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## The Granite Town Greetings

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### AT D. BASSEN'S

Our Spring Stock is almost complete. We can credit ourselves for our superiority in buying from the best firms. We have in a full line of men's and boys' Suits. You will be surprised at the value you can get for your money. The same in headwear, footwear and general gents furnishings.

### LADIES' MILLINERY

Miss Reynolds, our milliner, is working away getting ready for our Easter opening. We can say with pride that any lady can come to our store for a complete outfit. Come and see our Ladies' New Suits.

### D. BASSEN'S

Carleton St.,

St. George

#### Feeding Chickens.

That four pounds of grain will give one pound of gain in poultry flesh is the interesting fact that comes to the reader of the report of the Ontario Minister of Agriculture. This gain has been made by feeding grade chickens at that. How much profit is there, then, in feeding chickens for the market? The farmer's wife who feeds chicks for profit may not have stopped to calculate just how much money she was making, but she generally finds that her results are reasonably satisfactory.

#### PLEASANT RIDGE

Late for Last Week  
Mrs. Wm. Stewart returned home after a very pleasant visit with friends at Clarence Ridge.  
Frank Stewart had the misfortune to cut his foot quite badly while cutting wood one day last week.  
Geo. W. Houser made a business trip to St. Stephen last week.  
Mrs. Robt. Stewart of Clarence Ridge was the guest of her parents Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Lord recently.  
Thos. Fish of Elmville spent Sunday here being the guest of Fred Steen.  
Misses Montgomery of Rolling Dam recently visited here the guest of Mrs. Frank Stewart.  
Fred Steen, Geo. and Chas. Stewart have completed their lumbering operation for the season.  
Mrs. R. Stewart spent Sunday with Robt. Lord.  
James Deacon of Rolling Dam was calling on friends here the latter part of the week.  
Mrs. A. Towns and Mrs. S. Lord called on friends here Tuesday.  
Josiah Canning is visiting at Piskeshagan.  
Samuel Stewart lost a very valuable calf last week.

#### FARM CO-OPERATION IN IRELAND.

At a time when the workingman is clamoring for a free breakfast table it should not be overlooked that the tariff wall is but one of the many guises under which monopoly press on the community. The profits extracted by middlemen in transportation and distribution fees not only increase the cost of living to the consumer, but also diminish the value of land and labor to the tiller of the soil. How to get rid of this old man of the sea is one of the problems that must be faced. It is interesting to recall what has been done in Ireland in this direction through the foresight and self-sacrificing patriotism of Sir Horace Plunkett.

"We Americans owe much to Ireland and to Plunkett," wrote Mr. Roosevelt, when President, to the British Ambassador at Washington and Professor Robertson of Macdonald College, who has

done so much for Canadian agriculture, has stated that he has "learned more from the Irish Department of Agriculture than from any institution." The striking improvement that has been effected in the condition of the Irish farmer during the past ten years has been due to the combined influence of the Irish Agricultural Organization Society brought into existence by Sir Horace Plunkett.

A Unionist in politics, his practical turn of mind revolted against the purely negative side of Unionist policy in Ireland. Frankly admitting the effects of British misrule, he set about removing those immediate causes which it was in the power of Irishmen themselves to control. The results have abundantly justified his forecasts. The annual returns show an increasing export trade in agricultural products. This increase, he it noted, is not wholly due to bigger output, but also to enhanced value in quality following the more efficient organization of the farmers in relation to both production and distribution.

The rise of the Irish co-operative movement found the agricultural interests entirely under the control of middlemen. The creameries were commercial undertakings and privately owned, and the farmer was absolutely at their mercy. But they were his nearest and only market. For his supplies he had to go up to the "gombeen man," where high prices, long credit, and money-lending transactions have had a disastrous effect on the country. To-day over one thousand co-operative societies are supplanting the middlemen in every branch of agricultural activity and sending out their own agents, thus giving to the individual farmer direct access to the best markets both for the sale of his products and the sale of his implements, seeds, and general supplies. The Irish farmer not only raises pigs, but cures his own bacon in his own co-operative factories and puts it on the market through his own agents. He also manufactures cheeses and other by-products of the farming industry which formerly were manufactured by the middleman. The middleman is no longer the master but the servant of the agricultural community.

