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and Editor.

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Unwarranted Aspersions.

It is rather curious to notice how one or two Toronto newspapers when they run out of subjects, eke out their space by attacks on Mr. Robert Jaffray. Whatever goes wrong anywhere, they profess to think Mr. Jaffray must be at the bottom of it. If it is not the "Crow's Nest Pass," it is something else. Sometimes they associate Senator Cox with Mr. Jaffray, and attribute sinister designs to them jointly. Another of Mr. Jaffray's unpardonable sins appears to be his position as president of the Globe Printing Company. The Globe shareholders, however, have cause to sing a cheerful song. This year, we have reason to believe, the chorus will be even more cheerful than usual.

The Mail and Empire is evidently a believer, on general principles, in the policy of pin-pricks, of which the following paragraph in its Tuesday's issue, is an example:

"Had the Crow's Nest deal been dealt with by the Senate," says the Belleville Intelligencer, "in the same manner as were the inquiries to which attention has already been called the Globe and its friends would not be so well-to-do today."

Those who know Mr. Jaffray personally know that the attacks to which we allude have no basis of legitimate justification upon which to rest. Probably the element of envy is not altogether lacking.

If the writer draws attention to these attacks, it is because he has had opportunities of knowing Mr. Jaffray thoroughly, and does not propose to stand by when one of the most useful men any country ever numbered among its sons is unfairly criticised. We know of no institution with which Mr. Jaffray has ever been or is now connected, which has not received immense benefit from his straightforwardness of aim, directness of judgment, and executive energy. Mr. Jaffray's success and influence have not come along the line of accident, but are the natural outcome of unusual ability and force of character. To read some of the small, carping Toronto critics, one would fancy that men of power and energy were so plentiful that a city or a country could do better without them than with them, and ought to endeavor, not to encourage, but to discourage them! There never was a greater mistake. We venture to say that half a dozen men like Mr. Jaffray—were no small, envious hindrances thrown in their way—could immeasurably advance the interests of any city or any country; as, for that matter, to an appreciable extent they do, despite hindrances.

One of the commonest of recent references to Mr. Jaffray by his political opponents has been that, in some way, in connection with the company now mining coal in British Columbia, with which he is identified, he obtained undue opportunities, on one hand through his connection with a powerful newspaper, and on the other through his affiliation with the Dominion Government.

There might be more plausibility in such a line of attack, if Mr. Jaffray had never been connected with important companies nor engaged in large transactions previously to the advent of the Liberal Government at Ottawa. But the fact is that Mr. Jaffray's abilities had been actively engaged in important companies and large enterprises long years before the entrance to power of the Laurier Administration. A very strong and capable man is seldom permitted to allow his energies to rust for lack of opportunities for their exercise.

As to one particular item, Mr. Jaffray's share in the development of the coal measures of British Columbia, those who are in a position to know assert that he and his associates received not the portion of a favored child, as asserted, but rather, that they received, if anything, but scant justice.

If, therefore, The Advertiser has any New Year wish for Mr. Robert Jaffray, it is that the various enterprises with which he is connected may have a prosperous and successful year; and that Canada may find scope for more men of his calibre to assist in developing the boundless resources of the Dominion.

We have remarked that Hon. George A. Cox is sometimes associated with Mr. Jaffray for purposes of pin-prick attack. Of Senator Cox it may be said also that it is little short of childish absurdity to talk as if his successes in business life began only since the advent of the Liberal Government to power at Ottawa. For many years previously Mr. Cox possessed, as he possesses today, a continental reputation as a safe and successful financier. Commencing modestly at the foot of the ladder, as an operator in the service of the Montreal Telegraph Company, his character, perseverance, and mental grasp enabled him to rise, step by step. Today he is a Senator of the Dominion. He is president of the largest western bank—the Bank of Commerce. He was at the inception, and largely created the Imperial Life Insurance Company, and also the National Trust Company. He is the largest holder in the Canada Life Insurance Company, and also presides over both the Western Insurance and the British American. Senator Cox's grasp of the whole subject of life insurance is some-

