

## The Planet

S. STEPHANSON, Promoter.

WHAT THE STARS AND STRIPES HAS DONE FOR THEM.

The advantages conferred by United States citizenship on Porto Ricans may be fully estimated by the following despatch from San Juan:

At a special meeting of the chamber of commerce, it was decided to close all business houses on Monday afternoon, to enable the merchants to attend an open air meeting on the plaza, with the object of drawing up a petition to Gov. Gen. Davis demanding immediate congressional action on the tariff one-way or the other. The agreements were sent to all towns throughout Porto Rico, requesting like demonstrations. The feeling of uncertainty regarding the tariff holds business practically at a standstill, the merchants being afraid to order goods or to advance funds on the planters' accounts.

Sixty country women marched into Naranjo, and petitioned Gov. Gen. Davis to save them from starvation and to provide work and food. The women presented a most pitiable sight. They were barefooted and ragged, half naked, dust covered and weary from their journey. Some of them were lame, all discouraged.

The petition which they presented tells the story of the depressing times, no work and the prices of rice, beans and bread beyond reach, fruits destroyed and the relief supply discontinued, bringing them and others where they came from almost to starvation.

Gen. Davis' reply was that there was not a peso in the treasury and that the police were yet unpaid for their last two months' work.

### INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS.

The Liberals are getting very restive under the criticisms of the Montreal Star, an independent journal, and are making personal attacks on its proprietor, Hugh Graham. They allege that he is getting even with them through his paper for cancelling a senatorial nomination which Sir Charles Tupper had made for him before giving up office. Whether this is true or not we do not know, but it is a small piece of business in any case to bring it up. Independent papers, as well as party papers, must lean against the Government in power, because it is much more open to criticism than an opposition. The party in office is, or should be, the party of action and therefore the party that creates the subjects for criticism. An opposition having no administrative powers is much less liable to be found fault with. So, no matter how fair a newspaper desires to be, if it criticizes public matters on their merits it must strike the powers that be and do or don't do when they should do the most frequently. Hence, to class a journal which does that as partisan is absurd, and to seek for ulterior motives governing its course is silly. The present Government at Ottawa has left itself more open to honest and impartial criticism than any of its predecessors, because of its absolute disregard of its ante-election pledges. We do not believe there is an intelligent and well posted Liberal elector in the whole Dominion of Canada who will honestly affirm the Government has kept faith with its own party, and the people in general. Whether the reasons it advances for its broken promises are sufficient to justify them is simply a matter of argument to be fought out when the Government returns to the people for endorsement. The Montreal Star, in common with many other papers, including hitherto good Liberal journals, expresses dissatisfaction in certain respects with the policy of the administration and we think it has excellent cause to.

### ROSS & CO'S SUGAR BEET POLICY.

Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture, has given notice of a resolution authorizing the granting of aid to encourage the establishment of the beet sugar industry in the following ways: First, providing samples of seed for their production; secondly, suitable instructions to farmers where it is proposed to locate such industry as to the best methods of preparing and cultivating the soil in order to produce the highest quality of beets; and, third, analyzing the beets so grown in order to obtain accurate knowledge of their suitability for the manufacture of sugar.

Broad was asked for and a stone is offered. It was pointed out to the Government that a bonus was necessary to encourage the establishment of sugar factories in this province and Hon. John Dryden responds with the above tom-fool resolution.

Hon. John Dryden may not know it, being Minister of Agriculture, but almost every rural school boy in the province can tell him that the farmers know as much about growing sugar beets as any of the instructors he can send out, that the seed can be bought at any seed store for a few cents, and that the beets have already been tested in nearly every part of the province, and have been found to contain from 11 to 18 per cent. of sugar.

## "Welcome, Evil, If Thou Comest Alone."

One evil that cannot come alone is impure blood. If this is allowed, it is attended by kindred ailments galore. This condition means that every vein and artery of the body, instead of carrying to the organs a health-giving flow of life, is laden with a slow and impure fluid that is harmful instead of healing.

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Erysipelas.—"Had a severe attack of erysipelas, suffering from dizziness and nervousness so that I could not rest at night. Tried Hood's Sarsaparilla with good results, and now recommend it to others." M. CHALMERS, Toronto, Ont.

Strength Builder.—"Myself, wife and children have taken Hood's Sarsaparilla and it strengthened us. It relieved me of a lame back." DAVID McGINNES, caretaker, Coit Institute, Oak, Ont.

Rheumatism.—"I was badly afflicted with sciatic rheumatism. Consulted doctors without relief. Was persuaded to try Hood's Sarsaparilla, and five bottles gave me relief and enabled me to go to work." WILLIAM R. ROACH, Margaretville, N. S.

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gar. That is quite sufficient to warrant the establishment of factories, for twelve per cent. of sugar is all they look for or ask.

The Ontario Government were not asked to teach the farmers how to grow the beets. They were asked to provide a market for them after they were grown. They seem to have totally mistaken what was required of them and are now proposing to do something totally uncalculated for and unnecessary.

The Orangemen of Windsor flew the Irish flag from their hall on Saturday. Windsor's a great town for ideas. Next the brethren will be asking Father Flannery to deliver their twelfth of July oration.

In our enthusiasm over the Patriotic Fund, the Red Cross Fund, the Century Fund and all the other funds, we seem to be forgetting that sixty millions of British subjects are starving to death in India at the rate of thousands a day.

It will now be in order for the late President Steyn, after having reached a place of safety, to issue another proclamation announcing that he is prepared to fight to a finish.—Woodstock Express.

In other words, that he will sustain the Boer cause to the bitter end.