But one great difficulty has yet to be overcome. Transit in Ireland is more of a monopoly than in Great Britain. The result is that while a box of whiskey can be sent from London to Ireland for sixpence, the same weight of eggs from Ireland to London costs a dollar and a half. Without co-operation it would be impossible for the farmer to export his products. Co-operation with his neighbors enables him to secure the advantages of bulk rates, but the transit of his products still leaves much to be desired. Legislative effort, may, however, be given to the recent recommendations of the Irish Railway Commission that may lead to the co-ordination and State control of the Irish railway systems.

Lord French and Lord Pirrie offered a few years ago to finance a road motor service for the quick and cheap marketing of farming products, but a difficulty arose as to the repair and upkeep of the roads, and the scheme fell through. The budget of 1909 in its roads clauses paved the way to road transit in competition with the railways, which may go far to solve the problem of quicker and cheaper access to the markets. It is more and more apparent that the right use of the soil and more efficient organization in production can be of little advantage to the producer and consumer while tolls exacted by middlemen rob the farmer of the legitimate fruits of his toil and reduce to a dangerous level the standard of living in towns and cities. The solution must be found in improved and rapid transit and more direct relations between producer and consumer.—Tor Globe.

#### THE SITUATION AT OTTAWA.

The Government at Ottawa seems to face with organized obstruction, the object of which is to force a dissolution by a refusal to grant supplies for the country's business. The Opposition is not united in carrying on the campaign of obstruction, but there is a sufficient number of Mr. Borden's followers in favor of the course now being pursued to make extremely problematical the voting of the money required before the end of the current year on March 31. The pretext for this attempt to stop the machinery of government is that the Ministry has no authority from the people to wipe out the duties on natural products, and that the agreement with the United States, under which both countries are to abolish these duties, should not be adopted until the elections have given their endorsement.

The circumstances of Parliamentary life in Canada are such as to permit the absolute dislocation of the public service at any time if a fairly powerful minority is determined on that course. There is no rule limiting discussion on applying the closure upon debate at the will of the leader of the Government. A single item of \$1,000 in the estimates may be used as the peg on which to hang a whole day's debate. The Canadian Parliament is one of the few national legislatures left in which there is opportunity for endless obstruction. It is many years since the Imperial Parliament so reformed its rules that at a certain hour, due notice having been given by the Government, a vote must be taken on any matter under discussion.

The western Conservatives who are taking part in obstruction are doing very serious injustice to their constituents. Were a general election to be held before the results of the census in June are known, and the redistribution bill following upon the census adopted, the people of the West would be represented in the new House by far fewer members than they ought to have. With a population unit of 3,000 per member, the country west of the great lakes will have a right to at least fifty-five members in the new House. At the present time Manitoba and Saskatchewan have each ten members, Alberta and British Columbia have each seven, and the Yukon has one, or thirty-five in all. It is quite certain, notwithstanding the bragging talk of the Hon. Robert Rogers, that the West, were its opinion to be taken, as it should be, after redistribution, would a majority of twenty to the new Parliament in favor of reciprocity in natural products. The move of the Opposition is deliberately calculated to stifle the voice of the West on this great issue, and prevent the settlers on the plains from exercising their just and proper influence in determining the country's fiscal policy.

For that reason we trust that the Government will take the strongest possible measures to combat the obstructionists. The House should be kept in continuous session, the Opposition should be required to all the talking, and the country should be roused by frequent meetings, especially in Conservative constituencies.

knowledge of what is behind the obstruction. The Liberal party could ask no better fighting ground. There might be a few Liberal seats in Ontario, partly rural and partly urban, in danger if a general election were to come on at once but on the other hand there are a dozen rural Conservative seats held by small majorities that could reasonably be expected to turn over to Liberalism on the reciprocity issue. South Bruce, Conservative by 193, East Huron by 83, West Huron by 62, and Lenox and Addington by 134, would be almost certain gains, while in East Northumberland, Frontenac, the Algonias, and other seats of that sort there would be a good fighting chance.—Tor Globe.