thing remarkable, and no man in Canada has done so much to promote and systematize the interests of that greatest of all boons and safeguards to thousands of families. Senator Cox, as Treasurer of the Methodist Church of Canada, has rendered great services; his interest and liberality in the promotion of educational movements is well known. First-rate qualities have helped Senator Cox to success. Unassuming, cool and level-headed; possessed of that *sine qua non*, good judgment; a quiet, yet strong and persuasive personality in dealing with men; fearless and energetic when his course has been fully thought out. The career so creditable and deservedly successful of a native Canadian, is matter for just pride to the people of Canada.

Goldwin Smith on Senate Reform.

The eminent publicist, Dr. Goldwin Smith, in the current number of the Weekly Sun, discusses the question of mending or ending the Senate. He argues that our Senate, as at present constituted, is a disappointment. We adopted not only the living parts, but the "antiquated fragments" of the British constitution. Yet, says Dr. Smith, the abolition of the Senate would be a serious step. It would leave us with a single chamber, elected by universal, or almost universal, suffrage, and, as the Governor-General is a figurehead, without any safeguard corresponding to the Presidential veto in the United States. It has been pronounced by Liberal writers that of all tyrannies such a constitution would be the worst. Dr. Smith's views are summed up in these paragraphs:

"The fusion of a nominative with an elective body would be incongruous, and the result, if the senatorial vote turned the scale, would give rise to a renewal of discontent. The example of France is not in point, since there both chambers are elective, though the election of senators is indirect. Nor have our two chambers been constructed, nor has the proportion between them been regulated with the view to the taking of a joint vote.

"The simplest and easiest course, for the present at least, might be to give the House of Commons the power of passing a measure by a two-thirds or three-fifths majority over the veto of the Senate. An end would thus be put to the danger of deadlock or insurmountable obstruction of the national will, while the Senate would probably find its strength practically increased by the limitation and definition of its power. To this the British Parliament would probably consent."

Should We Change Our Shipping Laws?

We agree with the Montreal Herald that our present navigation laws, so far as they apply to the great lakes, tend to operate against the interests of the Canadian Northwest, and to retard the solution of the transportation problem.

In the past few years a revolution has been made in the character of the steam craft on the upper lakes. The barges and propellers which were once the largest adrift on the lakes, are now pigmies beside the leviathans which plow the inland waters. These big boats are rapidly monopolizing the traffic, and scores of the smaller vessels, for want of business, have practically become derelict. A whole fleet of them left the lakes last year for the Atlantic coast. The large boats, by reason of their greater capacity and speed, are able to carry freight cheaper than the small craft, and American shippers are now launching nothing but huge carriers.

The result of this change has a very important bearing on our own transportation question. It is necessary, if Canadian farmers in Manitoba and the Northwest are not to be at a disadvantage, that their grain shall be carried as cheaply as possible from Port Arthur to Georgian Bay ports, but this cannot be done under present conditions. The Canadian boats are few in numbers and small in size, and cannot compete on equal terms with the big American freighters. The latter are not permitted to carry grain from Port Arthur to any other Canadian port, but they can load at Port Arthur for any American port, or at Duluth for any Canadian port. The object of our navigation laws was to protect Canadian shipping interests by preventing any boat of American register from doing business between Canadian ports. The consequence is that the export grain of Manitoba and the Northwest naturally seeks American channels to the seaboard, because of the superior facilities afforded by the big American carriers. If these boats could take cargoes at Port Arthur and discharge them at Georgian Bay ports, a far greater proportion of Canadian grain would take Canadian routes. Already, great quantities of American grain pass through Canada, being loaded at Duluth and transhipped at Georgian Bay ports.