Rev. Mr. Shearer, who is lecturing on behalf of the Lord's Day Alliance, is quoted as saying that the Sabbath in the States is rapidly being obliterated. Can he prove it? Can he name one encroachment on the sacredness of the Sabbath in any State in the Union in 20 years? We don't believe it.

The Irish Fenian element of Detroit observed St. Patrick's Day by twisting the lion's tail with their mouths. It is a safer way than that indulged in by their compatriots in South Africa, most of whom are now decorating the inside of traitors' graves. The Irishmen of Windsor for the first time for years, refused to have anything to do with the Detroit show, and publicly expressed their disgust with the whole disreputable orgy.

To those who are so industriously "killing Kruger with their mouth," it might be as well to recall the story of Horace Greeley, who was holding a sparring match with one of the famous women suffragists of the day. It was at the time of his "On to Richmond" cry, and the woman in question was advocating her cause with eloquence worthy of success. Horace Greeley pook-pooked the idea of women having any political rights and as a clinching argument asked what they would do if called upon to defend their country, if they would go to fight for the Union? "We would do as you do, Mr. Greeley," sweetly replied the fair advocate, "We would stay right in the house and urge others to go."

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D. H. Winter

The whole wide English speaking world on Saturday celebrated St. Patrick's day in a peace on earth, good will toward man spirit, except Detroit. It produced the only snarl. But what better could be expected from Detroit.

### THE LAW OF MORTGAGES OF REAL ESTATE.

We take pleasure in quoting from a review in the Canadian Law Times of a book written by Barrister Edwin Bell of this city in conjunction with H. Dunn, of Toronto, on the Law of Mortgages of Real Estate. This is the second book on legal subjects brought out by Mr. Bell and his co-workers within the last year and a half. These books have been well received by the profession, not only in Ontario, but in the Maritime and Western provinces, and the authors are entitled to great credit for the industry and ability they have displayed. It is likely that the book on the Law of Mortgages will be put on the list of books to be used in the Law School at Osgoode Hall—a commendable feat rarely paid to Canadian writers. The review is as follows:

"This is a work of considerable compass, by means of a mass of handbooks and yet such a one as may well serve for a student's text-book. By eliminating everything which does not strictly bear upon the law of mortgages as administered in the courts of the provinces of Canada other than Quebec, the volume has been kept down to a moderate size. The authors—already favorably known by reason of their book on Forms of Pleadings—state the law as they find it laid down in decided cases, without expressing their own views on points which have not been raised in the courts, or upon which there is a conflict or uncertainty of opinion, there is probably no subject—unless it be Municipal Corporations—on which there is a greater abundance of Canadian authority than Mortgages of Real Estate. The task of collecting, digesting and collating all the Canadian cases has been a heavy one, and that of making a selection of English cases no less arduous. The industry displayed is commendable; the division of the work into parts—a very important matter—is upon a good plan; and there are other features which are worthy of praise; but these must be left for the reader to discover."

### LITERARY NOTES.

"The Smart Set" the new monthly magazine that has been so widely heralded, has made its appearance, and fulfills all the promises of its promoters. It is handsomely printed, and contains 100 pages of contributions from such brilliant writers as Julian Hawthorne, Edgar Saltus, Ella Wheeler Wilcox, Bliss Spang, Charles Garrison, Oliver Herford and Gelett Burgess. New York Society is represented by contributions from "Julien Gordon," Mrs. Burton Harrison, Caroline Duer, Sarah Cooper Hewitt, Eliza Grey, H. H. Chadwell-Taylor and Reginald de Koven contribute a novellette entitled, "The Idle Born," which is somewhat sensational in its entire. The magazine is unique in the periodical field, and will doubtless be read by all who profess to be "smart."

The witticisms of Sydney Smith have been quoted broadcast among English-speaking peoples. "The whole story of my life," he says, "has been passed like a razor in hot water and a scrape." "There is the same difference between his tongue and mind as between his minute and the hour hand: one goes twelve times as fast as the other signifies twelve times as much." My house is all first cousins, and I wish them—once removed." "The Church's ordinances of feasts and fasts are tolerably well kept up. The rich keep the feasts and the poor the fasts." "Gout is the only enemy which I don't wish to have at my feet."

Lord Brougham once defined a lawyer as "a legal gentleman who reaches your estate and keeps it himself." Hicks and Thackeray, walking together, stopped at a doorway over which was inscribed in gold letters these words, "Mutual Loan Office." They both seemed quite puzzled. "What on earth can that mean?" asked Hicks. "I don't know," answered Thackeray, "unless it means that two men, who have nothing, agree to lend it to another." Even the ponderous lexicographer invaded the realms of humor on occasions. When he finished the work which laid the foundation of most English dictionaries he asked the man who had carried the last sheet to Millar, the publisher. "What did he say?" "Sir," said the messenger, "he said: 'Thank God I have done with him!'" And Johnson, in his grandest style, replied, "I am glad he thanks God for anything."

"Marriage," says Selden, "is a desperate thing. The frogs in Aesop were extremely wise; they had a great mind to some water; but they would not leap into the well because they could not get out again." "They say a parson invented gunpowder," observed Douglas Jerrold; "but one cannot believe it until one is married." The same lively wit tells us: "My notion of a wife at 40 is that a man should be able to change her, like a banknote, for two twenties."

Very pungent was the remark of the old Scotch woman who, when advised by her minister to take snuff with her, to keep her awake in the kirk while he was preaching, replied: "Why dinna ye put the snuff in the sermon, mon?" "Some men preach," said Sydney Smith, "as if they thought sin was to be taken out of a man as Eve was taken out of Adam—by cutting him into a deep slumber." The Rev. Rowland Hill said once to some people who had entered his chapel to avoid the rain. "Many people are to be blamed for making religion a cloak, but I do not think those much better who make it an umbrella."

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