in the ceded portion of the territory; and it was further agreed between the parties that in case of any portion of the territory having been sold before the making of the treaty the proceeds of such sale should go to the tribe to whom the territory belonged.

Hon. Mr. Robinson further promised that should the territory ceded produce such an amount as would enable the Government, without unnecessary loss, to increase the annuity then it should be augmented from time to time, but not to exceed £1 for each Indian, or such further sums as Her Majesty (which means the Canadian Government) might be pleased to order.

It was still further provided that in case the number of Indians entitled to the annuity should become less than two-thirds their number at the time the treaty was made—1422—the annuity should decrease accordingly.

An addition to the body of the treaty promised a further annuity of £160 to the French River and Lake Nipissing Indians, who had also come under its provisions.

Such, in brief, is the Robinson Treaty.

Under this treaty there is a definite surrender of certain territory. In return for this surrender there is a payment of $2000 and an annual payment of $960 promised.

But, in addition to this very clear agreement, there is the exceedingly vague and undefined promise of an increase in the annual payments should the territory turn out well.

It is a great pity a definite and final surrender value was not placed upon the territory at the time, or else an agreement made that the annuity should bear a clearly defined proportion to the Crown's receipts from the same. But unfortunately the treaty was left vague in this particular and the uncertainty concerning the increase in the annuities—when it should take place and the amount of such increase—has been the cause of dissatisfaction and remonstrance on the part of the Indians for some twenty years.

Seventeen years ago Mr. Borron brought before the then Government a demand for an increase in the annual payments of $600, but without avail. In 1874, while representing this district, and during the Mackenzie regime, he again brought the matter before the authorities. In 1875 he introduced the subject in the House of Commons and, with the assistance of the Hon. Edward Blake, had the annuity increased to the $4 per head provided for in the treaty.

This, however, did do fully satisfy the Indians. They claim that an increase should have taken place years before 1875 and are now pressing, we understand, for what according to their contention are annuities accrued, but not paid over prior to that date.

Whether this claim is a sound one or not we do not pretend to say at present. But it must be remembered that much of the present value of the ceded territory is due to expenditure on surveys, roads and advertising by the Government, backed by private enterprise. It should also be remembered that there is a material difference between the title given by hunting and fishing over a vast range of territory and that obtained from occupying and cultivating the soil; and it was only the former title which the Indians possessed. The important fact should also be borne in mind that the reserves yet held by the Indians have been vastly enhanced in value by the improvements made around them. These are facts which must not be lost sight of in dealing with the question.

The conclusion of the whole matter then is: Have the Indians received, and are they now receiving, all the compensation promised them under the treaty, for such title as they had to the territory, according to the then value of the same; and if not, what further compensation is due them on the basis named?

A Feat in Skating.

Laxenburg is a splendid country seat of the Emperor of Austria, located near Vienna. There is a magnificent park, with a spacious lake. That lake is now frozen and used for skating. The other day a Viennese was skating with an ink bottle attached to the back of his skate, the opening adjusted in a manner to allow the ink to flow out in a regular stream. With that writing apparatus he skated the name of the Crown Princess on the ice in lines which a pupil of a Chicago business college might look upon with envy.

The Gas Business in Berlin.

The City of Berlin, Germany, makes her own gas and sells it to the consumer at a comparatively very low rate. But in spite of the low price the gas business, according to the report just published by the municipality for the twelve months 1886-7, yields considerably more than $1,000,000 a year to the municipal treasury. And that profit is realized after supplying all the streets and squares of the city light by means of either gas, or electricity or oil.

Goethe's Earnings.

Cotta, the old publisher at Stuttgart, Wurtemberg, has made a statement of the amounts his firm paid to Goethe and his heirs from the year 1795 to 1865, or in seventy years. The poet himself received not more than $100,000, his heirs $112,000, or altogether $216,000 for all the works of the greatest German poet until twenty-three years ago, when the Cotta-Goethe monopoly came to an end, and Goethe became the property of the German people.

Wanted Ten Muses.

Billion, formerly manager of the Ambigu Theater at Paris, was one day, says The Voltaire, mounting a machine showing the muses. While the machine was being tried he walked in and saw nine young girls arranged upon it. "What is the meaning of those?" he asked. "Why, they are the nine muses," was the reply. "Nine muses!" asked Billion, with a sneer. "How unsymmetrical that looks! Don't you see? Let there be ten muses—five on each side!"