To amend our shipping laws in the way proposed would, of course, be unnecessary and inadvisable, if Canadian boats of the same size as the American carriers were provided for this traffic, but this is not possible now, because they would have no return cargoes. The American boats carry coal and iron back to Duluth from Buffalo and other points on Lake Erie, and are thus able to make profits on both trips. The suggested change would probably inflict some hardship on Canadian ship-owners and builders, unless the Government chose to compensate them; but the interests of our Northwest are paramount. Benefits would also accrue to all the eastern provinces by the increased diversion of the grain traffic to Canadian highways. In time Canadian shipping on the upper lakes would also profit by the impetus to trade.

Millionaires in Canada.

To show how wealth has accumulated in Canada, it may be stated that there are now not fewer than about 50 persons in the Dominion qualified to rank as millionaires.

Our millionaires rank all the way from a million up to say fifteen millions.

These fortunes are in many cases likely to increase as time goes by.

The places and the number of our Canadian millionaires are about as follows:

Montreal has fourteen millionaires.
Toronto has seventeen.
Hamilton has three.
Walkerville has two.
London has one.
Barrie has one.
Galt has one.
Perth has one.
Quebec has four.
Victoria, B. C., has one.
St. Johns, Nfld., has one.
Winnipeg, Man., has two.

At the rate the British Empire is expanding, it is not yet time to change the line to "We hold a vaster empire than will be."

Imperial penny postage has already doubled the colonial mails in Great Britain. This is the effect predicted by its advocates.

Kipling's poetry may be "inspired doggerel," as someone says, but most of his imitators grind out doggerel without the inspiration.

A critic declares that Madame Patti's voice is becoming rocco. No matter what her voice is, she shows by taking a third husband that her heart is still young.

If the American people really believed a foreign power was behind Aguinaldo in his defiance of American authority, they would be expansionists to a man.

Mr. Whitney has deliberately stayed away from West Elgin. This has disappointed Liberals a little, as Mr. Whitney's speeches greatly helped them in their ridings.

Senor Sagasta sticks pluckily to his post. If Spanish soldiers fought half as tenaciously as Spanish politicians fight for office, the late war might have been going on yet.

British boot and shoe manufacturers have resolved to give a preference to Canadian leather, as a token of gratitude for Canada's pro-British tariff. The heaven is working.

The registrar of Ottawa reports a decrease of \$668,193 in mortgages last year in that city. This corresponds with the decrease throughout Western Ontario which we noted the other day. It is an effect of better times and a cause of falling interest.

The potters of the United States have formed a trust with a capital of \$27,000,000. As the trust has a tariff protection of over 50 per cent, it expects to kill off competition and monopolize the home market. The consumers will then be at play in the hands of the potters.

Danish dairymaids who were expelled from Germany have been brought back by German lovers, who followed their sweethearts abroad and married them. With so happy a sequel, expulsion was no hardship for the dairymaids. Love laughs at locksmiths—and law-makers.

Chief Justice Armour is strongly in favor of publishing police court proceedings in the newspapers, and says the press is a great preventive of crime. The chief justice is right, and there are police officials who should lay his dictum to heart. The respectable newspaper, however, does not sensationalize its court reports by dwelling on offensive details, or by irrelevant flippancies.

The town of Pullman, with its 2,000 brick houses, churches, schools, libraries, etc., has been put up for sale. George M. Pullman tried to create a community of his own model—a kind of Utopia, Limited, as Gilbert would say, because the benefits were limited to Pullman himself. The basis of the scheme was artificial and selfish, and accordingly it failed, as have most social experiments, which have been contrary to the natural order of things.

Of the newspaper business managers of Canada, Mr. C. W. Taylor, of the Toronto Globe, for length of continuous service, now heads the procession. He has been 30 years connected with the Globe, starting in with the Hon. Geo. Brown. Mr. Taylor combines force of character and great energy with a contagiously taking manner and an immense fund of experience. Still a young man, his friends wish him many additional years of success and usefulness.

Philosophy of Railway Accidents.

[Buffalo Express.]

There is another epidemic of railroad accidents. Why do such disasters come in groups? The country will be comparatively free from them for a time, and then there will be the mischief to pay on a number of railroads. We cannot help thinking that the element of human carelessness has a good deal to do with it. Apparently the occurrence of a series of accidents tends to make railroad employees more careful for a time.