#### Progress and Its Victims

The virtual disappearance of the horse from the streets of London—or, at any rate, from participation in the passenger traffic of the West End—has brought about many changes. The cabbies of London were the most expert in the world, but very many of them were too old to become chauffeurs, and great hardship resulted as the taxi took the place of the hansom. Among the victims of progress are the pigeons that are still to be found in great flocks in the eaves of such buildings as Westminster Abbey and Parliament House. In The London Spectator appears a letter signed by 'The Westminister Pigeons on Behalf of All Their Kindred...'

It appeals to The Spectator "to remind our London friends that hitherto our friends, the horses and their masters, have allowed us to feed from the corn they drop out of their mousbags. Now, when the needy cabman is obliged even to scrape up the fallen oats for his half-starved horse, we no longer have the same overflowing bounty to count on, but are obliged to wander from door to door and wait outside the baker's in the hope of a crumb. We suggest that the taxicab men might see some corn for us at their shelters, and not forget their feathered friends.

We fear lest the advent of machines instead of horse vehicles is stifling the feelings of humanity to which we precious existence." It will be a pity if the motor car robs London of one of its most picturesque features, the pigeons that give a touch of brightness even to the sombre winter sky of the metropolis.—Tor Globe.

#### Mexico--United States

The mobilization of an army of twenty thousand men by the President of the United States, who is ex-officio Commander-in-Chief of the national forces, is so exceptional an occurrence that it can hardly fail to become notable in the history of the nation. The reason first assigned for the massing of so many troops on the frontier of Mexico, a friendly nation, was so obviously a subterfuge that the world simply renewed its credence: that it was purely experimental, and was undertaken as a test of the effectiveness of the army organization. A more reasonable explanation was that the presence of the troops was necessary to the preservation of peace along the international boundary, across which Mexican insurgents were in the habit of crossing and recrossing at will. But even this account of the matter has failed to silence conjectures and to dissipate suspicions.

The American Banker, a thoroughly conservative journal, alleges that "in high military circles" the annexation of Mexico to the United States has been regarded as a consummation of the near future. It points out that the intelligence emanating from Washington makes it plain that the mobilization of the troops is a step for which preparations have long been made, and that everything proceeds with the precision of a prearranged program in which the minutest details have been settled in advance. It calls attention to the enormous amount of American, British, and German capital invested in Mexico—

more than two billion dollars—and hints that as President Diaz is a very rich man he may choose the absorption of his country by the United States as preferable to his own overthrow by his enemies who are engaged in the present revolution.

This cold-blooded view of the political situation may turn out to be the correct one, but there are several good reasons for not jumping too hastily to conclusions. The most obvious one is that so far as published and admitted facts go, there is as yet hardly a shred of justification for American intervention in Mexican affairs. The insurgents may be hotheads, but they are not savages, and they probably know enough to refrain from acts that would afford occasion for interference. Further, President Taft, if one may judge from his personal record, is about the last statesman who would think of perpetrating an act of national freebooting for which history affords few parallels. Mexico has not so far done any material injury to the United States. But even if injury to the United States. But even if President Taft, who has just signaled himself by his effort to obtain with Great Britain a general treaty of arbitration, were to discredit himself, the great majority of his fellow-citizens would absolutely reprobate such an act of spoliation on a huge scale. The United States has won an honorable record for insisting on the integrity of the Chinese Empire, and it has been the special field for the development of the world-wide peace propaganda. An unhealed wound on Mexico would set the shadow back fifty years on the peace dial.