Pretty Cold Weather.

The point where the coldest temperature on earth has ever been observed has been dignified by the name of the pole of cold. It is located to the east of the River Lena in Siberia. There, at Verchojansk, the Russian government has established an observatory. The poor weather man out there reported in December, one year, 85 below zero, and January, 1885, as much as 90 and 98 below.

The Difference.

When Spontini, the composer, was at Berlin, Prussia, he appeared in the theatre with his lapel covered with decorations. One of the musicians whispered to his neighbor: "Mozart never had so many." Spontini, having overheard the remark, turned to the speaker and said: "Mozart was not in need of any."

Anti-Poverty Society.

From The Omaha Republican.

Walking Delegate: How is the organization of the Anti-Poverty Society getting along in your neighborhood?

Enthusiastic Agitator: Splendidly, splendidly. Every man in the shop has struck.

An Astonishing Confession.

From The Chicago News.

Few Chicago women ever have really clean aces.

IN A PANTHER'S MOUTH.

The Sensations of a Man When a Big Cat was Sniffing About his Jugular.

From The Youth's Companion.

How it feels to find one's self in the jaws of a panther is that kind of knowledge which most people are well content to acquire at second hand. Probably all men would not have the same sensations, but this is the account which Col. Barras gives of such an experience. He was a born sportsman, and, of course, could enjoy many things which to ordinary persons would seem anything but pleasant:

The panther came for me with lightning bounds. I could see nothing, owing to its tremendous speed, but a shadowy-looking form with two large, bright round eyes fixed upon me with an unmeaning stare, as it literally flew toward me.

Such was the vision of a moment! My presence of mind did not desert me. I raised my gun and fired with all the care I could at such short notice. But I missed, and the panther landed, light as a feather, with its arms round my shoulders.

Thus we stood for a few seconds, and I distinctly felt the animal sniffing for my throat. Mechanically I turned my head so as to keep the thick, wadded curtain of my helmet-cover in front of the creature's muzzle; but still I could hear and feel plainly the rapid yet cautious efforts it was making to find an opening, so as to tear open the jugular vein.

I was helpless, and so stood perfectly still, well knowing that Sandford would liberate me if possible. At the first onslaught we were so placed that he could have hit the panther only by firing through me, which would have been injudicious at least.

As may easily be supposed, the animal did not spend much time in investigating the nature of a wadded hat cover, and before my friend could take aim without jeoparding my own life the beast pounced on my left elbow, taking a piece out, and buried its long, sharp fangs in the joint till they met.

At the same time I was hurled to the earth with such force that I knew not how I got there nor what became of my gun. Still, throughout, I maintained a clear impression of what was going on.

I knew that I was lying on the ground with the panther on top of me, and I could feel my elbow joint wabbling in and out as the brute ground its jaws, with a movement imperceptible to the bystanders, but which felt to me as though I was being violently shaken all over.

Now I listened anxiously for the report of Sandford's shot, which I knew would be heard immediately, and carefully refrained from making the slightest sound or movement, lest his aim should be disturbed thereby.

In a few seconds the loud and welcome detonation, which from its proximity almost deafened me, struck upon my ear.

I sat up. I was free; the panther was gone!

I looked round and found that I was some distance from the place where I had fallen, so that the beast must have dragged me some little way. Sandford, as soon as he got the chance, had placed the muzzle of his rifle to the side of my antagonist and fired a large bullet right through it, which had caused it to dart back hastily to its lair.

Why Young Men Do Not Enter the Ministry.

From The New York Herald.

Mr. Dodge is quite right in saying that many young men are kept from the ministry by the fear of poverty in old age. A young man may be willing to preach for a few hundreds a year. If he is healthy he can get on very well and satisfy a few simple tastes. When he marries and has a family he may be willing to pinch, or even submit to a ruinous donation party which brings a bushel of turnips and cleans out everything eatable in the house. The times bear hard on him, but by dint of going without books, or wearing his black cloth coat three like a bit of patent leather, he is able to drag along. Sickness and old age are what bother him. Three months' illness and his congregation wish they could send him to Europe, but don't do it. Six months' illness and the congregation see in it evidence that the Lord wants them to have another pastor, and they begin to hint that he had better seek another field of usefulness. In old age nobody wants him. He is an old fogy, a fossil, and the demand is for young blood. No matter how much good work he has done, he is left without a penny to the drudgery of a book agent or whatever else he can find to starve to death on respectably. The Presbyterians in raising a fund to avert such disasters are wise and generous.