SURPRISE SOAP

Is so good,
so economical,
you really can't
afford to be
without it.

A pure hard Soap.
5 cents a cake.

Your grocer sells it.
If not, change your grocer.

WHAT OTHERS SAY.

New York's Costly Government.

[Buffalo News.]
It costs more to govern New York than any other city in the world, and it costs nearly five times as much per capita to run New York as to run London.

A Napoleon of Finance.

[Hamilton Herald.]
Albert B. Hilton, a New York bankrupt whose liabilities are \$2,539,907, and whose assets are \$200, deserves to be classed among the Napoleons of finance.

Full-Blooded.

[Ottawa Citizen.]
A New York yellow journal alleges that Canada is "anaemic." If Uncle Sam ever comes up this way looking for blood he will probably discover his mistake.

All in the Point of View.

[Baltimore American.]
The Emperor of Russia fills the walls of his rooms with cartoons of himself, and the Emperor of Germany fills his prisons with the cartoonists. The point of view all depends on whether one is born with a sense of humor.

France's Commercial Decline.

[Hamilton Times.]
France is suffering from tariff restriction. In the first ten months of 1897 French exports have decreased \$15,000,000, and in this total the decrease on manufactured goods figures for \$5,000,000. At the same time imports of foreign merchandise have increased \$2,500,000. While the policy of commercial treaties gave France a foreign trade of \$1,750,000,000 in 1880, this total had under the restrictive policy, decreased by 1897 to \$1,500,000,000. There has been a continuous decrease during the present year. Moreover savings bank deposits have decreased in the last ten months nearly \$24,400,000.

A Lesson for Uncle Sam.

[Grand Rapids Press.]
The fact is, that with the exception of England, every European country expects to secure the trade of its colonies for its own people, as these incidents show, and that fact has an important bearing on the policy of our own country. If France, Germany and Russia succeed in obtaining control of China one of their first steps will be to shut our merchants and our manufacturers out of the country if they can. We should, if possible, so direct events as to put it out of their power to take such steps, and how to so direct them is one of the questions our statesmen as well as our commercial and industrial interests should begin at once to study.

American Tribute to Laurier.

[Washington correspondent New York Sun.]

There have been only a few occasions when an opportunity has been offered for speechmaking, but on these few the Canadian premier has aroused a remarkable degree of enthusiasm. No one who has heard him is surprised at his hold on the affection and pride of Canada. It has excited wonder that so remarkable a man should have been so little known to the public men of the United States. So deep has been the impression he has made here that the history of the man is in demand. There is no little surprise when it is learned that this tall, rather delicate-looking man, with an air of culture and refinement, should be the son of a poor and unknown French-Canadian. He had none of the advantages of family influence or wealth, but worked his own way unaided over a very rough road. He was born fifty-seven years ago in the little parish of St. Lin. His father was a local land surveyor, with no taste for politics and no connections to serve the son, a frail and often storky boy, who was designed to follow his father's business. No one would fancy from the fluency of his perfect English that the virtual ruler of the Canadas spent his early years in a household where French was the only language spoken. The Canadian premier's visit to Washington has certainly aroused a new and more friendly interest in the land beyond the St. Lawrence.

BEECHAM'S PILLS

FOR BILIOUS AND NERVOUS DISORDERS such as Wind and Pain in the Stomach, Giddiness, Fulness after meals, Headache, Dizziness, Drowsiness, Flushings of Heat, Loss of Appetite, Constipation, Blisters on the Skin, Cold Chills, Disturbed Sleep, Frightful Dreams and all Nervous and Trembling Sensations. THE FIRST DOSE WILL GIVE RELIEF IN TWENTY MINUTES. Every sufferer will acknowledge them to be

A WONDERFUL MEDICINE. BEECHAM'S PILLS, taken as directed, will quickly restore Females to complete health. They promptly remove obstructions or irregularities of the system and cure sick Headaches. For a

Weak Stomach
Impaired Digestion
Disordered Liver
IN MEN, WOMEN OR CHILDREN
Beecham's Pills are
Without a Rival
And have the
LARGEST SALE
of any Patent Medicine in the World.