It is quite inconceivable that President Diaz should be found willing to betray his country after he has served it for a third of a century as its Chief Magistrate having before his election fought strenuously for several years to preserve its republican independence. But even if Diaz were to turn traitor, the Mexican people would still have to be reckoned with, and all the other Latin Americans as well. Present appearances indicate that the conquest of Mexico by the United States would be a task of years, and that the Mexicans could be kept in subjection only by a large army of occupation.—Tor Globe.

#### Yesterday and To day

Had he lived, Grover Cleveland twice President of the United States would have been 74 years of age on Saturday. Recalling on this anniversary the various acts of his presidential administrations that were construed as hostile to England, the speech of Sir Edward Grey last week in the British Parliament commending to the favorable consideration of his countrymen an alliance with the United States for the preservation of universal peace, is significant of the marked change in feeling toward each other now entertained by the two nations.

To no one more than the dead President would the growing improvement in the relations of the States with the mother country as indicated by recent occurrences give greater satisfaction were he alive today. It will be 23 years next August since he sent to Congress a message affirming a policy of retaliation against Canada in connection with the acrimonious Newfoundland fisheries question, amicably adjusted recently through a court of arbitration. The following October he dismissed Lord Sackville-West, the Minister of England to Washington for venturing to advise a fellow countryman, who had become an American citizen how to vote and in 1895 during his second administration he stirred a wide-spread feeling of resentment toward his country by attempting to interfere in the dispute over the boundary line between British Guiana and Venezuela, then assuming an acute stage.

Under the sobering influence of time the rancor and bitterness which formerly needed little to inflame the smouldering embers of national prejudice have given way to a spirit of mutual toleration forbearance and appreciation. Twenty years ago, a reciprocity agreement with Canada such as has been sponsored by President Taft and Premier Laurier

would have been condemned as evidence of national weakness and commanded scarcely a single vote in the Congress or Parliament. Now we welcome it as a good thing and acclaim it a necessary feature in the commercial evolution of both countries. Twenty years ago, a suggestion for any sort of alliance between the States and England, offensive or defensive, would have aroused the fire of every jingo in the land and destroyed the future political usefulness of the statesman who recommended it. Now not a leaf's asir or a bird's flutter in the whole land.

England sends her surplus millions to the United States to finance some of the foremost industries in the east and help James J. Hill and other railroad builders develop the tractless wastes of the west. American money, with the encouragement and cooperation of the English Colonial government, finds profitable investment in rubber cultivation in British Guiana, public service corporations in Canada, fruit in its West Indian possessions and tin in India. Our children inter-marry with more frequency, our navies vie with one another in hospitality, our scientific and research bureaus work in unison for the common good and there is less suspicion, less jealousy, less disposition apparent to impute to each other questionable motives and sinister ambitions in our diplomatic and commercial relations than there used to be.

In a closer business union, we have buried, let us hope forever, old animosities and come to a better understanding, which the years will strengthen and fortify as they glide by.

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#### Important News In

##### I. O. F. Foresters

Toronto, March 25.—The government of the Independent Order of Foresters in all parts of the world by the Supreme Court is expected to follow the next Supreme Court session to be held in Toronto, commencing May 2 next. This is a radical change and will throw the responsibility for the direction of the order upon the Supreme Court which meets every four years.

The proposal is to dispense with the annual meetings of the High Court and devote the money saved thereby to the work of the orphan's home at Deseronto, Ont., and the consumption sanatorium at Rainbow Lake in the Alton-Jacks, New York State.—Exchange.  
The mineral output of Canada for the year 1910 was \$105,048,958. This was an increase of \$78,200,000 since 1909. New Brunswick cuts a very poor figure as a contributor to the mineral wealth of the Dominion. Its figure for 1910 was only \$88,800, while Nova Scotia went to \$14,054,000. Nova Scotia is ahead of Ontario in its total results, for Ontario's figures are \$13,005,000. British Columbia leads all with \$24,200,000. Of the precious metals silver leads with \$17,000,000. Gold gives \$10,000,000. Coal is the most valuable mineral, for it yielded \$29,830,000.—Exchange.