Doctoring a Cough.

Wife: I am so worried about that cough of yours, John, dear.

Husband (fondly): Don't be foolish, little one. It is a mere nothing.

Wife: It may be a mere nothing, John, but I do wish you would see the insurance man to-day.

Forgotten Something.

Waiter (holding out his hand in a meaning sort of way: Haven't you forgotten something, sir?

Departing Guest (grasping hand and shaking it heartily): Good-by; good-by!

A Reasonable Hypothesis.

From Life.

First Gilded Youth: There goes that Brown who is constantly taken for me. Wonder what's the reason he doesn't look like me in the least.

Second Ditto: No, that's so; but then you may look like him, don't cher know.

Out of Practice.

From The Chicago Tribune.

"Is your father a Christian?" asked the Sunday school superintendent.

"He—used to be," said the little boy, with some uncertainty, "but I think he's a good deal out of practice now."

Well Qualified.

Plumber (to applicant for work)—Where were you employed last?

Applicant—I was making out bills for an iceman all summer, and—

Plumber—That's enough! You may consider yourself engaged for the winter.

He Couldn't Afford It.

A mother was urging her son to purchase an overcoat, and he was insisting that he could not afford one.

"Very well, then," said she, "You will get pneumonia, see if you don't."

"No," said he, "I won't get that either; I can't afford anything new."

A Beautiful Gift.

Chicago Young Lady: Oh, Clara, papa gave me such a beautiful piano for Christmas!

St. Louis Young Lady (enthusiastically): Wasn't that lovely? Did you get it in your stocking?

In a Western Hotel.

From The Harvard Lampoon.

Guest (calling down through the speaking tube)—Quick! What shall I do? There's a man under my bed!

Night Clerk—Sleep on top of the bed.

At the Postoffice.

From Texas Siftings.

Gayly she skipped,
Lightly she tripped
Up the big postoffice stair;
Sure she should find
A note interlined,
From her dear "Charley" in there.

Now, blank is her look,
As she scours her book,
Seeking the postoffice key;
Finds it at last,
Grips it quite fast,
Inserts it in "two-forty-three."

Then, in goes her fist,
Clear up to the wrist;
Quickly the mail's brought to view;
Seraphic her smile,
But it soon turns to bile,
For the note bears the legend—
"Your box rent is due."

In Meadows Fair.

From The Home Journal.

My love in radiant robes is clad,
And o'er the shining fields she rings
Such fragrance as first violets have
By primal and enchanted springs:
The vale doth seem to faint and swim
Where'er she deigns to smile on it,
And e'en the sun himself grows dim
With very lovelorn ecstasy.

Ah, love, thou art so finely fair,
Thy dreamy soul sits in serene,
Outlooking from a throne so rare,
Thou should'st have been a crowned queen!
And yet, I would not have thee so,
For all might worship then as I;
And, love, I could not bear, I know,
To share my sweet idolatry.

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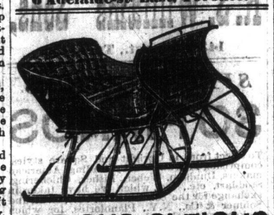

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PIANOS. PIANOS.
The Musical Opinion and Music Trade Review, published in London, Eng., April 1, 1887, under the heading CANADIAN MUSICAL EXHIBITS AT THE COLINDIES EXHIBITION, has the following:
Referring to Piano Fortes of Messrs. Heintzman & Co., Dr. Stainer says as follows: "I much regret that, owing to the late period at which I was called upon to make a report, all the more important instruments exhibited by this firm HAD BEEN SOLD AND REMOVED. But those remaining fully justified their high reputation. An Upright Grand, which I examined was in every respect a fine instrument; the touch was sympathetic and had a good repetition; the tone was full and rich. I also tried a specimen style No. 9, which was equally deserving of unqualified praise."
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