THE RUNIANS, GRAY, CARRIE COMPANY.

TELEPHONE 1046.

Friday Bargains.

The enthusiasm of the WHITE GOODS SALE seems to have infected all the departments, and the climax of this week's trade will be reached on Friday with this attractive list of Friday Bargains:

Candy Bargains--Friday.

14 only pound boxes of Creams and Chocolate Candy, regular 15c, Friday 10c.

18 only pound boxes Assorted Creams and Chocolates, regular 25c, Friday 15c.

22 only pound boxes Twist Creams and Chocolates, regular 50c, Friday 25c.

Ribbons.

On Sale Friday Morning and Until Sold.

No. 16—Double Satin Ribbon, all shades, regular 12½c, Friday 8c.

No. 22—Double Satin Ribbon, all shades, regular 15c, Friday 10c.

No. 40—Double Satin Ribbon, all shades, regular 30c, Friday 15c.

Odd lots of Ribbon after stock-taking, all shades and widths, were 10c, 15c and 20c, Friday 5c yard.

HOSIERY.

VERY SPECIAL.

47 dozen Ladies Black Cashmere Hose, fine rib, our regular 43c and 50c lines, commencing Friday morning and will continue until sold out at 32c.

Clothing and Furnishings.

Your choice of any 25c pair of Braces

Friday 19c pair.

7 dozen only Men's Leather Mitts, imitation buckskin face (lined), worth 35c pair, Friday Only 18c Pair.

Men's Pants, good dark tweeds, well made and trimmed, regular \$1 to \$1 75, Friday 75c.

Men's Socks, all wool, good and heavy, worth 15c, Friday 10c Pair.

Gentlemen's Neckwear in bows, strings, all the newest patterns, regular 25c, Friday 15c.

Gentlemen's Linen Cambric Handkerchiefs, good size, regular 10c, 12½c and 15c, Friday 5c.

SOAPS.

Brown Windsor Soap, 2 Cakes for 1c.

Brecker & Stubbs' Finest Toilet Soap, regular 10c, Friday 5c Cakes.

Cosmo Buttermilk Soap, regular 12½c cake, Friday 25c Box of 3 Cakes.

A Great Jacket Chance.

ONLY Jackets, newest New York styles, 22 and 24 inches long, some silk lined, others half lined, worth \$8 to \$18 each, sizes 34 and 36 only.

Friday \$6 Each.

No alteration at this price.

Miscellaneous.

Pins, 1c per Paper.

¾-inch Gray Garter Elastic, regular 8c, Friday 2 yards for 5c.

Black Silk Stripe Elastic, Friday 1c yard.

Writing Pads, large size, Friday 2 for 5c.

Pins, in wooden boxes, Friday 1c box.

Clothes Brushes, stock lots, Friday 3c each.

Nail Brushes, Friday 2c each.

STAPLES.

5 pieces Extra Heavy Ceylon Shirting Flannel, English make, warranted fast colors, regular 12½c, Friday 8½c yard.

10 pieces only Fancy Wrapperettes, good patterns, fast colors, regular 10c and 12½c, Friday 5c.

7 pieces only Cotton Shirting, good heavy cloth, regular 10c, Friday 8c yard.

Heavy Double-fold Unbleached Sheeting, fine twill, regular 15c, Friday 10c yard.

Dress Goods.

1 piece Priestley's Figured Black Dress Goods, regular 65c, Friday only 39c yard.

2 pieces only Paris Cord Dress Goods, 47 inches wide, newest fabric for spring, regular 90c, Friday 55c yard.

1 piece only 44-inch Black Luster, fine, bright finish, regular 30c, Friday 25c.

2 pieces only Figured Black Wool Dress Goods, 42 inches wide, regular 25c, Friday Only 15c and 20c.

The Runians, Gray, Carrie Co

IMPORTERS,

208, 210, 210½, 212 Dundas Street, London.